

1993

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 16

THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 1993

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Adams, Mr Anderson, Mr Beale, Mr Bradford, Mr Brown, Mr Campbell, Mr Carlton, Mr Charles, Mr Chynoweth, Mr Cleary, Ms Crawford, Ms Deahm, Mrs Easson, Mr Elliott, Ms Fatin, Mr Ferguson, Mr Filing, Mr Fischer, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Forrest, Mr Gorman, Mr Halverson, Mr Haviland, Mr Hawker, Mr Hicks, Mr Holding, Mr Hollis, Mr Jenkins, Mr Jones, Dr Kemp, Mr Langmore, Mr Lavarch, Mr Lindsay, Mr Lloyd, Mr Mack, Mr MacKellar, Mr McLachlan, Ms Moylan, Mr O'Connor, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Peacock, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr Pyne, Mr Reid, Mr Reith, Mr Sawford, Mr L. J. Scott, Mr Sharp, Mr Simmons, Mr Slipper, Mr Somlyay, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Taylor, Mr Truss, Mr Wakelin, Mr Walker and Mr Williams, from 352, 132, 44, 144, 117, 63, 44, 44, 391, 230, 290, 1262, 286, 22, 376, 624, 69, 336, 154, 390, 166, 132, 66, 318, 46, 401, 1115, 632, 705, 285, 88, 105, 67, 211, 694, 319, 190, 10, 518, 641, 204, 44, 54, 116, 110, 44, 671, 341, 44, 403, 128, 268, 263, 150, 173, 769, 220 and 117 petitioners, respectively, praying that Medicare continue to be a universal health insurance system and that all eye examinations by optometrists be covered.

Mr Brown, Mr Campbell, Ms Crawford, Ms Fatin, Mr Ferguson, Mr Fischer, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gorman, Mr Hollis, Mr Lavarch, Mr Price, Mr Prosser, Mr L. J. Scott, Mr Taylor and Mr Williams, from 159, 36, 41, 323, 513, 133, 38, 1349, 152, 71, 473, 92, 35, 92 and 29 petitioners, respectively, praying that Medicare continue to be a universal health insurance system and that eye tests be covered.

Mr Chynoweth, Mr Holding, Mr Jenkins, Mr O'Connor, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Sawford, from 241, 37, 59, 172, 190 and 299 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Ms Crawford, Mr Lavarch, Mr L. J. Scott and Mr Taylor, from 984, 73, 84 and 44 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposal to exclude non health care card holders and pensioners from claiming benefits for eye examinations from optometrists and ophthalmologists be abandoned.

Mr Evans, Mr Hawker, Mr Jull and Mr Reid, from 31, 441, 109 and 54 petitioners, respectively, praying that measures to treat unrealised capital gains and losses on listed securities as income under the *Social Security Act 1991* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* be abandoned.

Mr Williams, from 20 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Hawker, Mr Lieberman, Mr McArthur and Mr Reid, from 507, 81, 20 and 10 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag unless approved by the people of Australia in a national poll.

Mr J. N. Andrew, Mr Filing and Mr Hall, from 142, 10 and 31 petitioners, respectively, praying that instruments affirming the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be disallowed.

Mr J. N. Andrew, from 36 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Cameron, Mr Prosser and Mr Williams, from 540, 196 and 63 residents of Western Australia, respectively, praying that any attempt to dissolve the Australian Army Band, Perth, be opposed.

Mr Cameron and Mr Evans, from 74 and 24 residents of Western Australia, respectively, praying that the Social Security Amendment (Listed Securities) Bill brought from the Senate be accepted.

Mr Cameron and Mr Moore, from 137 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that any plan by the Prime Minister to purchase new VIP aircraft be opposed.

Mr Costello and Ms McHugh, from 14 and 9 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislative action be taken to implement the Earth Repair Charter.

Mr Cadman, from 220 petitioners, praying that the budget allocation for overseas aid be steadily increased to achieve the UN recommended level of 0.7% of GNP by the year 2000.

Mr Cleary, from 299 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken in response to the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan.

Mrs Easson, from 875 petitioners, praying that costs associated with public utilities and insurance be included as legitimate expenditure of tax deductible donations to school building funds.

Mr Gorman, from 270 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Fischer, from 102 petitioners, praying that no change be made to the design or colour of the Australian national flag and that it continue to represent a true manifestation of the nation's history.

Mrs Gallus, from 723 petitioners, praying that the Australian Grand Prix be exempt from any bans on tobacco sponsorship and advertising.

Mr Griffiths, from 357 petitioners, praying that an Australia Post Agency be opened at the Moonee Ponds West, Vic., newsagency.

Mr Halverson, from 102 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 Halverson, from 13 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Horne, from 292 electors of the division of Paterson, praying that action be initiated to install a mobile phone cell within the Dungog area, NSW.

Mr Kerr, from 292 petitioners, praying that action be taken to ensure that sections 122 (a) and (c) and 123 of the Tasmanian Criminal Code are repealed.

Mr Lieberman, from 34 residents of Victoria, praying that Medicare funding of abortion be terminated by support for the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill 1990.

Mr Lloyd, from 63 petitioners, praying that the signing of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief be disallowed.

Mr Lloyd, from 40 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to tighten restrictions against violence in the media.

Ms McHugh, from 243 petitioners, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.

Mr McLachlan, from 2775 petitioners, praying that capital punishment be re-introduced for serious crimes committed against innocent victims.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 21 petitioners, praying that importation of goods supported by subsidies and other non-tariff or dumping measures be stopped and that tariffs remain in place while other nations use such measures.

Mr B. C. Scott, from 8 petitioners, praying that any proposal to nominate the Lake Eyre basin for world heritage status be rejected.

Mr Sinclair, from 124 residents of rural New South Wales, praying that the Prices Surveillance Authority's findings in relation to price charging at Sydney Kingsford-Smith Airport be reviewed and that a fair and just system be introduced.

Mr Somlyay, from 14 residents of Queensland, praying that the importation of chicken meat products not be permitted.

Petitions received.

3 LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Melham (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee—Clearer Commonwealth law: Report of the inquiry into legislative drafting by the Commonwealth—

Report, 21 July 1993.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Melham, Mr Williams, Mr Duffy (2), Mr Sinclair and Mr Slipper made statements in connection with the report.

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

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

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

4 HARDSHIP IN RURAL AREAS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Braithwaite—That the House:

- (1) acknowledges the extreme hardship now being faced by hundreds of farming and other families and individuals in rural and regional Australia as a result of falling, and in some cases disastrous, commodity prices, exacerbated by the spread of drought conditions in areas of Queensland and New South Wales;
- (2) considers that the availability of basic financial support to such families and individuals is restricted by assets tests which do not allow for the realities of the severe downturn in incomes for farmers and associated self-employed persons;
- (3) calls on the Government to act on these matters as a matter of urgency; and
- (4) notes that the Government has removed the assets test for recipients of Farm Household Support and urges it to extend this liberalisation of the assets test to other areas to address the hardship faced by farming and other families and individuals in rural and regional Australia.

Debate resumed.

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.

5 COMMERCIAL WHALING

Mr L. J. Scott, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) opposes proposals by countries, including Japan, Norway and Iceland, to permit commercial whaling to resume;
- (2) maintains its opposition to all whaling and maintains its commitment to seeking worldwide protection of all cetaceans;
- (3) recognises that commercial whaling activities are no longer required to meet essential human needs, that whaling methods continue to involve an unacceptable level of cruelty and that communities worldwide are increasingly recognising the non-consumptive value of whales;
- (4) supports the efforts made by the federal Government and the Minister for the Environment, Sport and Territories to oppose commercial whaling and to have all Southern Ocean waters south of 40 degrees south latitude declared a whale sanctuary;
- (5) recognises the International Whaling Commission as the appropriate international body for the conservation of all cetaceans and seeks the development of cooperative conservation measures for small cetacean species, particularly those subject to direct exploitation and significant incidental mortality; and
- (6) calls on the International Whaling Commission to investigate the impacts and management implications of whale watching and other low-consumptive uses of whales.

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.

6 EXECUTIVE PAY

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

- (1) deplores the excessive and irresponsible increases in executive pay in recent years;

- (2) calls on executives to adopt more restraint, in the interests of an equitable approach to controlling inflation and expanding employment; and
- (3) urges the Government to adopt policies which would penalise increases in executive pay faster than the growth of average weekly earnings.

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.

7 MOTOR VEHICLE STANDARDS AMENDMENT BILL 1993

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

Mr Hawker moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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 AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND, PERTH

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

- (1) deplores the decision of the federal Government to disband the Australian Army Band, Perth; and
- (2) calls on the Government, in making any changes to Australian Defence Force band deployment, to retain a full-time band in Western Australia.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 104A, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Campbell was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

9 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

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

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

10 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

12 NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

Medical Research Endowment Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for 1992—

and 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.

13 ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday, 6 September 1993, at 3 p.m.

Debate ensued.

Mr Tuckey moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House, at its rising, subject to there being not less than a 45 minute question time, adjourn until Monday, 6 September 1993, at 3 p.m.”.

Debate continued.

Mr Beazley, by leave, again addressed the House without closing the debate.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

14 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—2ND REPORT

Mr Fitzgibbon (Chairman) presented the following report:

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 2ND REPORT

The Publications Committee reports that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Committee, having considered petitions and documents presented to the Parliament since 27 May 1993, recommends that the following be printed:

Advance to the Minister for Finance for 1992-93—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.

AeroSpace Technologies of Australia Pty Limited—Report for—
1990-91.

1991-92.

Australia and the Asian Development Bank—Report by the Hon. J. Dawkins, MP, Treasurer, for 1992.

Australian National University Act—Council of the Australian National University—Report for 1992.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act—

Nuclear Safety Bureau—Report for 30 June 1992.

Safety Review Committee—Report for 1991-92.

Broadcasting Act—Australian Broadcasting Tribunal—Report for period 1 July to 4 October 1992.

Corporations Legislation Amendment Act 1991—National Companies and Securities Commission—14th report (final), for period 1 July 1991 to 31 July 1992.

Department of Defence—Explosives Factory Maribyrnong—Financial statements for 1991-92.

Honey Marketing Act—Australian Honey Board—30th and final report, for period 1 July to 31 December 1992.

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 31—Port authority services and activities, 31 May 1993.

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report No. 64 (interim)—Personal property securities.

Members' interests—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Report on the operations of the committee for 1992, 27 May 1993.

Murray-Darling Basin Act—Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 1991-92.

Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act—Soil Conservation Advisory Committee—Final report, for period 1 July to 24 December 1992.

Official Establishments Trust—Report for 1992-93.

Public Service Act—Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for 1992-93.

Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report for 1992-93.

Science and Technology Budget Statement 1993-94.

Services Trust Funds Act—Reports for 1992—

Australian Military Forces Relief Trust Fund.

Royal Australian Air Force Welfare Trust Fund.

Royal Australian Navy Relief Trust Fund.

Social justice for indigenous Australians 1993-94.

States Grants (Rural Adjustment) Act—Rural Adjustment Scheme—Report for 1991-92.

Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act, for 1992.

Telecommunications Act 1991—Australian Telecommunications Authority (AUSTEL)—Competitive safeguards and carrier performance—Report for period 1 July 1992 to 30 November 1992.

Tobacco Marketing Act—Australian Tobacco Marketing Advisory Committee—Report for 1992.

ERIC FITZGIBBON
Chairman

2 September 1993

Mr Fitzgibbon, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

**15 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—FINANCE MINUTES—
STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mr L. J. Scott (Chairman), by leave, presented the following papers:

Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Finance minute on—

Report 324—Commonwealth support for private sector investment in research and development: Volume 2 of a report on research and development.

Report 325—Midford Paramount case and related matters.

Mr L. J. Scott, by leave, made a statement in connection with the minutes.

16 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1993-94—BUDGET DEBATE

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Dr Wooldridge (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes:

- (1) the likelihood of foreshadowed amendments to the Budget;
- (2) the vacillations and confusion about the Budget;
- (3) the pernicious impact on low income Australians;
- (4) the failure to reduce unemployment; and
- (5) the continuing abrogation of responsibilities towards the long-term unemployed”.

Debate resumed.

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

17 TAXATION (DEFICIT REDUCTION) BILL 1993

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 Downer who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House condemns the Government for including in this Bill measures which subject the accrued leave entitlements of Australian workers to a savage retrospective tax, which place the future of Australia’s wine industry in jeopardy, and which unnecessarily increase the burden of indirect taxation on the whole Australian community”.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Ms McHugh—Minister for Consumer Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

18 ADJOURNMENT

Ms McHugh (Minister for Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

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

Mr Tickner (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.05 p.m., the Speaker adjourned the House until Monday, 6 September 1993, at 3 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 September 1993:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Parts—

105—Amendments, 19(2), 20, 23, 25, 26(2), 27(2), 30 August 1993.

106—Amendment, 27 August 1993.

107—Amendments, 23, 26, 27 August 1993.

Construction Industry Reform and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 230.

Corporations Act—Accounting standard—AASB 1017 (5/93).

Migration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 232.

National Health Act—Declaration—1993 No. PB 13.

Navigation Act—Orders—1993 Nos. 2, 3, 4.

Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 227.

Quarantine Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 229.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 231.

Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1993 No. 226.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Connolly, Mrs Crosio, Mr Elliott, Mr Grace, Mr Howard, Mr Nugent and Mr Truss.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives