

1996

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 4

MONDAY, 6 MAY 1996

- 1 The House met, at 12.30 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson, OBE) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 1 May 1996, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

3 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Members' statements were made.

4 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Sharp (Minister for Transport and Regional Development), Mr McGauran (Minister for Science and Technology) would answer questions on his behalf.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 PETITIONS AND MINISTERS' RESPONSES

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

Mr Anderson and Mr O'Connor, from 5 and 28 petitioners, respectively, praying that the exclusiveness of marriage as being between one male and one female be preserved and that the Marriage Act be amended to prohibit certain marriages.

Mr Howard, from 116 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Georgiou and Mr Lee, from 806 and 23 electors of the Division of Kooyong, respectively, praying that a new Telecommunications National Code be introduced with more power for local councils.

Mr Lieberman and Mr Ronaldson, from 21 629 and 2363 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to reduce the difference in petrol pricing between city and country areas.

Mr Melham and Mr A. A. Morris, from 16 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that the drug Betaferon be subsidised under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Mr K. J. Andrews, from 20 petitioners, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag unless approved by the people of Australia in a national poll.

Mrs Bailey, from 4031 petitioners, praying that Betaferon be made available as a subsidised drug.

Mr P. J. Baldwin, from 104 petitioners, praying that Indonesian military training in Australia be stopped and that Indonesia be urged to accept an act of self determination in East Timor supervised by the United Nations.

Mr Cadman, from 408 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to promote the recognition of human rights in Sudan.

Mr Crean, from 10 members and clients of the Ballarat Community Education Centre, Vic., praying that federal funding to the Commonwealth Education Centres Program be restored.

Mr Downer, from 74 petitioners, praying that if enacted the Health Legislation (Private Health Insurance Reform) Amendment Bill 1994 be repealed.

Mr M. J. Evans, from 25 residents of South Australia, praying that funding for the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement be abolished.

Mr Filing, from 4578 petitioners, praying that an Australian Embassy be established in the Republic of Croatia.

Mr Fischer, from 47 residents of New South Wales, praying that the Treasurer be instructed to overturn the decision of the Commissioner of Taxation to close the Wagga Wagga Regional Taxation Office.

Mr Hawker, from 708 petitioners, praying for certain changes to the Family Law Act and the Child Support Scheme.

Mr Hawker, from 93 residents of Victoria, praying that certain action be taken to support family owned and operated newsagents.

Mr Jull, from 170 residents of Queensland, praying that suitable accommodation be provided for sufferers of dementia and their partners.

Mr Melham, from 280 residents of Queensland, praying that racial attacks by candidates or political parties in federal elections be condemned and that Members represent all their constituents without racial discrimination and that they observe a code of race ethics.

Mr Moore, from 226 petitioners, praying that extension of the 1980 UN Weapons Convention be supported and ratification by all nations be urged.

Mr A. A. Morris, from 71 construction workers, praying that certain action be taken to ensure that the pay of construction workers is not reduced as a result of changes to tax rules.

Mr Mossfield, from 157 petitioners, praying that all Sudanese residents of Australia and Australian citizens of Sudanese descent be allowed to sponsor their relatives under the Special Assistance Program.

Mr Nehl, from 1783 electors of the Division of Cowper, praying that action be taken to solve the aged care crisis in the electoral division of Cowper.

Mr Nehl, from 180 members of the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of New South Wales and residents of the electoral division of Cowper, praying that funding for aged care accommodation in the electoral division of Cowper be increased to a level equal to that in other electoral divisions in New South Wales.

Mr Neville, from 80 residents of Queensland, praying that certain action be taken to increase non-government school equity funding.

Mr Prosser, from 1012 residents of Western Australia, praying for the appointment of an independent Speaker.

Mr Reid, from 1510 residents of Victoria, praying that the Treasurer be instructed to overturn the decision of the Commissioner of Taxation to close the Bendigo Regional Taxation Office.

Mr Ronaldson, from 348 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to reduce the difference in petrol pricing between country Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

Mr Ronaldson, from 14 residents of Wendouree, Vic., praying that a CES office be established in Wendouree.

Mr Sinclair, from 89 residents of Armidale and New England, praying that the House be more resolute in its opposition to French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Mr Slipper, from 523 petitioners, praying that telephone boxes removed from sites in the electoral division of Lilley be returned.

Mr Taylor, from 74 petitioners, praying that funding for breast cancer research be increased tenfold in the Budget and initiatives to encourage donations for research be considered.

Mr Wakelin, from 392 residents of rural areas of South Australia, praying that access to mobile phone networks be provided to rural areas of South Australia.

Petitions received.

The Clerk announced that the following Ministers' responses to petitions previously presented to the House had been received, viz.:

From the former Minister for Housing and Regional Development relating to a petition lodged by Mr Cleeland (former Member for McEwen), on 18 September 1995, praying for funding for the electrification of the railway line to Craigieburn, Vic.

From the former Minister for Human Services and Health relating to petitions, praying that the medication Pulmozyme be listed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, lodged by Mr Lee and Mr Tickner (former Member for Hughes) on 18 September 1995, and by Mr Nehl, on 25 September 1995.

7 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.

8 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH

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Debate resumed.

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

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr McGauran—Minister for Science and Technology), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

9 GUN CONTROL LAWS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mr Howard (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement on gun control laws.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement on the matter.

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Debate resumed.

Mr Marek addressing the House—

Adjournment negated: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Mr Marek continued his speech.

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

11 ADJOURNMENT

Mr W. L. Smith (Minister for Sport, Territories and Local Government) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 May 1996:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Exemption No. 131/FRS/143/1996.

Defence Act—Determination under section 52—1996 No. 1.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination No. T6/96.

National Health Act—Determinations 1996 Nos. PHI 7, PHI 8.

Public Service Act—Determinations—
1995 No. LES 38.

1996 Nos. 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, LES 1, LES 2.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations 1996 Nos. 1, 2.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brough, Mr R. A. Cameron, Mr Hawker, Mr Jones, Mr Neville and Mr Sharp.

L. M. BARLIN

Clerk of the House of Representatives