

1998-99

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 86

TUESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 1999

1 The House met, at 3 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (the Honourable Neil Andrew) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

3 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commercial Development Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

Aged Care Act—Report for period 1 October 1997 to 30 June 1999.

Anindilyakwa Land Council—Report for 1998-99.

Australia-China Council—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Rail Track Corporation Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Australian Sports Drug Agency—Report for 1998-99—Erratum.

Australian Wheat Board—Report for 1998-99.

Centrelink—Data-matching program—Report for 1998-99.

Committee reports—Government responses to parliamentary committee reports—Response, 7 December 1999, to the schedule tabled by the Speaker in the House of Representatives on 29 June 1999.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Report for 1998-99—Corrigendum.

Department of Finance and Administration—Report for 1998-99—Corrigenda.

Department of Veterans' Affairs—Data-matching program—Report for 1998-99—Corrigendum.

Energy Research and Development Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

Export Market Development Grants—List of grant recipients—1998-99.

Finance—Advance to the Minister for Finance and Administration—Statements for September 1999.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during September 1999.

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Joint Coal Board—Report for 1998-99.

Landcare Australia Limited—Report for 1998-99.

Pooled Development Funds Registration Board—Report for 1998-99.

Private Health Insurance Administration Council—Report on the operations of the registered health benefits organisations for 1998-99.

Productivity Commission—Report for 1998-99.

Treaties—Joint Standing Committee—Report—18th—Multilateral Agreement on Investment—Government response.

4 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

The House was informed that Mr Swan had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The adverse impact of the GST on the not-for-profit sector which will seriously undermine their ability to deliver services to the community, and particularly to the most disadvantaged Australians”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Swan addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

5 MAIN COMMITTEE—DAY OF NEXT MEETING

The Deputy Speaker reported that Wednesday, 8 December 1999, at 9.40 a.m., had been fixed for the next meeting of the Main Committee.

6 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) the following Bills be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration:

War Crimes Amendment 1999;

Migration Legislation Amendment (Migration Agents) 1999; and

- (2) the following order of the day, committee and delegation reports, be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Procedure—Standing Committee—Report on community involvement in the procedures and practices of the House of Representatives and its committees—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

7 SOCIAL SECURITY (ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1999—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate—

On the motion of Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

8 SOCIAL SECURITY (ADMINISTRATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1999—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the amendments made by the Senate—

On the motion of Mr Anthony (Minister for Community Services), the amendments were agreed to.

9 BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 1) 1999

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.

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

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), by leave, Government amendments (1) to (26) were made together, after debate.

Paper

Mr McGauran presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Mr Smith, by leave, moved Opposition amendments (1) to (14) together.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr McGauran, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

10 BROADCASTING SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1999

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 Smith who moved, as an amendment— That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

“while supporting the early passage of the Bill because it will:

- (a) give enforceable statutory effect to the currently voluntary requirement for levels of Australian content in drama programs on predominantly drama-oriented subscription television channels, and;
- (b) establish the principle of an Australian Content Standard consistent with Australia’s international obligations,

the House:

- (1) re-affirms its commitment to the highest possible local content standards for free-to-air and subscription television;

- (2) as a matter of some urgency, calls on the subscription television industry and the Australian broadcast content production industry to agree on similarly enforceable Australian content standards in respect of documentary programming on predominantly documentary-oriented subscription television channels;
- (3) calls on the Government to give that agreement statutory effect;
- (4) notes that while, as a consequence of the passage of the Bill, the impact of the High Court's decision concerning Australian content in the 'Blue Sky' case will be limited to the Australia - New Zealand CER Agreement, the implications of the 'Blue Sky' decision remain of great concern and demand further action in the interests of the Australian industry; and,
- (5) calls on the Government to legislate to overturn the impact of the 'Blue Sky' decision".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Consideration in detail

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr McGauran (Minister for the Arts and the Centenary of Federation), the Government amendment was made, after debate.

Paper

Mr McGauran presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Consideration in detail concluded.

On the motion of Mr McGauran, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY

Ordered—That orders of the day Nos 5 and 6, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

12 PAPER

Ms Worth (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs), by leave, presented the following paper:

Parliamentarian's travel paid by the Department of Finance and Administration for the period January to June 1999—Department of Finance and Administration—Report, December 1999.

13 APPROPRIATION (EAST TIMOR) BILL 1999-2000

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

14 BILL REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

Mr Ronaldson (Chief Government Whip), by leave, moved—That the National Crime Authority Amendment Bill 1999 be referred to the Main Committee for further consideration.

Question—put and passed.

15 ADJOURNMENT

Dr Stone (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage) 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 9.30 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 December 1999:

Broadcasting Services Act—Restricted Access Systems Declaration 1999 (No. 1).

Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act—Notice under section 9(2)—Statement relating to extension of time for presentation of report—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report for 1998-99.

Higher Education Funding Act—Determination 1999 No. T17.

National Health and Medical Research Council Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Guidelines—

Ethical Review of Research Proposals for Human Somatic Cell Gene Therapy and Related Therapies, 1999.

Genetic Registers and Associated Genetic Material, 1999.

Parliamentary Entitlements Act—Advice of decisions under paragraph 18(a), 14 November 1999.

Remuneration Tribunal Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination 1999 No. 15.

Report—Senators and Members of Parliament, Ministers and Holders of Parliamentary Office—Salaries and Allowances for Expenses of Office, December 1999.

ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs B. K. Bishop, Mr Horne, Mrs D. M. Kelly, Ms Kernot, Mr Lloyd, Mr McLeay, Mr Mossfield, Mr Prosser* and Dr Theophanous.

* On leave



I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives