

1996-97

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 115

TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Bob Halverson) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.45 p.m. the Member for Melbourne (Mr Tanner) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing to interject after a general warning had been given by the Chair, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continuing—

Member ordered to withdraw

At 2.56 p.m. the Member for Calare (Mr Andren) was ordered, under standing order 304A, to withdraw from the House for one hour for continuing with a point of order after being ordered to resume his seat, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

3 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED

Mr Beazley (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith—That this House censures the Prime Minister:

- (1) for his failure to uphold proper standards of accountability, propriety and probity regarding his personal involvement in the “Travelgate” cover-up; and
- (2) calls on him to establish immediately a full judicial inquiry with the power of compulsion under oath and calls on him to make himself available to testify before that inquiry.

Debate ensued.

The time allowed by standing order 91 for debate on the motion having expired—

Question—put.

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

AYES, 47

Mr Adams	Mr G. J. Evans	Mr Kerr	Mr O'Connor
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Evans	Dr Lawrence	Mr O'Keefe
Mr P. J. Baldwin	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Mr Lee	Mr Price
Mr Beazley	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Mr McClelland	Mr Quick
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Ms Macklin	Mr Sawford*
Mr Bevis	Mr E. L. Grace*	Mr McLeay	Mr Sercombe*
Mr Brereton	Mr Griffin	Mr McMullan	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Brown	Mr Hatton	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Crean	Mr Holding	Mr Melham	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mr Hollis	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Willis
Mr Dargavel	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wilton
Ms Ellis	Mr Jones	Mr Mossfield	

NOES, 90

Mr Abbott	Mrs Elson	Mr Lieberman	Mr Sharp
Mr Anderson	Mr Entsch	Mr Lindsay	Mr Sinclair
Mr J. N. Andrew	Mr R. D. C. Evans	Mr Lloyd	Mr Slipper*
Mr Anthony	Mr Fahey	Mr McArthur*	Mr A. C. Smith
Mrs Bailey	Mr Fischer	Mr McDougall	Mr W. L. Smith
Mr R. C. Baldwin	Mr Forrest	Mr McGauran	Mr Somlyay
Mr Barresi	Mrs Gallus	Mr McLachlan	Dr Southcott
Mr Bartlett	Ms Gambaro	Mr Marek	Mrs Stone
Mr Billson	Mrs Gash	Mr Miles	Mrs Sullivan
Mrs Bishop	Mr Georgiou	Mr Moore	Mr Taylor
Mr Bradford	Mrs E. J. Grace	Mrs Moylan	Mr A. P. Thomson
Mr Broadbent	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Dr Nelson	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr E. H. Cameron	Mr Hockey	Mr Neville	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr R. A. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Nugent	Mr Wakelin
Mr Campbell	Mrs Jeanes	Mr Prosser	Mrs West
Mr Causley	Mrs Johnston	Mr Randall	Mr Williams
Mr Charles	Mr Jull	Mr Reid	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Katter	Mr Reith	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Ronaldson	Mr Zammit
Mr Dondas	Miss J. M. Kelly	Mr Ruddock	
Mrs Draper	Dr Kemp	Mr Scott	

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

4 PAPER

Mr Ruddock (Acting Minister for Administrative Services) presented the following paper:

Members' entitlements—Alleged misuse of entitlement: Mr Beazley—Copy of minute from Brendan Godfrey, Deputy Secretary, Business Development, Department of Administrative Services to Mr Ruddock, 30 September 1997.

5 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH

Mr Hawker (Chair—Standing Committee on Financial Institutions and Public Administration) raised, as a matter of privilege, articles in the *Australian* of 26 September 1997 and the *Weekend Australian* of 27 September 1997 which revealed details of the report of the committee on its review of the 1995-96 annual reports of the Reserve Bank of Australia, the Australian Securities Commission and the Insurance and Superannuation Commission presented to the House yesterday. Mr Hawker further stated that the matter would be considered at a meeting of the committee and he would report the outcome to the House.

The Speaker stated that he would await the results of the committee's deliberations.

6 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 3 of 1997-98—Performance audit—Program evaluation in the Australian Public Service.

Ordered to be printed.

7 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for August 1997.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during August 1997.

Social Security Act—Social Security Appeals Tribunal—Report 1996-97.

Treaties—

Bilateral with text and national interest analysis—

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency, done at Vienna on 23 September 1997, additional to the Agreement of 10 July 1974 between Australia and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968.

Multilateral—National interest analysis for treaty previously tabled—

Asia-Pacific Postal Union (APPU): Additional protocols, done at Singapore on 12 September 1995, amending the Constitution of 4 December 1985 and General Regulations.

8 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance—

Statement for August 1997.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during August 1997.

Social Security Act—Social Security Appeals Tribunal—Report 1996-97.

Treaty—*Bilateral with text and national interest analysis*—Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Malaysia on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

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

9 INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON FAIR TRADING—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), by leave, made a ministerial statement announcing the Government's response to the report on fair trading by the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, and presented the following paper:

Industry, Science and Technology—Standing Committee—Report—Finding a balance: Towards fair trading in Australia, 26 May 1997—Government response—Ministerial statement, 30 September 1997.

Mr Martin, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr McLachlan (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

10 DEFENCE REFORM PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

Mr McLachlan (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the Defence reform program and presented the following papers:

Defence reform program—

Defence Efficiency Review—Key findings and recommendations: Defence reform program implementation status.

Future directions for the management of Australia's defence—Report of the Defence Efficiency Review—

Report, 10 March 1997.

Addendum—Secretariat papers.

Ministerial statement, 30 September 1997.

Mr Bevis, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Cadman (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FIREARMS BUYBACK SCHEME

The House was informed that both Mrs Stone and Mr Melham had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, the Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mrs Stone, namely, "The importance to the future safety and security of all Australians of the firearms buyback scheme which concludes today".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mrs Stone addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

12 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

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

13 BILLS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr J. N. Andrew (Chief Government Whip), pursuant to notice, moved—That the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

National Firearms Program Implementation 1997; and

National Road Transport Commission Amendment 1997.

Question—put and passed.

14 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Nehl (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 20 October 1997.

15 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT (FAIR TRADING) BILL 1997

Mr Reith (Minister for Workplace Relations and Small Business), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper

Mr Reith presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

16 TARIFF PROPOSALS

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services) moved—

Customs Tariff Proposal No. 8 (1997); and
Excise Tariff Proposal No. 4 (1997).

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

17 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY

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

18 WHEAT MARKETING AMENDMENT BILL 1997

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 O'Keefe who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “, noting the representations of a wide number of graingrowers and, in particular the West Australian Graingrowers' Association and the Australian Grain Industry Taskforce, the House declines to give the bill a second reading pending consideration of the report on the measure by the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee, which is due to be presented by 23 October 1997”.

Debate adjourned (Mrs Moylan—Minister for Family Services), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

19 BILL REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mrs Moylan (Minister for Family Services), by leave, moved—That the Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill 1997 be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration.

Question—put and passed.

20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUDITOR-GENERAL BILL 1996

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

29 September 1997—Message No. 325—Auditor-General 1996.

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

21 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL 1996

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

29 September 1997—Message No. 326—Financial Management and Accountability 1996.

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

22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES AND COMPANIES BILL 1996

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with an amendment:

29 September 1997—Message No. 327—Commonwealth Authorities and Companies 1996.

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

23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUDIT (TRANSITIONAL AND MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL 1997

A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill with amendments:

29 September 1997—Message No. 328—Audit (Transitional and Miscellaneous) Amendment 1997.

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

24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate was reported returning the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill (No. 3) 1997 and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist upon its amendment No. 1 disagreed to by the House of Representatives—Message No. 329, dated 30 September 1997.

25 SYDNEY AIRPORT DEMAND MANAGEMENT BILL 1997

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.

26 ADJOURNMENT

It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 30 September 1997:

Christmas Island Act—Casino Control Ordinance—

Appointment of acting Chairperson under section 39, 17 September 1997.

Grant of leave of absence of Chairperson, Casino Surveillance Authority, under section 35, 17 September 1997.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr K. J. Andrews, Mr Downer, Mr Latham and Mr Pyne.

I. C. HARRIS
Clerk of the House of Representatives

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