

1993-94-95

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 156

THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 1995



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 DEFENCE COOPERATION CONTROL BILL 1995

Mr Gibson, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to prohibit defence cooperation between the Australian Defence Forces and the armed forces of any State which uses its armed forces to suppress basic human rights.

Mr Gibson made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting Monday, in accordance with standing order 104A.

3 POVERTY

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

- (1) takes note of the Queensland Council of Social Services report entitled *Drawing the line on poverty* which shows that Queensland is the most poverty-stricken State in Australia with 350 000 people living in poverty; and
- (2) calls on all Australian governments to address the issue of poverty and the growing gap between rich and poor in this country.

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 Monday.

4 WINE INDUSTRY

Mr J. N. Andrew, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) expresses its grave concern at the recommendations of the Industry Commission's draft report on the wine grape and wine industry in Australia and resists the increase in sales tax on wine and the imposition of an excise tax; and

- (2) recognises the adverse effects that such tax structure changes would have on the export potential of the industry and on the expansion of wine grape plantings in the irrigated areas of Australia.

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 Monday.

5 HILTON HOTEL BOMBING

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

- (1) notes the unanimous resolution of the NSW Parliament of 9 December 1991 calling upon the federal Government to establish a top level, open, joint NSW/federal Government inquiry into the bombing of the Sydney Hilton Hotel on 13 February 1978 and pledging the full cooperation of the NSW Government;
- (2) notes the recent statements of the NSW Premier, Mr Bob Carr, confirming his Government's support for such an inquiry;
- (3) requests that the federal Government immediately establish a joint federal/NSW Government inquiry, with the powers of a Royal Commission, into all of the circumstances and consequences surrounding the Hilton Hotel bombing, including the events leading up to the incident, the bombing itself, the conduct of the subsequent investigation of the bombing and all relevant matters;
- (4) requests that the terms of reference for the inquiry include a full investigation of the role played by all NSW and federal Government agencies, including military and security organisations, before, during and after the bombing; and
- (5) requests that any provisions existing in any federal legislation which would otherwise prevent full disclosure to the inquiry by officers, employees, agents or sub-agents of federal Government agencies of any information under oath relevant to the terms of reference be set aside for the purposes of the inquiry.

Debate ensued.

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

6 GRIEVANCE DEBATE

Pursuant to the resolution of the House of 22 August 1995, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mrs Crosio (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security), by leave, presented the following papers:

Sydney airports—Copies of transcripts from—

Channel 10 News, 1 February 1995.

Clive Robertson program—Radio 2GB, 27 June 1995.

Doorstop interview by Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), 25 July 1995.

Debate continued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

7 SUPERANNUATION SUPERVISORY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1995

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

Debate ensued.

Mr Thomson addressing the House—

It being 2.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution of 22 August 1995, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day, and Mr Thomson was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—MOTION OF CENSURE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Mr Keating (Prime Minister) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Prime Minister moving the following motion forthwith—That the House:

- (1) censures the Leader of the Opposition for allowing his frontbenchers, the Members for Chisholm, Mackellar and O'Connor, to allege that the Minister for Human Services and Health caused the suicide of Penny Easton; and
- (2) condemns the Liberal Party for seeking to put the Minister on trial for Penny Easton's death and notes its cynicism by casting the terms of reference of the Royal Commission so as to exonerate Premier Court and his parliamentary colleagues for accountability in their own role and action in this matter.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

10 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION—RESOLUTION OF CENSURE

Mr Keating (Prime Minister) moved—That the House:

- (1) censures the Leader of the Opposition for allowing his frontbenchers, the Members for Chisholm, Mackellar and O'Connor, to allege that the Minister for Human Services and Health caused the suicide of Penny Easton; and
- (2) condemns the Liberal Party for seeking to put the Minister on trial for Penny Easton's death and notes its cynicism by casting the terms of reference of the Royal Commission so as to exonerate Premier Court and his parliamentary colleagues for accountability in their own role and action in this matter.

Ordered—That Mr Keating be granted an extension of time.

Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "this House censures the Prime Minister for his arrogant and elitist style which is exemplified by his actions and the actions of his Ministers in attempting to devalue the importance of Ministers being absolutely truthful in dealing with the public".

Debate continued.

Closure: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 76

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

NOES, 61

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

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

AYES, 76

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

NOES, 61

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

11 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Provision for running costs borrowings—

Statements for April 1995 (corrigendum) and June 1995.

Supporting applications for issues from the provision during April 1995 (corrigendum) and June 1995.

12 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT

The House was informed that Mr Costello (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to take steps to reduce Australia's massive current account deficit and the pain experienced by Australian homebuyers".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Costello rising to address the House—

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

13 CUSTOMS TARIFF LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1995

Mr Elliott (Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1987* and the *Customs Tariff Amendment Act (No. 2) 1993*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

14 SUPERANNUATION SUPERVISORY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1995

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 McLeay), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 BANKING, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE

The House was informed that the Chief Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Thomson to be a member of the Standing Committee on Banking, Finance and Public Administration in place of Mr Jull.

16 ADJOURNMENT

Mr McLeay (Chief Government Whip) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 6 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 12.30 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 August 1995:
 Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals 1995 Nos. 18, 20.

Copyright Act—Declaration under section 10A, 19 July 1995.

Sales Tax Assessment Act—Determination 1995 No. STD 95/7.

Taxation Administration Act—

Determination 1995 No. TD 95/45.

Ruling 1995 No. TR 95/28.

Wheat Marketing Act—Notices (2) pursuant to section 13, 21 August 1995.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Aldred, Mr Anderson, Mr R. D. C. Evans, Mr Gear, Mr Horne, Mr Katter and Mr Lindsay.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives