

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 116

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 1992

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- 1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Campbell, Mr Costello, Dr Hewson, Mrs Kelly, Mr Lavarch, Mr McArthur, Mr Sciacca, Mr Sinclair and Mr Tickner, from 14, 25, 14, 14, 14, 14, 14 and 14 petitioners, respectively, praying that the resumption of operations by Compass Airlines be facilitated and that fair and adequate facilities be made available to all operators under aviation deregulation.
 - Mr Filing and Mr Rocher, from 147 and 56 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain persons held in detention in Port Hedland, WA, be granted domestic temporary resident status for two years.
 - Mr Beale, from 127 petitioners, praying that any move to remove the Queen of Australia as the head of state be opposed.
 - Mr Downer, from 859 residents of South Australia, praying that the current national flag be preserved as a symbol of national pride and identity.
 - Mr Filing, from 297 residents of Western Australia, praying that the No. 2 Flight Air Training Corps not be relocated from Wanneroo to Leederville and that it be sufficiently funded to enable completion and maintenance of its Landsdale facilities.
 - Mr Humphreys, from 15 elected ethnic community representatives associated with radio 4EB, praying that any proposal for a second SBS frequency be rejected and support be given to the extension of ethnic broadcasting through public radio.
 - Mr MacKellar, from 18 petitioners, praying that further occupation of East Timor not be supported and that the establishment of full sovereignty for its people be promoted.
 - Mr Reid, from 21 residents of Bendigo, Vic., praying that certain action be taken immediately to cause a general election to provide Australians with the opportunity to decide on the nation's economic direction.
 - Mr B. C. Scott, from 1691 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that centralisation of Telecom services be discouraged and that service outlets in Roma, Qld, and other rural areas be maintained.
 - Mr Taylor, from 131 electors of the Division of Groom, praying that sex and fantasy audio text services on Telecom's 0055 service be disbanded.
 - Mr Webster, from 314 petitioners, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and certain other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.
 - Mr Webster, from 102 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Webster, from 26 petitioners, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill be supported.

Mr Webster, from 2 electors of the Division of Macquarie, praying that further nominations of Australian territory for World Heritage listing cease, that those areas already listed be withdrawn, that financial funding of certain organisations cease and that Australia withdraw from UNESCO.

Petitions received.

3 INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Lee (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Industry, Science and Technology—Standing Committee—Genetic manipulation: The threat or the glory?—

Report, incorporating a dissenting report, February 1992.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Lee and Mr Nugent made statements in connection with the report.

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

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

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

4 NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Lindsay (Chairman) presented the following report:

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Report, March 1992—Examination of the annual report for 1990-91 of the National Crime Authority.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Lindsay and Mr Filing made statements in connection with the report.

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

Mr Lindsay moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

5 COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Jenkins—That the House take note of the report (*presented on 24 March 1992*), viz.:

Community Affairs—Standing Committee—Prescribed health—A report on the prescription and supply of drugs—Part 1: Regulation and the pharmaceutical industry—Report, 4 March 1992—

Debate resumed.

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

6 EAST TIMOR: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Gibson—That this House:

(1) expresses its deepest sympathy to the people of East Timor for the appalling tragedy they experienced with the Dili massacre of 12 November 1991;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms the resort by the Indonesian military to force which on every account was wholly excessive;

- (3) regards as deeply repugnant the reported comments of the Indonesian Commander-in-Chief on the day following the massacre that the “disruptors . . . had to be shot”;
- (4) notes the Indonesian Government’s decision to establish a National Commission of Investigation to investigate all aspects of the massacre, and calls upon it to take every necessary step to ensure to the satisfaction of both the East Timorese and international communities:
 - (a) that the inquiry is “free, accurate, just and thorough”, as promised;
 - (b) that it is conducted fairly and impartially, with all witnesses guaranteed protection against intimidation or retaliation; and
 - (c) that appropriate action is taken against those found to be responsible for unlawful or excessive acts;
- (5) further calls upon the Indonesian Government:
 - (a) to provide immediate access by humanitarian and aid groups, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross, to those wounded or detained as a result of the events of 12 November and other recent incidents in East Timor, without any prejudice to those so visited;
 - (b) to respond promptly to requests for information in relation to detained or missing persons about whom concern has been expressed following the events of 12 November and other recent incidents;
 - (c) to release all political prisoners detained because of their opposition to the integration of East Timor with Indonesia; and
 - (d) to guarantee that individuals who express peaceful opposition to the integration of East Timor with Indonesia are free from intimidation, harassment or detention;
- (6) requests the Government to instruct the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia to make an early visit, and subsequently regular visits, to East Timor to report fully on all aspects of the present situation and the progress of the National Commission of Investigation;
- (7) requests the Australian Government, having regard to the full range of its policies toward and bilateral contacts with Indonesia, to give consideration to the steps which it might take to review these policies and contacts in the event that the Indonesian investigation and follow-up action is unsatisfactory, for example the suspension of military training programs;
- (8) notes the importance of any Australian Government response to the 12 November massacre not only reflecting the deep concern of the wider Australian community but also being consistent with Australia’s own national interests and above all with the interests and welfare of the East Timorese people;
- (9) calls, accordingly, upon the Government to explore all possible constructive avenues for:
 - (a) guaranteeing the effectiveness of the investigation process and its follow-up;
 - (b) achieving a peaceful resolution of the on-going conflict, including by requesting the Indonesian Government, in the Prime Minister’s words, to “sit down with the people of East Timor including the resistance forces and try and work out a program of achieving peaceable relations”; and
 - (c) meeting the longer-term needs and aspirations of the East Timorese people; and
- (10) in particular in these respects, requests that:
 - (a) the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade make an early visit to Indonesia to discuss all aspects of the East Timor situation,

including the events of 12 November and options for effective longer-term reconciliation;

- (b) active steps be taken to explore the role which might now be played, with wide international support, by the United Nations and its Secretary-General;
- (c) strong support be given to the role of the International Commission of the Red Cross in protecting and promoting human rights in East Timor, through continued representations to the Indonesian authorities and if possible targeted financial assistance; and
- (d) approval be sought for the establishment of a resident Australian Consulate in Dili.

*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Ruddock, viz.—*That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House:

- (1) expresses its deep sympathy to the people of East Timor for the appalling tragedy they experienced with the Dili massacre of 12 November 1991;
- (2) condemns in the strongest terms the resort by the Indonesian military to excessive force;
- (3) notes the Indonesian Government’s decision to establish a National Commission of Investigation to investigate all aspects of the massacre, and calls upon it to take every necessary step to ensure to the satisfaction of both the East Timorese and the international communities:
 - (a) that the inquiry is ‘free, accurate, just and thorough’, as promised;
 - (b) that it is conducted fairly and impartially, with witnesses guaranteed protection against intimidation or retaliation; and
 - (c) that appropriate action is taken against those found to be responsible for unlawful or excessive acts;
- (4) further calls upon the Indonesian Government:
 - (a) to provide immediate access by humanitarian and aid groups, especially the International Committee of the Red Cross, to those wounded or detained as a result of the events of 12 November and other recent incidents in East Timor, without any prejudice to those so visited;
 - (b) to respond promptly to requests for information in relation to detained or missing persons about whom concern has been expressed following the events of 12 November and other recent incidents;
 - (c) to release all prisoners detained without trial;
 - (d) to guarantee that individuals who express peaceful opposition to the integration of East Timor with Indonesia are free from intimidation, harassment or detention; and
- (5) requests the Government to instruct the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia to make an early visit and subsequently regular visits to East Timor to report fully to Parliament on all aspects of the present situation and the progress of the National Commission of Investigation”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Gibson, by leave, again addressed the House without closing the debate. Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 7 **ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR FOREBEARS:** Mr J. N. Andrew, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House abhors the emerging sense of apology about our past and calls on all Australians to celebrate the proud achievements of our forebears whose enterprise in the face of adversity helped ensure our prosperity.

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 Thursday.

- 8 PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON THE MONARCHY AND BRITAIN:** Mr Charles, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House deplores attacks by the Prime Minister on the Australian Monarch, our monarchical system of parliamentary democracy and the World War II British cabinet and military command.

Debate ensued.

It being approximately 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 9 GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mr Aldred, by leave, presented the following papers:

Environment Protection Authority [Vic.]—Monitoring of waste oil disposal—Copies of—

Letter from Wayne Saunderson, Secretary, Environment Protection Authority [Vic.], to Mr Aldred, MP, 13 March 1992, regarding FOI request, together with file documents (21).

Newspaper articles from the *Shepparton News* (2).

Debate continued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

- 10 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.

- 11 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Connolly raised, as a matter of privilege, remarks attributed to Mr James McClelland reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 18 March 1992 and an article published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 26 March 1992 concerning the Speaker.

The Speaker indicated that he was not prepared to give precedence to a motion in respect of the matter.

- 12 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

- 13 PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES—GUIDELINES ON ROLE AND FUNCTION—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The Speaker presented the following paper:

Parliamentary Secretaries—Guidelines—Role and function in relation to procedures of the House and its committees.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

- 14 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Australian National Maritime Museum Act—Australian National Maritime Museum—Report for 1990-91.

Defence Force Discipline Act—Judge Advocate General—Report for 1990.

Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) Act—Equal employment opportunity program—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 1990-91.

- 15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MICROECONOMIC REFORMS:** The House was informed that Mr McLachlan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Prime Minister's failure to implement taxation and other cost-reducing microeconomic reforms which has caused one million Australians to be without a job in 1992".
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr McLachlan addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 16 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr R. F. Edwards (Chairman) presented the following report:
Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 2 April 1992.
- 17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
25 March 1992—Message No. 396—Sales Tax Laws Amendment (No. 1) 1992.
- 18 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 5) 1991-92:** 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 Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third time.
- 19 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1991-92:** Message No. 246, dated 24 March 1992, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:
- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1992; and
 - (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1991-92* and the *Appropriation Act (No. 5) 1991-92*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1992, and for related purposes.
- Statement by Deputy Speaker—Reason for further message from the Governor-General:* The Deputy Speaker stated that, as messages from the Governor-General recommending an appropriation of revenue or moneys refer to bills by the long title, it was necessary to have a further message for the purposes of Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 1991-92 to reflect the long title of that Bill as proposed to be amended.
- 20 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1991-92:** 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Schedule, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Schedule—

Page 11, item relating to the Department of Employment, Education and Training, omit “159 771 000”, substitute “72 356 000”.

Page 11, item relating to the Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, omit “138 124 000”, substitute “44 941 000”.

Page 11, omit:

“Total 834 166 000”,

substitute:

“Total 653 568 000”.

Page 15, item relating to the Department of Employment, Education and Training, omit “142 632 000” and “159 771 000”, substitute “55 217 000” and “72 356 000” respectively.

Page 15, item relating to the Department of Health, Housing and Community Services, omit “133 632 000” and “138 124 000”, substitute “40 449 000” and “44 941 000” respectively.

Page 15, omit:

“Total 195 253 000 638 913 000 834 166 000”,

substitute:

“Total 195 253 000 458 315 000 653 568 000”.

Page 32, item relating to Division 270, omit “100 156 000” and “117 047 000”, substitute “12 741 000” and “29 632 000” respectively.

Page 32, omit:

“Total 17 139 000 142 632 000 159 771 000”,

substitute:

“Total 17 139 000 55 217 000 72 356 000”.

Page 33, omit subdivision 9 of Division 270.

Page 33, omit:

“Total: Division 270 117 047 000”,

substitute:

“Total: Division 270 29 632 000”.

Page 34, omit:

“Total: Department of Employment, Education and Training 159 771 000”,

substitute:

“Total: Department of Employment, Education and Training 72 356 000”.

Page 42, item relating to Division 330, omit “126 514 000” and “131 006 000”, substitute “33 331 000” and “37 823 000” respectively.

Page 42, omit:

“Total 4 492 000 133 632 000 138 124 000”,

substitute:

“Total 4 492 000 40 449 000 44 941 000”.

Page 42, omit:

“Total 7 270 000 154 188 000 161 458 000”,

substitute:

“Total 7 270 000 61 005 000 68 275 000”.

Page 43, omit subdivision 6 of Division 330.

Page 44, omit item 01 of subdivision 10 of Division 330.

Page 44, subdivision 10 of Division 330, omit “46 375 000”.

Page 44, omit:

“Total: Division 330 131 006 000”,

substitute:

“Total: Division 330 37 823 000”.

Page 45, omit:

“Total: Department of Health, Housing and Community
Services 138 124 000”.

substitute:

“Total: Department of Health, Housing and Community
Services 44 941 000”.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses, by leave, taken together.

On the motion of Mr Willis, the following amendment was made: Clause 3,
page 1, omit “\$834 166 000”, substitute “\$653 568 000”.

Clauses, as amended, agreed to.

Title—

On the motion of Mr Willis, the following amendment was made: Page 1,
after “*Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1991-92*” insert “and the *Appropriation Act
(No. 5) 1991-92*”.

Title, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments, and with an amended title.

The House resumed; Mr Truss reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Willis, by leave, the House adopted the report, and,
by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1991-92:** 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third
time.

- 22 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1991-92:**
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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Willis (Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third
time.

- 23 **ONE NATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE
NOTE OF PAPERS:** The order of the day having been read for the
resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Keating (Prime Minister)—
That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 26 February 1992*),
viz.:

One Nation—

Ministerial statement, 26 February 1992.

Statement, 26 February 1992—

Debate resumed.

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

- 24 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources) moved—That the
House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) required the debate to be
extended.

The debate continuing until 11.04 p.m., the Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 March 1992:

Aged or Disabled Persons Care Act—Determinations—Nos. 1991-92/12, 1991-92/14.

Motor Vehicle Standards Act—Road Vehicle (National Standards)—Determination—1992—No. 1.

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following Act and provisions of an Act shall come into operation—

Insurance Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1991—15 March 1992.

Public Service and Statutory Authorities Amendment Act 1980—Subsection 7(1), sections 26 to 32 (inclusive) and sections 39 and 41—17 March 1992.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Crean, Mr Hulls, Ms McHugh, Mr Prosser and Mr Sciacca.

L. M. BARLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives