

1998-1999-2000-2001

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 203

TUESDAY, 21 AUGUST 2001

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Dr Wooldridge (Minister for Health and Aged Care) presented the following paper:

Public hospital table—Expenditure on public hospitals 1997-98 to 2001-02 (excluding Western Australia), 21 August 2001.

Questions without notice continued.

3 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General—Audit report No. 9 of 2001-2002—Performance audit—Learning for skills and knowledge: Customer Service Officers—Centrelink.

Ordered to be printed.

4 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Reports and recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the Northern Territory—

No. 59—The Kenbi (Cox Peninsula) Land Claim No. 37—

Explanatory statement.

Urapunga Land Claim No. 159—

Explanatory statement.

Australian Government Solicitor—Statement of corporate intent 2000-2001.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analyses—

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Czech Republic on Cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the transfer of nuclear material, done at Prague on 27 July 2001.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand on the transfer of offenders and cooperation in the enforcement of penal sentences, done at Hanoi on 26 July 2001.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Hungary on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy and the transfer of nuclear material, done at Budapest on 8 August 2001.

Agreement on social security between Australia and the Federal Republic of Germany, and concluding protocol, done at Canberra on 13 December 2000.

Exchange of Notes constituting an agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America concerning cooperation on the application of non-proliferation assurances, done at Washington on 31 July 2001.

Replacement agreement between Australia and the Argentine Republic concerning cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Text, together with national interest analyses and regulation impact statements—

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, done at Canberra on 23 May 2001.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Republic of Portugal on social security.

Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analyses—

Amendments, done at Washington on 17 November 2000, to the Agreement and Operating Agreement relating to the International Telecommunications Satellite Organisation “Intelsat” of 20 August 1971.

Council of Europe Convention on the transfer of sentenced persons, done at Strasbourg on 21 March 1983.

Final Protocol and Partial Revision of the 1998 Radio Regulations, as incorporated in the Final Acts of the World Radiocommunications Conference (WRC 2000) done at Istanbul, on 2 June 2000.

5 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr Reith (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following papers:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Reports and recommendations to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and to the Administrator of the Northern Territory—

No. 59—The Kenbi (Cox Peninsula) Land Claim No. 37—

Explanatory statement.

Urapunga Land Claim No. 159—

Explanatory statement.

Member named—Ordered to withdraw

The Speaker named the Member for Prospect (Mrs Crosio) for continuing to interject after a warning had been given by the Chair.

Mr Reith moved—That the Member for Prospect be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr McMullan and Mr Reith, by indulgence, having addressed the Chair, the naming of Mrs Crosio was not proceeded with.

The Speaker required the Member for Prospect (Mrs Crosio), under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour, and she accordingly withdrew from the Chamber at 3.36 p.m.

Debate adjourned (Mr McMullan), and the resumption of each debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIA'S HEALTH AND AGED CARE SYSTEMS

The House was informed that Ms Macklin had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to put forward positive future solutions to address the problems in Australia’s health and aged care systems”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Macklin addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

20 August 2001—Message No. 676—Space Activities Amendment (Bilateral Agreement) 2001.

8 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members’ business on Monday, 27 August 2001.

9 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 22 August 2001, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

10 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

Reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001;

Health and Aged Care Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001;

Treasury Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) (No. 2) 2001;

Treasury Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) (No. 3) 2001;

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Legislation Amendment (Application of Criminal Code) 2001;

Family Law Legislation Amendment (Superannuation) (Consequential Provisions) 2001; and

Customs Tariff Amendment (No. 5) 2001.

Question—put and passed.

11 PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Somlyay (Chair) presented the following paper:

Committee of Privileges—Application from Ms Margaret Swieringa for the publication of a response to a reference made in the House of Representatives—Report, August 2001.

12 VETERANS' AFFAIRS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FURTHER BUDGET 2000 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.

Suspension of standing order 81—Debate confined to present question—Exceptions

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That standing order 81 be suspended for the duration of the first speech by the Member for Aston on the second reading debate on the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Further Budget 2000 and Other Measures) Bill 2001.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

Paper

Mr Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented a correction to the explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

Message from the Governor-General

Message No. 343, 26 June 2001, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Scott, the Bill was read a third time.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

20 August 2001—Message No. 677—Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (2001 Budget Measures) 2001.

14 WORKPLACE RELATIONS (REGISTERED ORGANISATIONS) 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 by Mr Bevis who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

“the House:

- (1) condemns the Government for further entrenching unfairness and bias in the industrial relations system;
- (2) condemns the Government for excising provisions of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* and placing them into a separate Act; and
- (3) calls upon the Government to withdraw the Bill and redraft it to provide for:
 - (a) the retention of provisions concerning registered organisations in the one Act together with all other industrial relations matters and including necessary improvements; and
 - (b) improvements to be reflected in amendments to be moved by the Member for Brisbane during the consideration of the Bill in detail”.

Debate continued.

Mr O'Connor addressing the House—

15 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

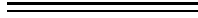
The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 August 2001:
Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act—Order—2001 Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Live Sheep Exports to Saudi Arabia) Amendment (No. 2).

Health Insurance Act—Instrument—2001 Health Insurance (Accredited Pathology Laboratories—Approval) Amendment Principles (No. 3).

National Health Act—Statement—Private Patients' Hospital Charter No. NHA 73F1/2001.



ATTENDANCE

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

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives