

1993-94-95

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 118

MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 1995

1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Stephen Martin) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr M. J. Evans presented the following report:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the 15th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organisation (AIPO) Conference, incorporating bilateral visits to the Republic of Singapore and the Republic of Indonesia, 12 September to 1 October 1994—Report.

Mr M. J. Evans, Mr Slipper and Mr O'Connor made statements in connection with the report.

3 BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP

Mr Neville, pursuant to notice, moved—That the House:

- (1) notes with pleasure and national pride the beatification of the Blessed Mary MacKillop;
- (2) acknowledges her unique contribution to the education of generations of Australian children, in particular to those in less fortunate circumstances;
- (3) celebrates the social and spiritual dimensions she and her communities have added to the lives of ordinary Australians, especially in rural and remote areas;
- (4) commends her as a role model of vision, determination and feminine achievement; and
- (5) joins in congratulating the Josephite Sisters in Australia and beyond our shores at a time of great pride for their communities.

Debate ensued.

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

4 BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

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

- (1) deplores the abject failure of the UN to protect the people of Bihac, Bosnia-Herzegovina, from attack by the forces of the Bosnia Serbs and their allies;
- (2) calls on the UN to lift its sanctions on arms supplies to the armed forces of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and
- (3) rejects proposals to divide or cantonise Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Debate ensued.

It being 2.45 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 Monday, and Mr Slipper was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member named and suspended: The Speaker named the Member for Gippsland (Mr McGauran) for continuing to interject after having been warned by the Chair.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the Member for Gippsland be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr Fischer (Leader of the National Party of Australia) having indicated that the Member had not spoken and might be given the opportunity of apologising, the Member indicated he would not apologise and was insolent to the Chair.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Martin, in the Chair)—

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Mr Adams	Mrs Easson	Mr Johns	Mr Price
Mr Baldwin	Mr Elliott	Mr Jones	Mr Punch
Mr Beazley	Mr M. J. Evans	Mr Keating	Mr Quick
Mr Beddall	Ms Fatin	Mr Kerr	Mr Sawford*
Mr Bevis	Mr Ferguson	Mr Knott	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Bilney	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Langmore	Mr Simmons
Mr Brereton	Mr Free	Mr Latham	Mrs S. J. Smith
Mr Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Lavarch	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Campbell	Mr Gibson	Dr Lawrence	Mr Snow
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Snowdon
Mr Cleary	Mr Griffin	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Mr Cleeland	Mr Griffiths	Ms McHugh	Mr Swan
Ms Crawford	Mr Haviland	Mr Mack	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Ms Henzell	Mr McLeay	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Crosio	Mr Holding	Mr Melham	Mr Tickner
Mr Cunningham	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Walker
Ms Deahm	Mr Home	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Woods
Mr Dodd	Mr Howe	Mr Newell	
Mr Duffy	Mr Humphreys	Mr O'Connor	
Mr Duncan	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Keefe	

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Mr Abbott	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Anderson	Mr Filing	Mr McLachlan	Mr Sinclair
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Slipper
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mr Forrest	Mr Moore	Mr Somlyay
Mr Atkinson	Mrs Gallus	Mrs Moylan	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Beale	Mr Georgiou	Mr Nehl	Mr Taylor
Mrs Bishop	Mr Hall	Mr Neville	Mr Truss
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Hawker*	Mr Nugent	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Mr Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Pyne	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Reid	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Connolly	Dr Kemp	Mr Rocher	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Lieberman	Mr Ronaldson	
Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr B. C. Scott	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Member was, therefore, suspended at 3.57 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

7 FOREST INDUSTRY WORKERS' BLOCKADE—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER—PAPER

The Speaker made a statement responding to questions asked of him on 2 February 1995 in respect of the forest industry workers' blockade of Parliament House from 30 January 1995 and presented the following paper:

House of Representatives Chamber—Disturbances—Table, 18 January 1995.

8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent Grievance debate continuing until 5.30 p.m. this day.

Question—put and passed.

9 PETITIONS AND MINISTER'S RESPONSE

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

Mr Ferguson, Mr Fischer, Mr Gorman, Mr Grace, Mr Howard, Mr Knott, Mr Mack, Mr McLeay, Mr Sharp, Mr Simmons, Mr Snow, Mr Tickner and Mr Vaile, from 36, 136, 23, 66, 380, 109, 123, 172, 75, 32, 17, 178 and 22 petitioners, respectively, praying that importation and use of the drug RU486 be banned.

Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Beale, Mr Charles, Mr Cobb, Mr Fischer, Mr Johns, Mr Lavarch, Mr Lindsay, Mr Pyne, Mr Reith, Mr Taylor and Dr Wooldridge, from 678, 152, 450, 8, 708, 739, 1752, 6, 1264, 1150, 13 and 240 petitioners, respectively, praying for certain changes to the Family Law Act and the Child Support Scheme.

Ms Deahm, Mr Holding and Mrs S. J. Smith, from 91, 165 and 180 petitioners, respectively, praying that Anzac Day be declared Australia's National Day of Commemoration and that it be held on 25 April each year and on no other day.

Mr Beazley and Mr Mack, from 8205 and 1105 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain actions be taken to protect native forests in the south west of Western Australia.

Mr Cobb and Mr Sinclair, from 32 and 64 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to establish by referendum whether the Constitution should be amended to ensure parliamentary scrutiny of all international treaties, conventions and agreements before they come into force in Australia.

Mr Connolly and Mr Ruddock, from 35 and 173 petitioners, respectively, praying that the guidelines for homeless rate recipients be reviewed and greater commitment shown to programs which prevent family breakdown.

Mr Hollis and Mr Mack, from 134 and 2954 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain actions be taken to protect all native old growth, wilderness and other high conservation value forests in Australia.

Mr Moore and Mr B. C. Scott, from 11 395 petitioners and 14 electors of the Division of Maranoa, respectively, praying that the national flag not be changed, replaced or diminished without being voted upon and approved in a national referendum.

Mr Howard, from 56 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Anderson, from 103 petitioners, praying that a classification system be applied to all audio tapes and compact discs and that certain items be restricted from sale to minors.

Mr Beale, from 15 petitioners, praying that no change be made to the national flag without a full referendum.

Mr Cadman, from 57 petitioners, praying that any action which is capable of deeply dividing the people of Australia be desisted from.

Mr Cadman, from 52 petitioners, praying that by enactment, Parliament ensure that the Prime Minister of Australia cannot change the flag of Australia without the majority consent of the people of Australia.

Mr Cameron, from 15 814 residents of Western Australia, praying that action be taken to stop the practice in China of extracting bile from caged bears for medical purposes.

Ms Crawford, from 606 petitioners, praying that nicotine patches be placed on the free list of medication and that all foreign substances be removed from tobacco.

Mr Cunningham, from 1577 residents of Victoria, praying that an advisory group be established in accordance with the National Forest Policy Statement and that other action be taken in support of the forestry and forest products industry.

Mr Duncan, from 42 residents of South Australia, praying that certain amendments be made to the draft national competition policy legislation.

Mr R. D. C. Evans, from 51 petitioners, praying that greater resources be made available for research into breast cancer.

Mr R. D. C. Evans, from 24 petitioners, praying that certain representations be made to the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concerning religious freedom and the independence of the United Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation.

Mr R. D. C. Evans, from 10 petitioners, praying that the increases in petrol excise proposed in the 1993-94 Budget be opposed.

Dr Hewson, from 64 petitioners, praying that legislative action be taken to implement the Earth Repair Charter.

Mr Horne, from 232 petitioners, praying that a Medicare office be established in Nelson Bay to serve the Port Stephens area, NSW.

Mr Katter, from 235 residents of Flying Fish Point and The Coconuts, Qld, praying that action be taken to improve television reception in the areas of Flying Fish Point and The Coconuts.

Mr Kerr, from 544 residents of Tasmania, praying that the Tarkine wilderness in Tasmania be nominated for World Heritage listing.

Mr Kerr, from 198 residents of Tasmania, praying that funding for the Alternative Birthing Service be continued.

Mr Mack, from 25 725 petitioners, praying that certain measures be taken that would prevent members of parliament, retired members and top bureaucrats from plundering the public purse.

Mr Mack, from 24 petitioners, praying that logging in the Deua wilderness and other forest areas of high conservation value in New South Wales be stopped.

Mr Moore, from 26 petitioners, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Mr Nehl, from 20 petitioners, praying that women remain eligible for the age pension from the age of 60.

Mr Sinclair, from 131 students and staff of the University of New England and residents of Armidale, praying that the transmission of SBS television be extended to the New England region of New South Wales.

Mr Sinclair, from 104 petitioners, praying that all higher education students receiving Austudy assistance be granted independent status.

Mr Sinclair, from 97 students and staff of the University of New England and residents of Armidale, praying that the permitted service area for radio station 2UNE-FM be extended.

Mr Sinclair, from 94 petitioners, praying that eligible Austudy recipients automatically receive health care benefit cards.

Mr Truss, from 31 petitioners, praying that the current national flag be preserved and no change be made to its design unless supported by referendum by the majority of Australians in the majority of States.

Ms Worth, from 499 petitioners, praying that funding for breast cancer research be increased tenfold in the Budget and initiatives to encourage donations for research be considered.

Petitions received.

The Clerk announced that the following Minister's response to a petition previously presented to the House had been received, viz.:

From the Prime Minister relating to a petition lodged by Ms Deahm, Mr Forrest, Mr Jenkins, Mr Newell, Mr Somlyay and Mrs Sullivan, on 17 October 1994, praying that Anzac Day be declared Australia's National Day of Commemoration and that it be held on 25 April each year and on no other day.

10 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.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMINAL CODE BILL 1995

Message No. 399, dated 2 February 1995, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to the criminal law*".

Bill read a first time.

Paper: Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ARCHIVES AMENDMENT BILL 1995

Message No. 402, dated 2 February 1995, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Archives Act 1983'*".

Bill read a first time.

Paper: Ms Crawford (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Housing and Regional Development) presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EVIDENCE BILL 1994

The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 400

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for "*An Act about the law of evidence, and for related purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

MICHAEL BEAHAN
President

The Senate

Canberra, 2 February 1995

Ordered—That the amendments be considered at the next sitting.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—EVIDENCE (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1994

The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 401

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the bill for "*An Act to repeal provisions of the 'Evidence Act 1905', to repeal the 'State and Territorial Laws and Records Recognition Act 1901' and to make transitional provisions and certain amendments consequential upon the enactment of the 'Evidence Act 1994'* ", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the bill with the amendment indicated by the annexed schedule, in which amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

MICHAEL BEAHAN
President

The Senate

Canberra, 2 February 1995

Ordered—That the amendment be considered at the next sitting.

15 ANZAC DAY BILL 1994

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.

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

16 ADJOURNMENT

Mrs Crosio (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 12.30 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 February 1995:

Bounty (Computers) Act—Declaration under section 5, 15 November 1994.

Corporations Act—Accounting standards—AASB 1029 (12/94), AASB 1030 (12/94).

Health Insurance Act—Declaration QAA No. 6/1994.

Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act—Notices 1994 Nos. 1, 2.

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

Chemical Weapons (Prohibition) Act 1994—Division 1 of Part 7 and sections 95, 96, 97, 99, 102, 103 and 104—15 February 1995.

Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Act 1994—Part 2—1 February 1995.

World Heritage Properties Conservation Act—Notice of consent pursuant to section 9, 24 January 1995.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Hewson, Mr Sciacca and Mr Willis.



L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives