

1993-94

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 52

WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 1994

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER

Mark Latham was introduced, and made and subscribed the affirmation of allegiance required by law.

3 CHEMICAL WEAPONS (PROHIBITION) BILL 1993

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Kerr (Minister for Justice) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Kerr presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Duncan (Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

4 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 PROPOSED RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

The Speaker informed the House that he had been advised of the intention of Dr the Honourable Neal Blewett to resign as the Member for the electoral division of Bonython, in the State of South Australia, on Friday, 11 February 1994. The Speaker stated that he would seek the advice of the Australian Electoral Commission, party leaders and independent Members concerning dates for the by-election.

7 PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Public Service Act—Department of the Parliamentary Library—Report for 1992-93.

8 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Customs Service: The turning point—Review of operations, 31 December 1993.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—1993 Review.

War Crimes Act—Report for 1992-93.

9 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Australian Customs Service: The turning point—Review of operations, 31 December 1993.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—1993 Review.

War Crimes Act—Report for 1992-93.

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

10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PROPOSED CHANGES TO QUESTION TIME

The House was informed that Mr Howard had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The continued contempt of the Prime Minister for the institution of Parliament as exemplified by proposed changes to question time procedures".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message No. 196, dated 8 February 1994, from the Senate was reported transmitting to the House a resolution of the Senate extending the time for the presentation of the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration on detention practices to 2 March 1994.

12 STANDING AND JOINT COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP

The House was informed of the nominations by the Government Whip of Members to be members of the following committees:

Banking, Finance and Public Administration—Standing Committee:

Mr Fitzgibbon, and Mr Latham in place of Mr Elliott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer).

Corporations and Securities—Parliamentary Joint Committee:

Mr S. F. Smith in place of Mr Cleeland.

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade—Joint Standing Committee:

Mr Duffy.

Legal and Constitutional Affairs—Standing Committee:

Mr Staples, and Mr Latham in place of Ms Crawford.

Procedure—Standing Committee:

Mr L. J. Scott in place of Mr Elliott.

13 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr Sciacca (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security), by leave, moved—That Mr McLeay be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, and that, in his place, Mrs Easson be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

14 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

15 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1994

Mr Lindsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development) presented a Bill for an Act relating to duties of excise.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Lindsay presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

16 EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSAL

Mr Lindsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development) moved Excise Tariff Proposal No. 1 (1994).

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

17 MINISTERS OF STATE AMENDMENT BILL 1994

Mr Sciacca (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Ministers of State Act 1952*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Sciacca presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**18 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—NEW DELHI CONFERENCE, 1993—
REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER**

Mr Connolly, by leave, presented the following paper:

Inter-Parliamentary Union—89th Conference, New Delhi, India, 12-17 April 1993—Report of the Australian Delegation—

and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

19 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 1993

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Sciacca (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Administrative Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Sciacca presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Connolly, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 3—

Page 2, lines 7-10, omit proposed subparagraph (2)(c)(ii), substitute the following subparagraphs:

“(ii) in the case of Western Australia, the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Land Administration;

(iii) in the case of Queensland, the Director-General of Lands; and’.”

Page 2, lines 11-37, omit paragraph (d), substitute the following paragraph:

“(d) by inserting after subsection (3) the following subsections:

‘(3A) If the person referred to in subparagraph 2(c)(ii) or (iii) is not available to serve as a member of the Redistribution Committee the Electoral Commission must appoint:

(a) a person who:

(i) is available to serve as a member of the Redistribution Committee; and

(ii) is the Deputy Surveyor-General for the State (or, in the case of Western Australia, the Deputy to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Land Administration, or, in the case of Queensland, the Deputy to the Director-General of Lands); or

(b) if there is no such person, a senior officer of the Australian Public Service from the State nominated for the purpose by the Governor-General

as a member of the Redistribution Committee.’.”

Pages 2 and 3, omit paragraph (f).

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Dobie reported accordingly.

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

20 AUSTRALIAN SPACE COUNCIL BILL 1993

The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Lindsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Lindsay presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

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

21 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Lindsay (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Technology and Regional Development) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.47 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 February 1994:

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

Health and Community Services Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1993—Paragraph 29(h) and sections 30, 31 and 32—14 February 1994.

Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Act 1993—Subsection 3(2) and sections 5, 12, 14 to 18 and 24 to 28—1 February 1994.

Radiocommunications Act—Determinations—Nos. RL 1993/3, RQO 1993/3.

Therapeutic Goods Act—Therapeutic Goods Order No. 47.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Fischer, Mr Langmore, Mr Sharp and Mr Tuckey.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives