

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 194

MONDAY, 25 JUNE 2001



1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

**2 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr Somlyay presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 105th Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference, Havana, Cuba, 1 to 7 April 2001, and bilateral visit to Mexico, 8 to 15 April 2001—Report, June 2001.

Mr Somlyay and Mrs Crosio made statements in connection with the report.

**3 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Mr Nehl presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to 9th annual meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, Valparaiso, 15 to 18 January 2001, and bilateral visit to Chile, 11 to 14 January 2001—Report, June 2001.

Mr Nehl and Mr Griffin made statements in connection with the report.

**4 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hollis presented the following papers:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Australia's role in United Nations reform—

Report, incorporating dissenting reports, June 2001.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hollis, Mr Jull and Mr Price made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Hollis moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Hollis was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**5 ECONOMICS, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**

Mr Hawker (Chair) presented the following papers:

Economics, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee—The Centenary of Federation hearing: Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia annual report 1999-2000—

Report, June 2001.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Hawker, Mr Latham, Ms Gambaro and Mr Albanese made statements in connection with the report.

The time allotted for making statements on the report having expired—

Mr Hawker moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr Hawker was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

In accordance with standing order 102B, the debate was adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**6 SUPERANNUATION (ENTITLEMENTS OF SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL 2001**

Mr Albanese, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to remove discrimination against same sex couples in respect of superannuation benefits.

Mr Albanese made a statement in relation to the Bill.

*Paper*

Mr Albanese presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

**7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

Members' statements were made and petitions were presented.

**8 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care), Mrs B. K. Bishop (Minister for Aged Care) would answer questions on his behalf.

**9 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper*

Ms Macklin, by leave, presented the following paper:

Nursing homes—Statutory declaration regarding Accreditation Agency of NSW meeting, signed by June Gabriel, 25 June 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

**10 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—ROUTINE OF BUSINESS FOR 26 JUNE 2001**

Mr Reith (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

- (a) the House, at its rising, adjourn until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.; and
- (b) so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the routine of business for the sitting tomorrow being as follows, unless otherwise ordered:
  - (1) Questions without notice.
  - (2) Presentation of papers.
  - (3) Ministerial statements, by leave.
  - (4) Matter of public importance.
  - (5) Notices and orders of the day, government business.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**11 PETITIONS**

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

**12 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL—40TH ANNIVERSARY**

Mr Baird, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes that 28 May 2001 was the 40th anniversary of the formation of Amnesty International;
- (2) notes the large membership and total cross-party support for the Australian Parliamentary Group of Amnesty International;
- (3) congratulates Amnesty International on its continuing vital work on behalf of political prisoners around the world; and
- (4) notes with regret that the work of Amnesty International remains indispensable because of continuing worldwide human rights abuses, including torture and summary execution of political prisoners.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**13 WORKING HOURS**

Ms Hoare, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that almost one third of all Australian workers are now working more than 50 hours per week;
- (2) notes that the French Government has recently legislated for a 35 hour week;
- (3) conduct a review of the operation of the French legislation, and its success or otherwise; and
- (4) consult widely with the community, the business sector and trade unions, to explore the appropriateness or otherwise of applying similar values to an Australian context.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### 14 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

#### 15 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Messages from the Senate, 21 June 2001, were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

No. 632—Import Processing Charges 2000 (*without requests*).

No. 633—Customs Depot Licensing Charges Amendment 2000 (*without requests*).

No. 634—Governor-General Legislation Amendment 2001.

No. 635—Dried Vine Fruits (Rate of Primary Industry (Customs) Charge) Validation 2001.

No. 636—Dried Vine Fruits (Rate of Primary Industry (Excise) Levy) Validation 2001.

No. 637—Migration Legislation Amendment (Electronic Transactions and Methods of Notification) 2001.

No. 638—Health Legislation Amendment (No. 2) 2001.

#### 16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AMENDMENT (WILDLIFE PROTECTION) BILL 2001

Message No. 628, 20 June 2001, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT AND REPEAL (INTERNATIONAL TRADE MODERNISATION) BILL 2001**

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

21 June 2001—Message No. 631—Customs Legislation Amendment and Repeal (International Trade Modernisation) 2001.

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

**18 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 2001**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed by Mr K. J. Thomson who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for:

- (1) massively increasing the complexity of the tax system for small business, particularly the fringe benefits tax and its interaction with the GST;
- (2) massively increasing the taxation compliance burden for small business and for charities;
- (3) breaching the Prime Minister’s 1996 pledge to halve small business red tape;
- (4) breaching its promise that the Australian economy, and all Australians, would be better off under the new tax system; and
- (5) wasting many millions of dollars on advertising and promoting the new taxation arrangements to try and cover the problems listed above”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Slipper (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance and Administration), the Bill was read a third time.

**19 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT**

Mr Jull presented the following paper:

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee—Second Australian Government loan to Papua New Guinea—Variations to loan agreement—Report, June 2001.

Ordered to be printed.

**20 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' QUALIFICATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2001**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

**21 ADJOURNMENT**

It being approximately 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. in accordance with the resolution agreed to this sitting.

**PAPERS**

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 June 2001:

Navigation Act—Marine Order—2001 No. 6.

Parliament Act—Parliamentary Zone—Proposal, together with supporting documentation for the construction of Reconciliation Place.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensation—2001 No. 9.

**ATTENDANCE**

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Nairn and Dr Wooldridge.



**I. C. HARRIS**

Clerk of the House of Representatives