

2002-03

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 108

TUESDAY, 12 AUGUST 2003

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

2 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper

Mr Crean (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:

Ethanol position—Note on meeting between Mr Gerry Hueston, Chairman of AIP, and Mr Truss (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry).

Questions without notice continued.

3 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—REGIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (a) the Prime Minister moving forthwith a motion relating to the Solomon Islands; and
- (b) debate on the motion ensuing with speech time limits being as follows:
 - Prime Minister—not specified;
 - Leader of the Opposition—a period of time equal to that taken by the Prime Minister; and
 - Minister for Foreign Affairs and Member for Griffith—15 minutes each.

Question—put and passed.

4 REGIONAL ASSISTANCE MISSION TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Mr Howard (Prime Minister) moved—That this House:

- (1) endorses the Government's decision to deploy the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands;
- (2) expresses its support for the members of the Australian Federal Police, the Australian Defence Force, the Australian Protective Service, Australian Government officials, and personnel from Pacific Island nations who are deployed with the assistance mission; and
- (3) expresses its full confidence in the members of the assistance mission, and its hope for a successful mission and their safe return home.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN—COMMUNICATION FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

The Speaker informed the House that, in reply to the resolution of congratulations of this House on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty The Queen, the following message has been received from Buckingham Palace:

“The Queen has asked me to thank you and the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia for your kind message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of the fiftieth Anniversary of Her Majesty’s Coronation.

The Queen much appreciated the terms of your message and sends her best wishes to you all”.

Signed Stuart Shilson, Assistant Private Secretary to The Queen.

6 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH

Mr Latham raised, as a matter of privilege, an alleged breach of privilege that the Prime Minister had deliberately misled the House in the answering of certain questions without notice.

The Speaker stated that the matter was not raised at the earliest opportunity and he would not grant precedence to a motion.

7 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED

Mr Latham moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would preclude the Member for Werriwa moving forthwith: That this House gives precedence to a motion to refer to the Privileges Committee the misleading of the House by the Prime Minister on 17, 18 and 19 September 2002.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr J. N. Andrew, in the Chair)—

AYES, 66

Mr Adams	Mr L. D. T. Ferguson	Dr Lawrence	Ms Roxon
Mr Albanese	Mr M. J. Ferguson	Ms Livermore	Mr Rudd
Mr Andren	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr McClelland	Mr Sawford
Mr Beazley	Ms George	Ms J. S. McFarlane	Mr Sciacca
Mr Bevis	Mr Gibbons	Ms Macklin	Mr Sercombe
Mr Brereton	Ms Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Sidebottom
Ms Burke	Ms Grierson	Mr Melham	Mr S. F. Smith
Mr Byrne	Mr Griffin	Mr Mossfield	Mr Snowdon
Ms Corcoran	Ms Hall	Mr Murphy	Mr Swan
Mr Cox	Mr Hatton	Ms O’Byrne	Mr Tanner
Mr Crean	Ms Hoare	Mr B. P. O’Connor	Mr K. J. Thomson
Mrs Crosio	Mrs Irwin	Mr G. M. O’Connor	Ms Vamvakinou
Mr Danby*	Ms Jackson	Mr Organ	Mr Wilkie
Mr Edwards	Mr Jenkins	Ms Plibersek	Mr Windsor
Ms Ellis	Mr Kerr	Mr Price	Mr Zahra
Mr Emerson	Ms C. F. King	Mr Quick*	
Mr Evans	Mr Latham	Mr Ripoll	

NOES, 78

Mr Abbott	Mrs Draper	Mrs D. M. Kelly	Mr Scott
Mr Anderson	Mr Dutton	Jackie Kelly	Mr Secker
Mr K. J. Andrews	Mrs Elson	Dr Kemp	Mr Slipper
Mr Anthony	Mr Entsch	Mrs Ley	Mr A. D. H. Smith
Mr Baird	Mr Farmer	Mr Lindsay	Mr Somlyay
Mr Baldwin	Mrs Gallus	Mr Lloyd	Dr Southcott
Mr Barresi	Ms Gambaro	Mr McArthur*	Dr Stone
Mr Bartlett	Mrs Gash	Mr McGauran	Mr C. P. Thompson
Mr Billson	Mr Georgiou	Mrs May	Mr Ticehurst
Mrs B. K. Bishop	Mr Haase	Mrs Moylan	Mr Tollner
Ms J. I. Bishop	Mr Hardgrave	Mr Nairn	Mr Truss
Mr Brough	Mr Hartsuyker	Dr Nelson	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Neville*	Mr M. A. J. Vaile
Mr Cameron	Mr Hockey	Ms Panopoulos	Mrs D. S. Vale
Mr Causley	Mr Howard	Mr Pearce	Mr Wakelin
Mr Charles	Mrs Hull	Mr Prosser	Dr Washer
Mr Ciobo	Mr Hunt	Mr Pyne	Mr Williams
Mr Cobb	Mr Johnson	Mr Randall	Ms Worth
Mr Costello	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Downer	Mr Katter	Mr Schultz	

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

8 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General—

Audit reports of 2002–2003—

No. 59—Performance audit—Administration of Australian business number registrations: Australian Taxation Office.

No. 60—Business support process audit—Closing the books.

No. 61—Financial statement audit—Control structures as part of the audit of financial statements of major Commonwealth entities for the year ending 30 June 2003.

No. 62—Performance audit—Management of selected aspects of the family migration program: Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

No. 63—Performance audit—Administration of the automotive competitiveness and investment scheme: Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources; Australian Customs Service.

Audit report of 2003–2004—No. 1—Performance audit—Administration of three key components of the Agriculture—Advancing Australia (AAA) package: Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Australia; Centrelink; Australian Taxation Office.

Reports ordered to be printed.

9 PAPERS

The following papers were presented:

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Act 1979—Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Protocol—Procedures to be followed in the exercise of authority under warrants issued under section 34D of the Act.

Gene Technology Regulator—Quarterly report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2003.

Judge Advocate General—Report for 2002.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 2001-02.

National Health Act—Independent review of the private sector outreach services legislation, June 2003.

Research Involving Human Embryos Act—NHMRC Licensing Committee—Report for the period 19 December 2002 to 31 March 2003.

Treaties—

Bilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—

Agreement between Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium on the gainful employment of certain dependants of diplomatic and consular personnel, done at Sydney on 19 November 2002.

Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium on “working holiday” arrangements, done at Canberra on 20 November 2002.

*Multilateral—Text, together with national interest analysis and annexures—*Protocol, done at Sydney on 30 June 2003, concerning the Bougainville Transition Team made pursuant to the agreement, done at Port Moresby on 5 December 1997, between Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand and Vanuatu concerning the Neutral Truce Monitoring Group for Bougainville, as amended by the Protocol, done at Port Moresby on 29 April 1998.

10 PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS

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

Murray-Darling Basin Commission—Report for 2001-02.

National Health Act—Independent review of the private sector outreach services legislation, June 2003.

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

11 PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mr Abbott (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:

Copy of the Prime Minister’s motion on the Solomon Islands—

and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

12 MATTERS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE

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

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

Family Law Amendment 2003;

National Transport Commission 2003; and

National Transport Commission (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) 2003; and

(2) the following order of the day be referred to the Main Committee for debate:

Solomon Islands—Motion by Prime Minister—Motion to take note of paper: Resumption of debate.

Question—put and passed.

13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNIVERSITY FUNDING AND HECS PLACES

The House was informed that Ms Macklin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The need for more university HECS places and more funding for universities that does not rely on students going into deeper and deeper debt”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Ms Macklin addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

14 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT

Mr Causley (Chair) presented the following paper:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the consideration of committee and delegation reports and private Members' business on Monday, 18 August 2003.

15 CORPORATIONS AND FINANCIAL SERVICES—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Hunt presented the following paper:

Corporations and Financial Services—Joint Statutory Committee—Disclosure of commissions on risk products—Report, incorporating dissenting reports, August 2003.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Griffin, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

16 HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2003

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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Ms Macklin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House:

- (1) condemns the Government for:
 - (a) the failure of its policies to tackle the real issues facing higher education in Australia, including in the following areas:
 - (i) the increasing financial burden its policies are placing on students and their families, and the related growth of student debt;
 - (ii) the continuing inability of universities to enrol qualified students who wish to take up a publicly-funded place;
 - (iii) the inadequate provision for growth in higher education, especially in the period 2004-2007;
 - (iv) the inadequate planning for meeting key areas of skill shortage through higher education, including teaching and nursing;
 - (v) inadequate indexation of university funding;
 - (vi) inattention to the links between higher education and TAFE; and
 - (vii) a lack of focus on quality, innovation and global changes in higher education;
 - (b) underfunding the rebuilding of the Mt Stromlo observatory; and
- (2) calls on the Government to amend the Bill so as to limit the degree of ministerial discretion over the division of funding between different categories of research programs”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Hartsuyker addressing the House—

17 ADJOURNMENT

It being 9 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 9.27 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a.m.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 12 August 2003:

A New Tax System (Family Assistance) (Administration) Act—Determinations—2003—

Child Care Benefit (Breach of conditions for continued approval) Amendment (No. 1).

Child Care Benefit (Eligibility of child care services for approval and continued approval) Amendment (No. 2).

Housing Assistance Act—Determination—2003 Housing Assistance (Form of Agreement).

Social Security (Administration) Act—Declaration—2003 Social Security (Dependants—Concession cards).

Social Security Act—Declaration—2003 Social Security (Specified class of persons in Australia in specified circumstances—Health care card).

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ATTENDANCE

All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Forrest, Mr I. E. Macfarlane* and Mr McMullan.

* On leave

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I. C. HARRIS

Clerk of the House of Representatives