

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 202

MONDAY, 20 AUGUST 2001



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

2 NATIONAL CAPITAL AND EXTERNAL TERRITORIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Ms Ellis presented the following papers:

National Capital and External Territories—Joint Standing Committee—In the pink or in the red? Health services on Norfolk Island—

Report, July 2001.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Ms Ellis moved—That the House take note of the report.

Ms Ellis was granted leave to continue her 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.

3 TREATIES—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr A. P. Thomson (Chair) presented the following papers:

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—41st report—Six treaties tabled on 23 May 2001—

Report, August 2001.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr A. P. Thomson and Mr Adams made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr A. P. Thomson moved—That the House take note of the report.

Mr A. P. Thomson 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.

4 QUIETER ADVERTISING—HAPPIER HOMES BILL 2001

Ms O’Byrne, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992*.

Ms O’Byrne made a statement in relation 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.

5 SUPERANNUATION GUARANTEE (ADMINISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2001

Mr K. J. Thomson, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

Mr K. J. Thomson made a statement in relation 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.

6 EDUCATION

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

- (1) acknowledges that equality of opportunity is fundamental to a fair society and that a high-quality education for all young people is necessary for achieving equality of opportunity;
- (2) agrees that many young people in disadvantaged communities are being denied a high-quality education and therefore an equal opportunity in life;
- (3) calls on the Government to implement needs-based funding policies for government and non-government schools;
- (4) endorses early intervention, including reading recovery programs, in remedying educational disadvantage;
- (5) supports government and non-government schools in disadvantaged communities achieving educational excellence; and
- (6) expresses its alarm that Federal Government spending on education as a proportion of GDP is no higher than in the early 1990s.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

8 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR R. GILLARD)

The Speaker informed the House of the death, on 16 August 2001, of Mr Reginald Gillard OAM, a Member of this House for the Division of Macquarie from 1975 to 1980.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Andren, Mr Bartlett, Mr Schultz and Jackie Kelly (Minister for Sport and Tourism), by indulgence, paid tribute to the deceased.

9 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Ruddock (Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs) presented the following paper:

Legislation—List of privative clauses at Commonwealth and State/Territory levels.

Questions without notice continued.

10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence until 15 October 2001 be given to Mr Swan on the ground of ill health.

Question—put and passed.

11 UNAUTHORISED DISCLOSURE OF IN CAMERA EVIDENCE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

The Speaker made a statement responding to the Committee of Privileges report on the possible unauthorised disclosure of in camera evidence to the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, in so far as it concerned the Department of the House of Representatives.

12 PETITIONS

Petitions lodged for presentation were announced.

13 SEAT BELTS AND SCHOOL BUSES

Mrs Elson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges that the safety of our children should be a paramount concern for all Governments;
- (2) recognises current safety standards imposed on coaches and long-distance buses include the mandatory requirement that these vehicles be fitted with seat belts;

- (3) points out the growing evidence, from studies conducted both in Australia and overseas, that the use of seat belts on these vehicles undoubtedly saves lives in the case of accidents;
- (4) acknowledges that currently hundreds of thousands of Australian school children travel daily to school on buses that are not fitted with seat belts; and
- (5) calls on all State and Territory Governments across the nation to put safety first and move urgently to at least require all new and replacement school buses be fitted with seat belts so this safety issue is eventually and finally addressed.

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 ATOMIC TESTING

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

- (1) remembers the Australian soldiers and sailors who served in hazardous conditions in close proximity to the atomic testing at both Maralinga and Monte Bello Island;
- (2) acknowledges that many of these soldiers and sailors have since died from the radiation effects of that testing;
- (3) acknowledges that many are still alive and suffering from a variety of illnesses related to their service in these hazardous areas;
- (4) calls on the Government to seek compensation from the British Government who conducted the atomic testing and used Australian servicemen as experimental guinea-pigs; and
- (5) calls on the Government to amend the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1991* to include these servicemen as veterans and thus ensure their entitlement to vital medical care.

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.

15 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.

The time allotted for the debate having expired—

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL

A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:

15 August 2001—Message No. 342—Superannuation Contributions Taxes and Termination Payments Tax Legislation Amendment 2001.

17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2001

Message No. 671, 8 August 2001, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Crime Authority Act 1984* and the *Ombudsman Act 1976*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 675, 9 August 2001, from the Senate was reported transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate extending the time for the presentation of the report of the Joint Select Committee on the Intelligence Services to 27 August 2001.

19 CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Sercombe presented the following papers:

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Financial Services Reform Bill 2001—

Report, incorporating dissenting reports, August 2001.

Evidence received by the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

20 STATES GRANTS (PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Lee, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: 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) misusing the issue of literacy for political advantage;
- (2) manipulating statistics about literacy achievement; and
- (3) providing \$145 million to wealthy category one schools which could have been better used improving literacy for students in government and needy non-government schools”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Messages from the Governor-General

The following messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced:

No. 341, 13 June 2001, recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill; and

No. 340, 7 June 2001, recommending an appropriation for the purposes of amendments to the Bill.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Debate ensued.

Paper

Dr Kemp (Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, by leave, Government amendments (1) to (4) were made together.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Dr Kemp, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

21 ADJOURNMENT

It being 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 Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 August 2001:

Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Order—2001 Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (High quality beef export to the European Union).

Broadcasting Services Act—

Broadcasting Services (Events) Notice No. 1 of 1994—Amendment—2001 No. 1.

Determinations under Clause 37EA—2001 Nos 1, 2.

Christmas Island Act—Utilities and Services Ordinance—Revocation of Electricity Fees Determination No. 1 of 1999.

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—

Airworthiness Directives—

Part 39-105—2001 19, 20(3), 23(13), 26(10), 27(7) July, 1, 2, 6(4), 7, 8(2), 9, 14 August.

Part 39-106—2001 26(3), 27 July, 6(3), 8 August.

Part 39-107—2001 18 July, 2, 6 August.

Instruments—2001 Nos CASA 302, CASA 311, CASA 321, CASA 323.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Utilities and Services Ordinance—Revocation of Electricity Fees Determination No. 1 of 2000.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 211.

Dairy Produce Act—Scheme—2001 Dairy Structural Adjustment Program Amendment (No. 8).

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—2001 Nos 21, 22.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act—

Instrument under Section 178—14 July 2001.

Instrument under Section 183—24 July 2001.

Financial Management and Accountability Act—Determination—2001 Financial Management and Accountability (Special Accounts) No. 11.

Fisheries Management Act—Temporary Order—2001 No. 2.

Interstate Road Transport Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 212.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Road Vehicle (National Standards)—Determination—2001 No. 3.

Parliamentary Service Act—Determinations—2001 Nos 5, 6.

Road Transport Charges (Australian Capital Territory) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 213.

Social Security (International Agreements) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 No. 215.

Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 2001 Nos 210, 214.

Sydney Airport Curfew Act—Dispensations—2001 Nos 10, 11, 12, 13, 14.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determinations—2001 Nos TD 18, TD 19, TD 20.

Rulings—

2000 Nos PR 54 (Addendum), PR 61 (Addendum), PR 63 (Addendum).

2001 Nos CR 34, CR 35, PR 125, PR 126, PR 127.

Veterans' Entitlements Act—Declarations—2001—

Veterans' Entitlements (Means Test Treatment of Private Companies—Excluded Companies).

Veterans' Entitlements (Means Test Treatment of Private Trusts—Excluded Trusts).



ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Ms Corcoran, Ms Kernot, Mr Slipper, Mr Snowdon, Mr Swan* and Ms Worth.

* On leave

I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives