

1998

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE PAPER

No. 12

TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 1998

The House meets this day at 2.30 p.m.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**Notices*****1 MR REITH:** To move—

- (1) That a Joint Select Committee on the Retailing Sector be appointed to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) the degree of industry concentration within the retailing sector in Australia, with particular reference to the impact of that industry concentration on the ability of small independent retailers to compete fairly in the retail sector;
 - (b) overseas developments with respect to this issue, highlighting approaches adopted in OECD economies; and
 - (c) possible revenue-neutral courses of action by the Federal Government (ie courses of action that do not involve taxation reform).
- (2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Government Whip or Whips, 2 members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by the Opposition Whip or Whips or by any Independent Member, 2 Senators to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, 1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and 2 Senators to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a joint select committee until completion of the joint committee's report.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair.

** Notifications to which an asterisk (*) is prefixed appear for the first time*

- (6) That the committee elect a deputy chair who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (7) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chair, or the deputy chair when acting as chair, shall have a casting vote.
 - (8) That 3 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee.
 - (9) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
 - (11) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only and any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee of the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting.
 - (12) That the quorum of a subcommittee be 2 members of that subcommittee.
 - (13) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum.
 - (14) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records.
 - (15) That the committee or subcommittee have power to move from place to place.
 - (16) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during the adjournment of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (17) That the committee report no later than 6 months after this resolution is agreed to by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.
 - (18) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the House of Representatives Standing Committees on Industry, Science and Technology and the Senate Economics References Committees appointed during previous Parliaments.
 - (19) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
 - (20) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.
- *2 **MR SLIPPER:** To move—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Lavarack Barracks Redevelopment Stage 2, Townsville.
- *3 **MR SLIPPER:** To move—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report:

CSIRO Queensland Centre for Advanced Technologies Stage 2 Development, Pinjarra Hills, Qld.

- *4 **MR SLIPPER:** To move—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: CSIRO National Centre for Petroleum and Mineral Resources Research, Bentley, WA.

Orders of the day

- 1 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*):
Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Costello—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Crean, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:
- (1) condemns the Government for seeking to introduce a GST which is an unnecessary, unfair, job destroying tax which discriminates against low and middle income earners, the aged and families;
 - (2) condemns the Government for putting at risk the low inflation environment delivered by Labor by proposing to introduce an inflationary GST which will put at risk the low interest rates made possible by low inflation;
 - (3) condemns the Government for placing a higher priority on imposing a GST on Australian families that will make the tax system less equitable, rather than addressing tax avoidance loopholes, which would improve the equity of the tax system;
 - (4) condemns the Government for the hypocrisy of claiming that hidden indirect taxes are unfair merely because they are not separately disclosed to consumers and then proposing a massive new GST which will also be hidden from consumers even though a retail tax can simply be made transparent to consumers; and
 - (5) condemns the Government for granting the GST a higher legislative priority than all of the following related matters which have not as yet been introduced into the Parliament including:
 - (a) those matters listed below which are contingent on the GST package which the Government is hiding from the Australian people and from the Senate Inquiry process such as:
 - (i) the mechanism by which the rate of GST is supposed to be locked in;
 - (ii) the amendments to the Trade Practices Act which will grant the ACCC greater power to police the changeover to the GST regime which the Government claims will result in all of the reductions in Commonwealth and state taxes being passed on to consumers;
 - (iii) excise arrangements for petrol and diesel, involving supposedly retail price neutral shifts in petrol prices and a 25 cent reduction in diesel;

- (iv) the repeal of the so-called safety net excise arrangements which were implemented after the High Court ruled state business franchise fees to be unconstitutional;
- (v) the luxury car tax;
- (vi) the wine equalisation tax;
- (vii) repeal/amendment to the Diesel Fuel Rebate Scheme;
- (viii) the First Home Buyers Scheme;
- (ix) the guaranteed distribution of GST Revenue to the states; and
- (x) the \$500 million GST start-up package for small business; and
- (b) those related taxation/equity matters which are not contingent on the GST but which should be made available to the Australian people for their consideration including:
 - (i) providing a Fringe Benefits Tax Exemption for remote area housing provided to employees in the mining industry;
 - (ii) the repeal of Commonwealth Local Government Funding Legislation;
 - (iii) changes to childcare assistance;
 - (iv) excise arrangements for tobacco;
 - (v) the entity taxation regime involving taxing companies, trusts, life insurance etc under one common set of arrangements;
 - (vi) the business taxation measures involving the deferred company tax (ie full franking of all dividends) and the possible changes to the corporate rate and business concessions arrangements;
 - (vii) the new employer withholding arrangements which will replace the PAYE, PPS and RPS systems;
 - (viii) share buy-backs and liquidations;
 - (ix) extending capital gains tax relief and the retirement exemption for small business;
 - (x) limiting the existing Fringe Benefits Tax Exemption for non-profit organisations to \$17,000 gross-up value for each employee;
 - (xi) the anti-avoidance legislation addressing complex chains of trusts;
 - (xii) the repeal of provisional tax and the introduction of the new Pay As You Go tax payment arrangements;
 - (xiii) the changes to the timing of company tax arrangements; and
 - (xiv) refundable imputation credits”.

2 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (END OF SALES TAX) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).

3 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX IMPOSITION—EXCISE) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).

- 4 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX IMPOSITION—CUSTOMS) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 5 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX IMPOSITION—GENERAL) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 6 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 7 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (GOODS AND SERVICES TAX TRANSITION) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 8 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (PERSONAL INCOME TAX CUTS) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 9 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (FRINGE BENEFITS REPORTING) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 10 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (MEDICARE LEVY SURCHARGE—FRINGE BENEFITS) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 11 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (COMPENSATION MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 12 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (BONUSES FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 13 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (INCOME TAX LAWS AMENDMENT) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 14 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (AGED CARE COMPENSATION MEASURES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 15 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 16 **A NEW TAX SYSTEM (AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS NUMBER CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998** (*Treasurer*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Crean*).
- 17 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TRAINING AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mrs Stone*) on the motion of Dr Kemp—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: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) notes that Australia’s future economic and social prosperity depends on a well resourced, quality education and training system; and
- (2) condemns the Government for:
 - (a) refusing to provide growth funds to support Australia’s vocational education and training needs;
 - (b) failing to meet its commitment to ‘enhance the role of TAFE’ and ‘reinvigorate the TAFE system’; and
 - (c) imposing a GST which will make education and training more expensive and less accessible”.

- 18 **ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HERITAGE PROTECTION BILL 1998** (*Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 19 **REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS BILL 1998** (*Minister for Forestry and Conservation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr Swan*).
- 20 **AUSTRALIAN WOOL RESEARCH AND PROMOTION ORGANISATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 21 **PETROLEUM RETAIL LEGISLATION REPEAL BILL 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr Horne*).
- 22 **CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr Horne*).
- 23 **CLASSIFICATION (PUBLICATIONS, FILMS AND COMPUTER GAMES) CHARGES BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr Horne*).
- 24 **ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1998** (*Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr Horne*).
- 25 **WORKPLACE RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (YOUTH EMPLOYMENT) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr Bevis*).
- 26 **SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CHOICE OF SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 27 **MOTOR VEHICLE STANDARDS AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Transport and Regional Services*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).

- 28 **WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (SUPERANNUATION) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 29 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 30 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 31 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1998-99** (*Minister for Finance and Administration*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 32 **CUSTOMS (ANTI-DUMPING AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998** (*Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 33 **CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998** (*Minister representing the Minister for Justice and Customs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 34 **LAW AND JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 35 **JUDICIARY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 36 **HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Attorney-General*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 37 **QUARANTINE AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Ms Macklin*).
- 38 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) LEVIES BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 39 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES (CUSTOMS) CHARGES BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 40 **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES LEVIES AND CHARGES (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 41 **NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (EXCISE) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 42 **NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (CUSTOMS) LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).

- 43 **AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1998** (*Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 44 **MIGRATION (VISA APPLICATION) CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 45 **CORPORATE LAW ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM BILL 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 46 **SALES TAX LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 47 **SUPERANNUATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 48 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1998** (*Minister for Financial Services and Regulation*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 49 **AUSTRALIAN SPORTS DRUG AGENCY AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Minister for Sport and Tourism*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 50 **NATIONAL MEASUREMENT AMENDMENT (UTILITY METERS) BILL 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr O'Connor*).
- 51 **INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Science and Resources*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr O'Connor*).
- 52 **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1998** (*Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs*): Second reading—Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr Martin*).
- 53 **CENTRELINK**: Consideration of Senate's message No. 2 (*from 12 November 1998*).
- 54 **WITNESS PROTECTION ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**: Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 55 **CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**: Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 56 **INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE—CONVENTIONS CONCERNING HOME WORK—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS**: Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the papers.
- 57 **OPERATION OF THE BANKRUPTCY ACT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER**: Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—*

Mr McMullan) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 58 **AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 59 **DEVELOPMENT ALLOWANCE AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 60 **AUSTRALIA'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 2 December 1998—Mr Martin*) on the motion of Mr Downer—That the House take note of the paper.
- 61 **COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 1 December 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 62 **MEDICAL TRAINING REVIEW PANEL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 63 **PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE OMBUDSMAN—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 64 **COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—CORRIGENDA—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 26 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 65 **NATIONAL RAIL CORPORATION LTD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 25 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 66 **NUCLEAR SAFETY BUREAU—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 67 **CONTROLLED OPERATIONS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 68 **OPERATIONS OF THE REGISTERED HEALTH BENEFIT ORGANISATIONS—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 69 **PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 70 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 71 **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN MINT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 72 **MEDIBANK PRIVATE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 73 **MEDIBANK PRIVATE—STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 74 **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 24 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 75 **AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES AND INVESTMENT COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 76 **LAND AND WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 77 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, JULY 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 12 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 78 **FINAL BUDGET OUTCOME 1997-98—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 79 **COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 80 **WOOL INTERNATIONAL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 81 **DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND ENERGY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 82 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 83 **COMMISSIONER FOR SUPERANNUATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 84 **PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUATION SCHEME—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 85 **COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION SCHEME—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 86 **MILITARY SUPERANNUATION AND BENEFITS BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 87 **DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AUTHORITY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 88 **COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 89 **DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TOURISM—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 90 **OFFICE OF ASSET SALES AND IT OUTSOURCING—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 91 **DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 92 **CENTRELINK—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 93 **OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.

- 94 **ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 95 **MARITIME INDUSTRY FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 96 **COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAM ON TAXATION REFORM—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 97 **JOINT COAL BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 98 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE, JUNE 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 99 **PROVISION FOR RUNNING COSTS BORROWINGS, JUNE 1998—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 100 **NATIONAL COMPETITION COUNCIL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 11 November 1998—Mr McMullan*) on the motion of Mr Reith—That the House take note of the paper.
- 101 **TARIFF PROPOSALS** (*Mr Slipper*):
 Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 6 to 10 (1998)—*moved 24 November 1998*—Resumption of debate (*Mr K. J. Thomson*).
- 102 **PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS BROADCASTING AMENDMENT BILL 1998:** Second reading (*from 10 November 1998*).

Contingent notices of motion

- Contingent on any bill being brought in and read a first time:* Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the second reading being made an order of the day for a later hour.
- Contingent on any report relating to a bill being received from the Main Committee:* Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.
- Contingent on any bill being agreed to at the conclusion of the consideration in detail stage:* Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the motion for the third reading being moved without delay.
- Contingent on any message being received from the Senate transmitting any bill for concurrence:* Minister to move—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the bill being passed through all its stages without delay.
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PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**Notice given for Tuesday, 8 December 1998**

*1 **MR NEVILLE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) draws the attention of the Government to the condition of the national rail track;
 - (2) commends the Government for its commitment of \$250 million to rail infrastructure but asks that it be expanded;
 - (3) calls for the declaration of national rail highway from Brisbane to Perth; and
 - (4) seeks removal of impediments to a seamless interstate rail system. (*Notice given 7 December 1998.*)
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Notices

1 **MR PRICE:** To move—

- (1) That a Standing Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be appointed to inquire into:
 - (a) proposals for the annual estimates and the additional estimates for the House of Representatives;
 - (b) proposals to vary the staff structure of the House of Representatives, and staffing and recruitment policies; and
 - (c) such other matters as are referred to it by the House;
- (2) That the committee shall:
 - (a) in relation to estimates—
 - (i) determine the amounts for inclusion in the parliamentary appropriation bills for the annual and the additional appropriations; and
 - (ii) report to the House upon its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill; and
 - (b) in relation to staffing—
 - (i) make recommendations to the Speaker; and
 - (ii) report to the House on any matter its determinations prior to the consideration by the House of the relevant parliamentary appropriation bill;
- (3) That the committee consist of the Speaker and 11 other members, 6 members to be nominated by the Chief Government Whip or Whips and 5 members to be nominated by the Chief Opposition Whip or Whips or any independent Member;
- (4) That the committee elect a Government member as its chair;
- (5) That the committee elect a deputy chairman who shall act as chair of the committee at any time when the chair is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the chair and deputy chair are not present

at a meeting of the committee the members present shall elect another member to act as chairman at that meeting;

- (6) That the committee have power to appoint subcommittees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any subcommittee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine;
- (7) That the committee appoint the chair of each subcommittee who shall have a casting vote only, and at any time when the chair of a subcommittee is not present at a meeting of the subcommittee the members of the subcommittee present shall elect another member of that subcommittee to act as chair at that meeting;
- (8) That the quorum of a subcommittee be a majority of the members of that subcommittee;
- (9) That members of the committee who are not members of a subcommittee may participate in the public proceedings of that subcommittee but shall not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purpose of a quorum;
- (10) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to send for persons, papers and records;
- (11) That the committee or any subcommittee have power to move from place to place;
- (12) That a subcommittee have power to adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment of the House;
- (13) That the committee have leave to report from time to time; and
- (14) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

2 MR PRICE: To move—

- (1) That standing order 28B be amended by inserting the following paragraph after paragraph (b):
 - (*ba*) annual and additional estimates contained in the appropriation bills presented to the House shall stand referred for consideration by Members of the relevant committee (as determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) for the consideration of annual reports), and, for the purposes of this consideration:
 - (i) six Members of each committee, determined by the committee in each case, shall consider the estimates;
 - (ii) the Members of the committee selected to consider the estimates shall meet with Members of the relevant Senate legislation committee so that the Members and Senators may meet together for the purposes of considering the estimates;
 - (iii) members of the relevant House and Senate committees, when meeting together to consider estimates, shall choose a Member or a Senator to chair the joint meetings;

- (iv) the provisions of Senate standing order 26 shall, to the extent that they are applicable, apply to the consideration of estimates under this paragraph, and
 - (v) that, upon the completion of joint meetings at which evidence is received or written answers or additional information considered, it shall then be a matter for the Members of the relevant committee to consider the terms of any report to the House on the estimates.
- (2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- 3 **MR PRICE:** To move—That the standing orders be amended by amending standing order 94 to read as follows:

Closure of Member

94 A motion may be made that a Member who is speaking, except a Member giving a notice of motion or formally moving the terms of a motion allowed under the standing orders or speaking to a motion of dissent (from any ruling of the Speaker under standing order 100), “be not further heard”, and such question shall be put forthwith and decided without amendment or debate. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

- 4 **MR PRICE:** To move—That standing order 129 be omitted and the following standing order substituted:

Presentation of petitions

129 At the time provided for the presentation of petitions, the following arrangements shall apply to the presentation of petitions certified to be in conformity with the standing orders:

- (a) in respect of each petition, the petitioner, or one of the petitioners, may present the petition to the House by standing at the Bar of the House and reading to the House the prayer of the petition, and
 - (b) where a petitioner is not able to present the petition in accordance with paragraph (a) of this standing order, the Member who has lodged the petition may present it to the House by reading to the House the prayer of the petition. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- 5 **MR PRICE:** To move—That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 143:

Questions to committee chairs

143A Questions may be put to a Member in his or her capacity as Chair of a committee of the House, or of a joint committee, in connection with the work or duties of the committee in question. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

- 6 **MR PRICE:** To move—That the standing orders be amended by inserting the following standing order after standing order 145:

Questions without notice—Time limits

145A During question time:

- (a) the asking of each question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each question may not exceed 4 minutes;
 - (b) the asking of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute and the answering of each supplementary question may not exceed 1 minute; and
 - (c) the time taken to make and determine points of order is not to be regarded as part of the time for questions and answers. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- 7 **MR PRICE:** To move—That standing order 275A be omitted and the following standing order be substituted:

Statements by Members

275A Notwithstanding standing order 275, when the Main Committee meets on a Thursday, the business before the Committee shall be interrupted at 1 p.m. and the Chair shall call for statements by Members. A Member, other than a Minister, may be called by the Chair to make a statement for a period not exceeding 3 minutes. The period for Members' statements may continue for a maximum of 1 hour. Any business under discussion at 1 p.m. and interrupted under the provisions of this standing order shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting. (*Notice given 10 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

- 8 **MR ALBANESE:** To move—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of affordable, quality child care for Australian parents;
- (2) deplores the lack of childcare facilities available to Members, Senators and staff working at Parliament House, noting that this lack of workplace child care has led to increased difficulties for parents working at Parliament House following the Coalition's attacks on child care over the past 3 years;
- (3) condemns the Howard Government for its massive attacks on child care and notes that in the course of the first Howard Government childcare funding was slashed by a total of \$800 million; and
- (4) expresses its concern that these cuts have resulted in fee rises, the closure of childcare centres and women being forced out of the paid workforce, instead of providing families with a choice about how they care for their children. (*Notice given 12 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

- 9 **MR MOSSFIELD:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the decline in home ownership in Australia;

- (2) agrees to refer the issue of declining home ownership to the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs to consider ways of increasing home ownership in Australia; and
- (3) determines that, as well as the general reference; the standing committee inquire into the feasibility of the use of the family payment for the purpose of the deposit for a first family home and particularly examine how this might assist low income families to purchase their own home. (*Notice given 12 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

10 **MR ANDREN:** To move—That this House:

- (1) notes the discrepancies and contradictions in expert assessments of Australia's optimum population;
- (2) recognises the damage caused to the nation's social fabric by ill-informed and emotive comments on the nation's immigration program;
- (3) notes that population growth is ultimately a product of fertility rates and levels of net immigration, while acknowledging that Australia has a limited carrying capacity, both ecologically and economically;
- (4) notes that without a population policy Australia risks a continuation of the divisive scapegoating of minority ethnic groups; and
- (5) calls for the convening of a national population forum to consider and propose a population policy for Australia and the social and concrete infrastructure required to sustain that population. (*Notice given 24 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 6 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

11 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To move—That this House:

- (1) acknowledges the importance of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirms the commitment of the Australian people to that Declaration;
- (2) affirms the principle that those guilty of gross abuses of human rights, especially genocide, torture and arbitrary killing of political opponents should be brought to account before the international community;
- (3) welcomes, on the basis of this principle, the decision of the British House of Lords not to grant immunity from prosecution to the former Chilean dictator, Augusto Pinochet, who has been accused of many crimes during the period of his reign;
- (4) calls upon the British Government to now act to expedite the extradition of Mr Pinochet to Spain, where the courts are seeking to prosecute him for such crimes; and
- (5) acknowledging that there are many Chilean Australians whose relatives have been killed or disappeared under Pinochet's rule, calls on the Australian Government to actively support the extradition of Mr Pinochet to Spain and to support all actions to ensure Mr Pinochet is brought to account for his actions. (*Notice given 30 November 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

- 12 **MR BROUGH:** To move—That this House:
- (1) places on record concern about the lack of awareness in the community of prostate cancer;
 - (2) notes that the number of deaths per year ascribed to prostate cancer has nearly doubled, rising from 1355 in 1982 to 2660 in 1996; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to support the designation of one day or week per year as National Prostate Cancer Day/Week as a means of heightening awareness. (*Notice given 1 December 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- 13 **MRS BAILEY:** To move—That this House:
- (1) recognises that food is a growth industry;
 - (2) acknowledges that the ‘food industry’ comprises primary industry production, processing and manufacturing, retail and catering; and
 - (3) calls on the Government to ensure a national uniform food regulatory system. (*Notice given 2 December 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- 14 **MS KERNOT:** To move—That the amendments to the Civil Aviation Regulations, as contained in the Statutory Rules 1998, No. 234, made under the *Civil Aviation Act 1988*, be disallowed. (*Notice given 2 December 1998. Amendments will be deemed to have been disallowed unless the motion is disposed of within 13 sitting days, including today.*)
- 15 **MS HOARE:** To move—That the House:
- (1) reverts to the previous sitting arrangements introduced in 1994, which were abandoned by this Government in 1996, to allow for a more family-friendly workplace;
 - (2) notes the increased number of Members since the election, on both sides of the House, who have young families and/or recently formed partnerships;
 - (3) also notes the hundreds of Members’ staff who are required to be here to work while the House sits until 11 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday evenings and the effect that these absurd working hours has on their families and private lives; and
 - (4) also notes that if it were to revert to the previous sitting pattern which includes sitting from the day’s commencement through until adjournment at 8 p.m. there will be a loss of only three sitting hours per week in the House of Representatives chamber. (*Notice given 2 December 1998. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)

Orders of the day

- 1 **INSURANCE INDUSTRY:** Resumption of debate (*from 30 November 1998—Mr Snowden, in continuation*) on the motion of Mr Martin—That this Parliament calls for the referral of an inquiry into the Australian insurance industry to the

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration and the issues to be considered to include:

- (a) the moral and legal responsibility of insurance companies to honour policies in respect of storm damage and flood;
- (b) necessary legislative change to ensure pedantic definitional arguments are not used by companies to negate payments to policy holders;
- (c) the examination of the legislative base in the provision of flood insurance in the USA and UK and its potential relevance to Australia;
- (d) the ways in which insurance companies approached the interpretation of storm and flood damage in recent disasters in Wollongong, Katherine, Coffs Harbour and Townsville; and
- (e) existing Commonwealth and State or Territory government legislative support mechanisms to assist areas and victims affected by such disasters and whether changes are necessary to ensure rapid and effective relief. *(Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.)*

2 IRANIAN BAHA'I COMMUNITY: Resumption of debate *(from 30 November 1998)* on the motion of Mrs Gallus—That this House:

- (1) strongly condemns the recent grave attacks on the Iranian Baha'i community, including the brutal execution of Mr Ruhullah Rawhani in July in the absence of due legal process, raids on 500 Baha'i homes in an orchestrated nation-wide attempt to prevent Baha'i youth from receiving education, confirmation of death sentences against two Baha'i men and the detention and imprisonment of 16 other Baha'is for practising their faith;
- (2) calls on the Government of Iran to end its oppression of the Baha'i community, ensure the safety and early release of all those Baha'is imprisoned in Iran, immediately take steps to implement UN resolutions defining steps required of the Iranian Government and calling for the emancipation of the Baha'is and respect the principles of the International Covenants on Human Rights to which Iran is a party; and
- (3) expresses its deep disappointment that despite the consideration of this matter by both Houses of the Australian Parliament last year, the Iranian Government, far from taking action to remedy the situation, has intensified its persecution of Baha'is. *(Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.)*

3 LABELLING OF AUSTRALIAN GOODS: Resumption of debate *(from 30 November 1998)* on the motion of Mrs Bailey—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of labelling to both industry and consumers;
- (2) acknowledges that the label 'Product of Australia' is the premium label for Australian goods; and
- (3) calls on the Government to ensure that there is clear definition and understanding of the 'Made in Australia' label by both industry and consumers. *(Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 7 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.)*

- *4 **SUPERANNUATION (ENTITLEMENTS OF SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL 1998** (*Mr Albanese*): Second reading (*from 7 December 1998*). (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- *5 **REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENTS:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Nehl—That this House:
- (1) regrets that the action of the NSW Government in progressing the regional forest agreements for north-east and lower north-east New South Wales has forced the Commonwealth Government to withdraw funding of \$40 million; and
 - (2) calls on the NSW Government to act with responsibility to protect the future of the forest industry. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- *6 **AUSTRALIA-TURKEY RELATIONS:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Sercombe—That this House notes:
- (1) the special relationship between Australia and Turkey, which developed out of mutual respect engendered by the horrific experiences of the First World War;
 - (2) that Turkey is a modern, secular state with which Australia should further enhance relations;
 - (3) the importance of Turkey as a trade and investment partner in its own right and as a base for Australian trade efforts in the Middle East and Central Asia;
 - (4) the significant contribution of Turkish migration to Australia's economic, social and cultural development; and
 - (5) that Turkish speaking residents of Australia have contributed significantly to the Australian community by their approach to potentially divisive issues that could undermine harmony in our multicultural society. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
- *7 **BANK CLOSURES:** Resumption of debate (*from 7 December 1998*) on the motion of Mr Mossfield—That this House:
- (1) notes the increasing number of closures of bank branches within the Australian community;
 - (2) agrees to refer the issue of bank closures to the Standing Committee on Family and Community Affairs to take evidence as appropriate and consider appropriate recommendations to place before the House; and
 - (3) determines that, as well as the general reference, the standing committee also inquire into and report on the increasing number of service reductions within communities and the increasing difficulties with which remaining services are able to be contacted by local residents where services are reduced or removed. (*Order of the day will be removed from the Notice Paper unless re-accorded priority on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays after 8 February 1999.*)
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COMMITTEE AND DELEGATION REPORTS (standing orders 102A and 102C): Presentation and consideration of committee and delegation reports has precedence until 1.15 p.m. each Monday.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (standing orders 104 and 101) has precedence from the conclusion of consideration of committee and delegation reports, but commencing no later than 1.15 p.m., being interrupted at 1.45 p.m. and then continuing for 1 hour after the presentation of petitions each Monday.

The **SELECTION COMMITTEE** is responsible for determining the order of precedence and allotting time for debate on consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business. Any private Members' business not called on, or consideration of which has been interrupted and not re-accorded priority by the Selection Committee on any of the next 8 sitting Mondays, shall be removed from the Notice Paper (standing order 104B).



BUSINESS OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS****Order of the day**

- 1 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH:** Resumption of debate (*from 3 December 1998—Mrs Gash, in continuation*) on the proposed Address in Reply.



QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

On the first sitting day of each week, a complete Notice Paper is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only new questions for the week are included on the Notice Paper.

Questions unanswered

1-5, 7, 8, 10-17, 19-22, 24-31, 33-41, 43-62, 64-113, 115-139, 141-301.

7 December 1998

- 302 **MR McCLELLAND:** To ask the Attorney-General—If the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission presented him with a report in July 1998 recommending the enactment of a Federal Religious Freedom Act, will the recommendation be mentioned in the Commonwealth-written report for the meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General tentatively scheduled to be held in Darwin on 15 and 16 April 1999.
- 303 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services—
- (1) Has his Department met with the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) since 2 March 1996 to discuss employment, education and training issues; if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) when were the (i) first and (ii) latest meetings held and (c) how regularly are the meetings held.
 - (2) Has his Department met with other organisations since 2 March 1996 to discuss employment, education and training issues; if so, (a) which organisations, (b) when were the (i) first and (ii) latest meetings held in each case and (c) how regularly are the meetings held.
 - (3) Which organisations did his Department regularly consult before 2 March 1996 on employment, education and training issues, especially as they related to Working Nation.
 - (4) How has the consultation process changed from 1993-96 to 1996-98.
 - (5) Has his Department allocated funds to assist the ACCI to communicate to employers the range of Job Network services available and how employers can access them; if so, (a) what sum was allocated, (b) when was the allocation approved, (c) what is the nature of the communication process between the ACCI and employers, (d) have departmental officers been seconded to the ACCI to assist the communication process; if so, in each case, (i) what is the substantive position of the officer and (ii) for what period has the officer been seconded and (e) how is the communication process being monitored for effectiveness.
 - (6) Has his Department allocated funds to assist other organisations to communicate to constituent bodies the range of Job Network services available and how these services can be accessed; if so, (a) which organisations and (b) how does the arrangement differ in each case from that entered into with the ACCI.
- 304 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Employment Services— Did the Government offer contract variations to members of the Job Network in August

1998; if so, (a) how many members decided not to pursue the variations, (b) were they from the not-for-profit community sector or the private sector, (c) what reasons did they give for not pursuing variations and (d) in which States, Territories and regions were they located.

305 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Health and Aged Care—

- (1) What was the cost to the Commonwealth of closing the Medicare office in Belmont, NSW, including obtaining a release from the lease of its premises.
- (2) How long did the lease have to expire.
- (3) How many staff were employed in the office.
- (4) What was the total annual remuneration paid to the staff.
- (5) What proportion of the staff is still employed by Medicare or Medibank Private.
- (6) What was the projected operational cost of the office for the period of the lease.
- (7) What is the projected operational cost for the Medibank Private office at Charlestown, NSW.

306 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—Are there inequities in the subsidisation of small compared with large, and metropolitan compared with rural, nursing homes and hostels; if so, what steps is the Government taking to eliminate the inequities.

307 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Aged Care—

- (1) Is there a mismatch between the local availability of, and demand for, nursing home and hostel beds; if so, what steps is the Government taking to make beds available where needed.
- (2) Is it a fact that proportionally the aged population of the electoral division of Shortland is among the highest in Australia but that its per capita nursing home/hostel bed rate is half the national average; if so, why.

308 **MR MELHAM:** To ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs—

- (1) What is the Government's position on self-determination for indigenous peoples domestically and internationally.
- (2) Has the Government's position recently changed to an emphasis on self-management and self-empowerment; if so, (a) what is the rationale for the change, (b) where did the impetus for change originate, (c) which agency prepared the relevant Cabinet submission, (d) which other departments or agencies provided advice on the matter, (e) what consultative processes did the Government undertake with indigenous peoples, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and other relevant interest groups before the change and (f) was ATSIC included in the process preceding the Cabinet decision; if not, why not.
- (3) Has the Government or his Department attempted, or will they attempt, to influence other governments, particularly CANZUS governments, to downgrade the language of self-determination in the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

8 December 1998

- *309 **MS HALL:** To ask the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—
- (1) Have adequate steps been taken to monitor the appearance of prion-based diseases in meat products fed to poultry in Australia.
 - (2) Does regular testing for the spontaneous appearance of prion-based diseases in meat fed to poultry occur in Australia; if so, what are the details.
 - (3) What assurances can be given that prion-based diseases will not occur in Australia.
- *310 **MR M. J. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister for Finance and Administration—
- (1) How many persons did the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) employ on a casual basis during the 1998 federal general election.
 - (2) How many persons referred to in part (1) were (a) already employed, (b) receiving Newstart or another welfare payment or (c) registered with Employment National or another job agency in the Job Network when they were offered work by the AEC.
 - (3) Did the AEC follow a specific strategy during the 1998 federal general election campaign to offer job opportunities and provide appropriate skills training to the unemployed, especially the long-term unemployed.
- *311 **MR K. J. THOMSON:** To ask the Treasurer—Will the imposition of a GST on the activities of credit unions make it more difficult for them to provide competitive services in areas that the banks have deserted; if so, what is the justification for imposing a GST on the activities of credit unions.
- *312 **MR L. D. T. FERGUSON:** To ask the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence—
- (1) How many contributors to the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme exited from the scheme (a) between 28 September and 26 October 1998 and (b) since 27 October 1998.
 - (2) How many contributors in each category referred to in part (1) (a) preserved their member benefit in the scheme, (b) withdrew their member benefit as a lump sum or (c) withdrew their member benefit and subsequently repaid it into the scheme.
 - (3) What was the (a) actual investment performance of the scheme from 1 July to 30 September 1998 and (b) applicable exit rate for each month since 1 July 1998.
 - (4) Before the Opposition raised the matter in Parliament, what measures did the scheme's Board of Trustees put in place to inform members that a negative exit rate had been adopted and to advise them of their options.
 - (5) What measures has he put in place to ensure that recent problems do not recur.
- *313 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) To what stage have negotiations on a social security agreement between Australia and Croatia proceeded.

- (2) What further obstacles or problems remain to be overcome before the agreement can be concluded.
 - (3) When is the agreement likely to be concluded.
 - (4) What are the Government's intentions on concluding the agreement.
- *314 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) To what stage have negotiations on a social security agreement between Australia and Turkey proceeded.
 - (2) What further obstacles or problems remain to be overcome before the agreement can be concluded.
 - (3) When is the agreement likely to be concluded.
 - (4) What are the Government's intentions on concluding the agreement.
- *315 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) To what stage have negotiations on a social security agreement between Australia and Greece proceeded.
 - (2) What further obstacles or problems remain to be overcome before the agreement can be concluded.
 - (3) When is the agreement likely to be concluded.
 - (4) What are the Government's intentions on concluding the agreement.
- *316 **DR THEOPHANOUS:** To ask the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Community Services—
- (1) To what stage have negotiations on a social security agreement between Australia and Germany proceeded.
 - (2) What further obstacles or problems remain to be overcome before the agreement can be concluded.
 - (3) When is the agreement likely to be concluded.
 - (4) What are the Government's intentions on concluding the agreement.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

SPEAKER'S PANEL

Mr Adams, Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Causley, Mrs Crosio, Mrs Gash, Mr Hawker,
Mr Hollis, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Mr Mossfield, Mr Quick.

COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise shown, appointed for life of 39th Parliament

Standing

Pursuant to standing orders

SELECTION: Mr Nehl (*Chair*), Mrs Elson, Mr Forrest, Mrs Gash, Mr Hollis,
Mr McArthur, Mr McLeay, Mr Neville, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Sawford,
Mr Sercombe.

APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY BODIES

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES: Mr Somlyay (*appointed
2 December 1998, for a period of 3 years*).

COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA: Dr Theophanous (*elected
23 November 1998, for a period of 3 years from and including 23 November
1998*).

PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST: Mr Charles (*appointed 24 June
1996*) and Mr McLeay (*appointed 23 November 1998*).