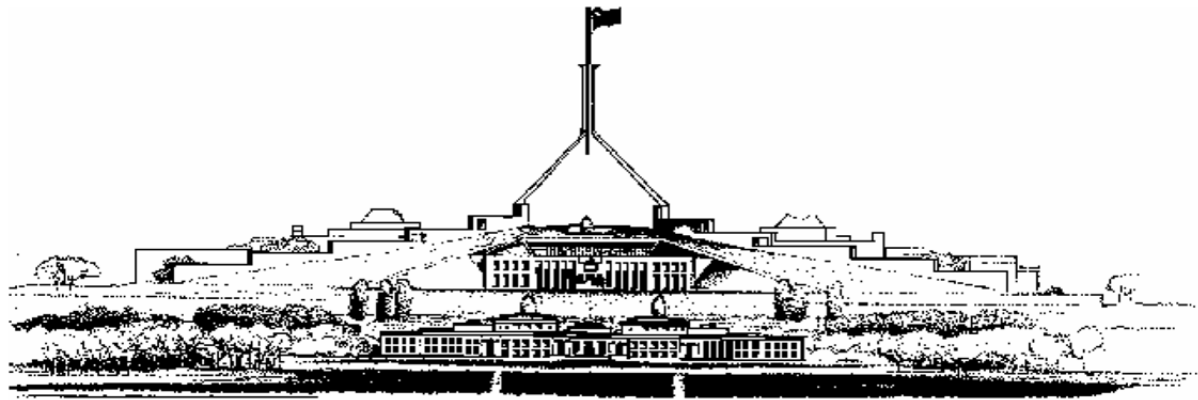




COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



House of Representatives

Official Hansard

No. 182, 1992

Thursday, 2 January 1992

THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION—FIFTH PERIOD

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION—FIFTH PERIOD

Governor-General

His Excellency the Honourable William George Hayden, Companion of the Order of Australia,
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

House of Representatives Officeholders

Speaker—The Honourable Leo Boyce McLeay

Chairman of Committees—Mr Ronald Frederick Edwards

Deputy Chairmen of Committees—The Honourable James Donald Mathieson Dobie,
Mr Stephen Cairfield Dubois, Mr Colin Hollis, Mr Henry Alfred Jenkins,
the Honourable Michael John Randal MacKellar, Mr Garry Barr Nehl,
the Honourable Gordon Glen Denton Scholes, Mr Leslie James Scott,
Mrs Kathryn Jean Sullivan and Mr Warren Errol Truss

Leader of the House—The Honourable Kim Christian Beazley

Leader of the Opposition—Dr John Robert Hewson

Deputy Leader of the Opposition—Mr Peter Keaston Reith

Manager of Opposition Business—Mr Warwick Leslie Smith

House of Representatives Party Leaders

Leader of the Australian Labor Party—The Honourable
Paul John Keating

Deputy Leader of the Australian Labor Party—The Honourable
Brian Leslie Howe

Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia—Dr John Robert Hewson

Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party of Australia—Mr Peter Keaston Reith

Leader of the National Party of Australia—Mr Timothy Andrew Fischer

Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia—Mr Bruce Lloyd

Members of the House of Representatives

Member	Division	Party	Member	Division	Party
Aldred, Kenneth James	Deakin, Vic	LP	Duffy, Hon. Michael	Holt, Vic	ALP
Anderson, John Duncan	Gwydir, NSW	NP	John		
Andrew, John Neil	Wakefield, SA	LP	Duncan, Hon. Peter	Makin, SA	ALP
Andrews, Kevin James	Menzies, Vic	LP	Edwards, Dr Harold	Berowra, NSW	LP
Atkinson, Rodney	Isaacs, Vic	LP	Raymond		
Alexander			Edwards, Ronald	Stirling, WA	ALP
Bailey, Frances Esther	McEwen, Vic	LP	Frederick		
Baldwin, Hon. Peter	Sydney, NSW	ALP	Elliott, Robert Paul	Parramatta, NSW	ALP
Jeremy			Fatin, Hon. Wendy	Brand, WA	ALP
Beale, Julian Howard	Bruce, Vic	LP	Frances		
Beazley, Hon. Kim	Swan, WA	ALP	Ferguson, Laurie Donald	Reid, NSW	ALP
Christian			Thomas		
Beddall, Hon. David Peter	Rankin, Qld	ALP	Fife, Hon. Wallace Clyde	Hume, NSW	LP
Bevis, Archibald Ronald	Brisbane, Qld	ALP	Filing, Paul Anthony	Moore, WA	LP
Bilney, Hon. Gordon	Kingston, SA	ALP	Fischer, Timothy Andrew	Farrer, NSW	NP
Neil			Fisher, Peter Stanley	Mallee, Vic	NP
Blewett, Hon. Neal	Bonython, SA	ALP	Fitzgibbon, Eric John	Hunter, NSW	ALP
Bradford, John Walter	McPherson, Qld	LP	Ford, Frank Allen	Dunkley, Vic	LP
Braithwaite, Raymond	Dawson, Qld	NP	Free, Hon. Ross Vincent	Lindsay, NSW	ALP
Allen			Gallus, Christine Ann	Hawker, SA	LP
Brereton, Hon. Laurence	Kingsford-Smith, NSW	ALP	Gayler, John	Leichhardt, Qld	ALP
John			Gear, George	Canning, WA	ALP
Broadbent, Russell Evan	Corinella, Vic	LP	Gibson, Garrie David	Moreton, Qld	ALP
Brown, Hon. Robert	Charlton, NSW	ALP	Goodluck, Bruce John	Franklin, Tas	LP
James			Gorman, Russell Neville	Greenway, NSW	ALP
Burr, Maxwell Arthur	Lyons, Tas	LP	Joseph		
Cadman, Alan Glyndwr	Mitchell, NSW	LP	Grace, Edward Laurence	Fowler, NSW	ALP
Cameron, Ewen Colin	Indi, Vic	LP	Griffiths, Hon. Alan	Maribymong, Vic	ALP
Campbell, Graeme	Kalgoorlie, WA	ALP	Gordon		
Carlton, Hon. James	Mackellar, NSW	LP	Hall, Hon. Raymond	Boothby, SA	LP
Joseph			Steele		
Catley, Dr Robert	Adelaide, SA	ALP	Halverson, Robert	Casey, Vic	LP
Chaney, Hon. Frederick	Pearce, WA	LP	George, OBE		
Michael			Hand, Hon. Gerard Leslie	Melbourne, Vic	ALP
Charles, Robert Edwin	La Trobe, Vic	LP	Hawker, David Peter	Wannon, Vic	LP
Charlesworth, Dr Richard	Perth, WA	ALP	Maxwell		
Ian, AM			Hewson, Dr John Robert	Wentworth, NSW	LP
Cobb, Michael Roy	Parkes, NSW	NP	Hicks, Noel Jeffrey	Riverina-Darling, NSW	NP
Connolly, David Miles	Bradfield, NSW	LP			
Costello, Peter Howard	Higgins, Vic	LP	Holding, Hon. Allan	Melbourne Ports, Vic	ALP
Courtice, Brian William	Hinkler, Qld	ALP	Clyde		
Cowan, Hon. David Bruce	Lyne, NSW	NP	Hollis, Colin	Throsby, NSW	ALP
Crawford, Mary	Forde, Qld	ALP	Howard, Hon. John	Bennelong, NSW	LP
Catherine			Winston		
Crean, Hon. Simon	Hotham, Vic	ALP	Howe, Hon. Brian Leslie	Batman, Vic	ALP
Findlay			Hulls, Rob Justin	Kennedy, Qld	ALP
Crosio, Hon. Janice Ann,	Prospect, NSW	ALP	Humphreys, Hon.	Griffith, Qld	ALP
MBE			Benjamin Charles		
Darling, Elaine Elizabeth	Lilley, Qld	ALP	Jakobsen, Carolyn Anne	Cowan, WA	ALP
Dawkins, Hon. John	Fremantle, WA	ALP	Jenkins, Henry Alfred	Scullin, Vic	ALP
Sydney			Johns, Hon. Gary Thomas	Petrie, Qld	ALP
Dobie, Hon. James	Cook, NSW	LP	Jones, Hon. Barry Owen	Lalor, Vic	ALP
Donald Mathieson			Jull, David Francis	Fadden, Qld	LP
Downer, Alexander John	Mayo, SA	LP	Keating, Hon. Paul John	Blaxland, NSW	ALP
Gosse			Kelly, Hon. Roslyn Joan	Canberra, ACT	ALP
Dubois, Stephen Cairfield	St George, NSW	ALP	Kemp, Dr David Alistair	Goldstein, Vic	LP

Members of the House of Representatives—*continued*

Member	Division	Party	Member	Division	Party
Kerin, Hon. John Charles	Werriwa, NSW	ALP	Ronaldson, Michael John Clyde	Ballarat, Vic	LP
Kerr, Duncan James Colquhoun	Denison, Tas	ALP	Ruddock, Philip Maxwell	Dundas, NSW	LP
Langmore, John Vance	Fraser, ACT	ALP	Sawford, Rodney Weston	Port Adelaide, SA	ALP
Lavarch, Michael Hugh	Fisher, Qld	ALP	Scholes, Hon. Gordon Glen Denton	Corio, Vic	ALP
Lee, Michael John	Dobell, NSW	ALP	Sciacca, Hon. Con	Bowman, Qld	ALP
Lindsay, Eamon John, RFD	Herbert, Qld	ALP	Scott, Bruce Craig	Maranoa, Qld	NP
Lloyd, Bruce	Murray, Vic	NP	Scott, John Lyden	Hindmarsh, SA	ALP
McArthur, Fergus Stewart	Corangamite, Vic	LP	Scott, Leslie James	Oxley, Qld	ALP
McGauran, Peter John	Gippsland, Vic	NP	Shack, Peter Donald	Tangney, WA	LP
McHugh, Hon. Jeannette	Phillip, NSW	ALP	Sharp, John Randall	Gilmore, NSW	NP
MacKellar, Hon. Michael John Randal	Warringah, NSW	LP	Simmons, Hon. David William	Calare, NSW	ALP
McLachlan, Ian Murray, AO	Barker, SA	LP	Sinclair, Rt Hon. Ian McCahon	New England, NSW	NP
McLeay, Hon. Leo Boyce	Grayndler, NSW	ALP	Smith, Warwick Leslie	Bass, Tas	LP
Mack, Edward Carrington	North Sydney, NSW	Ind.	Snow, James Henry	Eden-Monaro, NSW	ALP
Martin, Hon. Stephen Paul	Macarthur, NSW	ALP	Snowdon, Hon. Warren Edward	Northern Territory	ALP
Melham, Daryl	Banks, NSW	ALP	Somlyay, Alexander Michael	Fairfax, Qld	LP
Miles, Christopher Gordon	Braddon, Tas	LP	Staples, Hon. Peter Richard	Jagajaga, Vic	ALP
Moore, Hon. John Colinton	Ryan, Qld	LP	Sullivan, Kathryn Jean	Moncrieff, Qld	LP
Morris, Allan Agapitos	Newcastle, NSW	ALP	Taylor, William Leonard	Groom, Qld	LP
Morris, Hon. Peter Frederick	Shortland, NSW	ALP	Theophanous, Dr Andrew Charles	Calwell, Vic	ALP
Nehl, Garry Barr	Cowper, NSW	NP	Tickner, Hon. Robert Edward	Hughes, NSW	ALP
Newell, Neville Joseph	Richmond, NSW	ALP	Truss, Warren Errol	Wide Bay, Qld	NP
Nugent, Peter Edward	Aston, Vic	LP	Tuckey, Charles Wilson	O'Connor, WA	LP
O'Keefe, Neil Patrick	Burke, Vic	ALP	Walker, Hon. Francis John, QC	Robertson, NSW	ALP
O'Neil, Lloyd Reginald Terrence	Grey, SA	ALP	Webster, Alasdair Paine	Macquarie, NSW	LP
Peacock, Hon. Andrew Sharp	Kooyong, Vic	LP	West, Hon. Stewart John	Cunningham, NSW	ALP
Price, Hon. Leo Roger Spurway	Chifley, NSW	ALP	Willis, Hon. Ralph	Gellibrand, Vic	ALP
Prosser, Geoffrey Daniel	Forrest, WA	LP	Wilson, Hon. Ian Bonython Cameron	Sturt, SA	LP
Punch, Hon. Gary Francis	Barton, NSW	ALP	Woods, Harry Francis	Page, NSW	ALP
Reid, Hon. Nicholas Bruce	Bendigo, Vic	LP	Woods, Dr Robert Leslie	Lowe, NSW	LP
Reith, Peter Keaston	Flinders, Vic	LP	Wooldridge, Dr Michael Richard Lewis	Chisholm, Vic	LP
Riggall, John Peter	McMillan, Vic	LP	Wright, Keith Webb	Capricornia, Qld	ALP
Rocher, Allan Charles	Curtin, WA	LP			

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP—Australian Labor Party; LP—Liberal Party of Australia; NP—National Party of Australia;
Ind.—Independent

KEATING MINISTRY

Prime Minister	The Honourable Paul John Keating
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Social Justice and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Commonwealth-State Relations	The Honourable Brian Leslie Howe
Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce	Senator the Honourable John Norman Button
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade	Senator the Honourable Gareth John Evans, QC
Treasurer	The Honourable John Sydney Dawkins
Minister for Finance and Vice-President of the Executive Council	The Honourable Ralph Willis
Attorney-General	The Honourable Michael John Duffy
Minister for Employment, Education and Training and Leader of the House	The Honourable Kim Christian Beazley
Minister for Social Security	The Honourable Neal Blewett
Minister for Defence	Senator the Honourable Robert Francis Ray
Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Honourable Gerard Leslie Hand
Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment and Territories	The Honourable Roslyn Joan Kelly
Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Shipping and Aviation Support and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters	Senator the Honourable Peter Francis Salmon Cook
Minister for Administrative Services	Senator the Honourable Nick Bolkus
Minister for Primary Industries and Energy	The Honourable Simon Findlay Crean
Minister for Tourism and Minister for Resources	The Honourable Alan Gordon Griffiths
Minister for Transport and Communications	Senator the Honourable Robert Lindsay Collins
Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Northern Australia	The Honourable Benjamin Charles Humphreys

(The above Ministers constitute the Cabinet)

Keating Ministry—*continued*

Minister for Trade and Overseas Development	The Honourable John Charles Kerin
Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs	Senator the Honourable Michael Carter Tate
Minister for Aged, Family and Health Services	The Honourable Peter Richard Staples
Minister for Land Transport	The Honourable Robert James Brown
Minister for Family Support and Minister for Local Government	The Honourable David William Simmons
Minister for Higher Education and Employment Services and Minister Assisting the Treasurer	The Honourable Peter Jeremy Baldwin
Minister for Small Business, Construction and Customs	The Honourable David Peter Beddall
Minister for Defence Science and Personnel	The Honourable Gordon Neil Bilney
Minister for the Arts and Territories and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women	The Honourable Wendy Frances Fatin
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Aboriginal Reconciliation	The Honourable Robert Edward Tickner
Minister for Science and Technology and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister	The Honourable Ross Vincent Free
Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Honourable Jeannette McHugh
Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister	The Honourable Laurence John Brereton
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services	The Honourable Gary Thomas Johns
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade	The Honourable Stephen Paul Martin
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer and Manager of Government Business in the Senate	Senator the Honourable Robert Francis McMullan
Parliamentary Secretary to the Attorney-General	The Honourable Peter Duncan
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Employment, Education and Training	The Honourable Warren Edward Snowdon
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Social Security	The Honourable Con Sciacca
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence	The Honourable Leo Roger Spurway Price

THE COMMITTEES OF THE SESSION

FIRST SESSION: FIFTH PERIOD

STANDING COMMITTEES

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS—Mr Kerr (*Chairman*), Mr Anderson, Mrs Darling, Mr Gibson, Mr Lavarch, Mr Nugent, Mr Riggall, Mr Les Scott, Mr Snowdon, Dr Wooldridge.

BANKING, FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—Mr Elliott (*Chairman*), Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Courtice, Mr Downer, Mr Dubois, Mr Ronald Edwards, Mr Gear, Mr Hall, Mr Les Scott, Mr Wilson.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—Mr Jenkins, (*Chairman*), Mrs Bailey, Mr Broadbent, Dr Catley, Mr Cowan, Mrs Crosio, Mr Elliott, Mrs Gallus, Mr Goodluck, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Walker.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING—Ms Crawford (*Chairman*), Mr Atkinson, Mr Bevis, Mr Bradford, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Charles, Mr Elliott, Mr Gibson, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Barry Jones, Mr Riggall, Mr Sawford.

ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION AND THE ARTS—Mr Langmore (*Chairman*), Mr Dobie, Mr Dubois, Mr Ronald Edwards, Mr Peter Fisher, Mrs Gallus, Mr Gear, Mr Jenkins, Mr Newell, Mr John Scott, Mr Truss, Mr Webster.

HOUSE—The Speaker, Mr Elliott, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Hollis, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin, Mr Nehl, Mrs Sullivan.

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—Mr Lee (*Chairman*), Mr Campbell, Mr Cobb, Mr Ferguson, Mr Ford, Mr Grace, Mr Jenkins, Mr Barry Jones, Mr McArthur, Mr Nugent, Mr Reid, Mr Les Scott.

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS—Mr Lavarch (*Chairman*), Mr Andrews, Mr Cadman, Mr Costello, Mrs Crosio, Mr Holding, Mr Kerr, Mr Melham, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Scholes, Mr Sinclair, Mr Wright. Mr Nehl and Mr Snow to serve on the Committee during consideration of the inquiry into the legal regimes of Australia's external territories and the Territory of Jervis Bay).

LIBRARY—The Speaker, Mrs Bailey, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Hollis, Mr Barry Jones, Mr Ronaldson, Mr Truss.

LONG TERM STRATEGIES—Mr Barry Jones (*Chairman*), Mr Andrews, Mr Atkinson, Mr Bevis, Mr Broadbent, Dr Catley, Mr Dobie, Mr Ferguson, Mr Johns, Mr Allan Morris, Mr Nehl, Mr Snow.

MEMBERS' INTERESTS—Mr Dubois (*Chairman*), Mr Connolly, Mr Cowan, Mr Lindsay, Mr O'Neil, Mr Ruddock, Mr John Scott.

PRIVILEGES—Mr Gear (*Chairman*), the Leader of the House or his nominee, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or his nominee, Mr Andrews, Mr Costello, Mrs Crosio, Dr Harry Edwards, Mr Johns, Mr McGauran, Mr Snow, Mr Snowdon.

PROCEDURE—Mr Scholes (*Chairman*), Mr Ronald Edwards, Mr Grace, Mr Hollis, Mr Rocher, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Truss, Mr Walker.

PUBLICATIONS—Mr Gorman (*Chairman*), Dr Harry Edwards, Mr Filing, Mr Peter Fisher, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Gear, Mr Gibson.

SELECTION—Mr Ronald Edwards (*Chairman*), Mr Andrew, Mr Gear, Mr Grace, Mr Halverson, Mr Hicks, Mr Hollis, Mr Kerr, Mr Langmore, Mr Nehl, Mr Reid.

TELEVISIONING OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—The Speaker (*Chairman*), Mrs Darling, Mr Ronald Edwards, Mr Hicks, Mr Jull, Mr Les Scott.

TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—Mr Peter Morris (*Chairman*), Mr Anderson, Mr Cadman, Mr Ewen Cameron, Mr Campbell, Mr Elliott, Mr Gorman, Mr Hawker, Mr Hollis, Mr Mack, Mr John Scott, Mr Harry Woods.

JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEES

AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION—Mr Wright (*Presiding Member*), Mr Gibson, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr McGauran, Senator Coulter, Senator Lewis, Senator Zakharov.

BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—The Speaker (*Chairman*), the President, Mrs Darling, Mr Ronald Edwards, Mr Hicks, Mr Jull, Mr Les Scott, Senator Coates, Senator Vanstone.

CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES—Senator Beahan (*Chairman*), Mrs Crosio, Mr Ford, Mr Kerr, Mr Moore, Mr Punch (from 12 September), Senator Campbell, Senator Cooney, Senator Lewis, Senator Spindler.

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—Mr Lindsay (*Chairman*), Mr Filing, Mr Melham, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Sinclair, Senator Crichton-Browne, Senator Jones, Senator Loosley, Senator Spindler, Senator Vanstone.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—Mr Punch (*Chairman*), Mr Aldred, Mrs Crosio, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Kerr, Mr Langmore, Mr Nehl, Mr Les Scott, Mr Shack, Mr Somlyay, Senator Aulich, Senator Bishop, Senator Giles, Senator Reynolds, Senator Watson.

PUBLIC WORKS—Mr Hollis (*Chairman*), Mr Ewen Cameron, Mr Gorman, Mr O'Neil, Mr Bruce Scott, Mr Taylor, Senator Burns, Senator Calvert, Senator Devereux.

JOINT COMMITTEES

NATIONAL CAPITAL—Mr Langmore (*Chairman*), Mr Elliott, Mr Halverson, Mr Scholes, Mr Sharp, Senator Aulich, Senator Macdonald, Senator Reid, Senator Sowada, Senator West.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES

ELECTORAL MATTERS—Mr Bevis (*Chairman*), Dr Catley, Mr Cobb, Mr Melham, Mr Miles, Senator Beahan, Senator Chamarette, Senator Faulkner, Senator Kemp, Senator Kernot.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—Senator Schacht (*Chairman*), Mr Bevis, Mr Connolly, Mr Dubois, Dr Harry Edwards, Mr Ferguson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Grace, Mr Halverson, Mr Hicks, Mr Hollis, Mr Langmore, Mr Lee, Mr Lindsay, Mr MacKellar, Mr Moore, Mr John Scott, Mr Sinclair, Mr Taylor, Dr Theophanous, Senator Beahan, Senator Bourne, Senator Brownhill, Senator Chamarette, Senator Chapman, Senator Childs, Senator Crichton-Browne, Senator Jones, Senator MacGibbon, Senator Maguire, Senator Vallentine.

MIGRATION REGULATIONS—Dr Theophanous (*Chairman*), Dr Catley, Mr Holding, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sinclair, Mrs Sullivan, Senator Cooney, Senator Lewis, Senator McKiernan.

PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—The Speaker and The President (*Joint Chairmen*), Mr Dobie, Mr Halverson, Mr Holding, Mr Hollis, Mr Lee, Senator Archer, Senator Coates, Sen Colston, Senator Reid, Senator Sowada.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEES

CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE OPERATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FAMILY LAW ACT—Senator McKiernan (*Chairman*), Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Lavarch, Mr Gorman, Mr Peacock, Mr Webster, Senator Brownhill, Senator Crowley, Senator Reid, Senator Spindler.

SELECT COMMITTEE

PRINT MEDIA—Mr Lee (*Chairman*), Dr Charlesworth, Mr Costello, Mr Elliott, Mr Langmore, Ms McHugh, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Sawford, Mr Shack, Mr Sinclair, Mr Smith, Mr Somlyay.

PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

SENATE

Clerk of the Senate—H. Evans
Deputy Clerk of the Senate—A. Lynch
Acting Clerk Assistant (Table)—T. J. Brown
Clerk Assistant (Corporate Management)—J. Vander Wyk
Clerk Assistant (Procedure)—C. J. C. Elliott
Clerk Assistant (Committees)—P. O'Keeffe
Usher of the Black Rod—R. Alison

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Clerk of the House—L. M. Barlin
Acting Deputy Clerk of the House—I. C. Harris
Acting First Clerk Assistant—B. C. Wright
Clerk Assistant (Procedure)—I. C. Cochran
First Assistant Secretary (Committees and Corporate Services)—M. W. Salkeld
Clerk Assistant (Table)—J. W. Pender
Serjeant-at-Arms—P. Bergin

PARLIAMENTARY REPORTING STAFF

Principal Parliamentary Reporter—J. W. Templeton
Chief Hansard Reporter—B. A. Harris
Assistant Chief Reporter (House of Representatives)—V. M. Barrett
Assistant Chief Reporter (Senate)—M. A. R. McGregor

LIBRARY

Parliamentary Librarian—

JOINT HOUSE

Secretary—M. W. Bolton

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hansard

1992

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

(FIFTH PERIOD)

Pursuant to the resolution of the House of Representatives passed on 28 November 1991, the House of Representatives met this day to hear an address by the President of the United States of America, the Honourable George Bush.

Thursday, 2 January 1992

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. Leo McLeay) took the chair at 1.40 p.m., and read prayers.

WELCOME TO SENATORS

Mr SPEAKER—On behalf of the House, I welcome the President of the Senate and honourable senators to this meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate in this chamber to hear the address by the President of the United States of America, the Honourable George Bush.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Honourable George Bush having been announced and escorted into the chamber—

Mr SPEAKER—Mr President, on behalf of the members and senators of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, I welcome you to this meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. I extend a warm welcome also to Mrs Bush and distinguished members of your party. Your address today to members and senators in this chamber is a unique occasion in the history of our Federal Parliament. It therefore gives me great pleasure to invite you to address assembled members and senators.

Whereupon honourable members and honourable senators rose in their places and applauded.

The HONOURABLE GEORGE BUSH—Thank you. Mr Speaker, Mr President, Mr Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, members and senators: it is a deep and wonderful honour for me to be here. I am very, very grateful for the honour of appearing before the Houses of the Australian Parliament. I know that members and senators have gone to extraordinary lengths to arrange this special session. I think the people in our country will appreciate this very, very much. I want to offer special greetings and thanks to the members of the Australia-USA parliamentary group, who have done so much to deepen the friendship between our countries.

Let me just make an initial observation, if I might. You have a wonderfully vigorous political climate. That has got to be the classic understatement of the year. I see the rough and tumble that goes forth, and I thank God for the presidential system at home. Let me make this observation, though: I feel very fortunate to have known several of your members from both sides of the aisle over the years. And amidst all the intensity and emotion brought forth in these chambers, I have always been impressed by the united message that your leaders have sent to my

country. Even when out of office or in opposition, they have always placed Australia's interests ahead of personal interests—and that says something very positive, very important, about your great country.

That is certainly one reason that any visitor from the United States cannot help but feel a warm kinship with Australia. Both of our young nations were seen by explorers, pioneers and immigrants as destinations of freedom and opportunity. Our cultures reflect an extraordinary diversity—from British and Irish, to Italian and Polish, to Vietnamese and Cambodian.

This Parliament building displays an original copy of the Magna Carta, I am told—one of only four such manuscripts to have survived to this day. The US National Archives is home to another of those original manuscripts, and I can think of no more powerful symbol of our shared commitments to the rights of the individual, to the rule of law and to the government of consent—by consent of the people.

With our common ancestries and shared ideals, Americans and Australians also find other similarities. Each of our countries spans a continent rich in agricultural and mineral resources. Spectacular natural beauty abounds in fantastic variety in both our nations as well. And, to be frank, our people think big, and their biggest ideas are the ones we share: the belief in the indivisibility of human freedom and the willingness to struggle and sacrifice for the peace and security of other nations.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the fateful Battle of the Coral Sea. We remember the courage and the fighting skill of the Australian and American naval forces. Their valour spared Australia from invasion and stemmed the tide of totalitarianism.

In Korea and Vietnam, Australians and Americans again joined forces. Their sacrifices were not in vain. Korea is a democracy, setting a standard for free market development worldwide. Long-suffering Cambodia now has the hope of a durable peace and free elections. Even Vietnam is

opening to the world, seeking reintegration with the dynamic market economies of the region.

In the Persian Gulf we stood together against Saddam Hussein's aggression. Indeed, the first two coalition partners in a joint boarding exercise to enforce the United Nations resolutions were Australians from the HMAS *Darwin* and Americans from the USS *Brewerton*. During the war, the joint defence facilities here in Australia played an invaluable role in detecting launches of Iraqi Scud missiles. Today, two of the three navies represented in operations enforcing the embargo against Iraq are those of Australia and of the United States of America.

But even as we recall our struggles and successes, we must now look forward to the opportunity to shape our shared destiny.

First, we face together the challenge of economic opportunity and growth—creating jobs for our people and for their families.

Second, we face new but no less exacting challenges to our security—the threats of regional conflicts and proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction.

Third, we face the exciting task of fostering the remarkable momentum for democracy and freedom that swept the world these past few years.

A strong America has been central to the triumph of free markets and free people. I am confident that the United States will continue to have the conviction and the capacity to be a force for good and that a new era of economic opportunity will unfold with enhanced opportunities for peace.

The coming era promises unparalleled potential for economic growth in the nations of the Pacific. In 1990, the Asia-Pacific region accounted for a total of \$300 billion in two-way commerce with the United States—a total nearly one-third larger than America's volume of trade across the Atlantic.

This region is the fastest growing market in the world, and still there are voices on both sides of the Pacific calling for economic isolationism. While for some nations, including Australia and the United States,

these are tough, hard economic times, we both know that protectionism is a fundamentally bankrupt notion. Make no mistake: America will continue to stand for open trade and open markets. And trade means jobs—it means good jobs—at home and abroad.

I am sure it comes as no surprise that my highest priority as President of the United States is to promote economic growth and jobs for our people. That goal is fully consistent with economic growth and jobs for Australians. You and I know that open markets generate growth; that international trade is not simply a zero-sum game. You also know that the nations which share the rewards of a vibrant and growing international trading system must also share the responsibilities.

Australia has stood as a true leader in efforts to achieve success in the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. You brought great skill and energy in seeking deep cuts in trade distorting agricultural subsidies. Progress on agriculture is the key to the success of the GATT talks. Your farmers are not alone in feeling the pain caused by the heavy subsidies of the European Community—our wheat production dropped by almost 30 per cent last year. But I am also aware of the concern such United States trade programs as the export enhancement program can cause Australian farmers.

Our EEP has one and only one objective; that is, to force the EC to stop its avalanche of subsidised exports. The fact is that the EC subsidises over 10 times the amount of farm exports that we do. Moreover, our program seeks to minimise the effects on Australia and other non-subsidising nations. While I do not like having to use these remedies, I will safeguard the interests of American farmers. Without EEP, the European Community would absorb additional markets, forcing out those who can compete fairly—farmers in countries like Australia and the United States.

We both know, all of us know, that the real answer is what our two governments are doing—working hard for an historic new GATT arrangement that cuts back subsidies, especially for exports. That is why the United States is committed to working with GATT

Director Dunkel's new text. We believe his draft moves us closer to finally concluding an agreement. While not perfect, it makes an important contribution and the international trading system is too important to pass up this opportunity.

I trust and hope that Australia and other Pacific nations will join us to instil additional momentum in the Uruguay Round negotiations when they resume later this month. This is the best comprehensive approach that we can offer to our hardworking farmers and ranchers.

We also see the potential for using regional organisations to expand and, indeed, liberalise trade around the globe. We are especially encouraged by Australia's leadership in the APEC—the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation—process. The success of the November APEC ministerial in Seoul was proof that APEC is emerging as the economic forum in the Pacific and is increasingly fostering a sense of community around the Pacific rim. North America—Mexico, the United States and Canada—is part of this community. So let me just assure you—every one of you, both sides of this aisle—that the North America Free Trade Agreement will not become an exclusive trading bloc. It will lower internal barriers without raising external barriers and our growth will help stimulate yours, just as growth in Asia will spur our exports.

We also can do more bilaterally to expand trade. That is why I am proposing a United States-Australia trade and investment framework agreement—one way to enhance our already strong economic engagement. That is our agenda to expand exports and growth through reducing trade barriers—whether globally, regionally or bilaterally.

Clearly, with the dramatic changes in the world we must adapt to new security realities as well. But let me simply pledge to you, our friends: no matter what changes may come about in the defence expenditures in the United States, or in the nature of the threats to international peace, the US-Australian alliance is fundamental to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

I understand that there is some concern in Asia about America's commitment, given our imminent departure from Subic Bay in the Philippines. Let me put it plainly. I have served in Asia, personally, in time of war and in time of peace, and with changing times our posture is going to change to suit different needs but our role and our purpose as a Pacific power will remain constant. It is important that the people of Australia understand this. We intend to remain engaged no matter whatever the changing security arrangements of our time.

And, yes, we have talked about it here today with the Prime Minister, with the Leader of the Opposition and with others: the Cold War is over. But the threat of communism, which for so many decades occupied our energies, is now replaced by the instabilities of ethnic rivalries and regional conflicts. Yes, the Soviet Union, as we have known it, is history. It is a new era. But, like Australia, the United States has fought three wars in Asia over the past 50 years. We know that our security is inextricably linked to stability across the Pacific and we will not put that security and stability at risk.

I can assure you that the United States intends to retain the appropriate military presence to protect its allies and to counter threats to peace. Just recently in the Persian Gulf we witnessed that the dangerous combination of volatile regional conflicts and weapons of mass destruction requires our constant attention. So I salute Australia's leadership in stemming the threat of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. It is your children and the children of the entire world who will grow up in a safer world thanks to such efforts.

Australia and the United States are also working to end another longstanding and tragic regional conflict. Our combined initiatives in the United Nations have been major factors in the progress towards peace and free elections in Cambodia. Both of us have now re-established official representation in Phnom Penh in order to move the peace process forward. Australia is making an additional contribution by sending a senior military officer to head the UN peacekeeping

force in Cambodia, and I am proud of our collective efforts to end the nightmare in Cambodia and to usher in a new era of hope and rebuilding.

Finally, American and Australian aspirations for the future are evident in our increasing cooperation on such matters as environmental protection and educational and social issues. We can take pride in our governments' joint actions toward conservation of the tropical forests, protecting endangered species and promoting technologies for clean-burning coal.

Australia also plays a leading role in the international fight against illicit drugs. I know I speak for millions of American parents in expressing thanks for your efforts to fight drug abuse, to fight drug trafficking.

I believe the next generations of Australians and Americans will grow even closer. I see no threat to that at all. I foresee a steady expansion of travel and cultural exchanges in years to come. Australia's natural beauty, of which I have seen regrettably little this trip, is really sensational, a powerful magnet for American tourists. But more than this, it is the spirit of your country that earns Australia so much admiration in our country—in America—and indeed around the world. Your artists' contributions to film and dance and music have whetted our appetites for more and more things Australian. US television carries Australian rules football and many Americans enjoy the rough and tumble of hard hitting with reckless abandon. We have something similar; we call it politics in the United States.

I credit the clear air of Australia for its effect on one of the freshest minds now working in Washington. I am speaking about our Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander. In 1987, after completing eight years as Governor of Tennessee, Lamar took his wife and children to spend half a year in this beautiful country. Now that he has joined my Cabinet as Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander is working for revolutionary changes to improve our schools.

This, too, is part of our program to make America competitive and strong and to help it grow. Secretary Alexander is promoting

innovative ideas that he saw in practice right here in Australia—for instance, the large measure of freedom that Australians have in choosing among private, religious or state operated schools. And when we succeed with some of these reforms, we will thank pathfinders such as Australians for their example.

Of course, we have always shared fraternal ties and a spirit of freedom ever since an American vessel named *Philadelphia* became the first trading ship to call at Sydney's Port Jackson in 1792. Almost a century later, Mark Twain visited Australia and spoke for all Americans when he said, 'You have a spirit of independence here which cannot be overpraised'.

Fifty years ago in the Coral Sea, Australians and Americans paid a high price for freedom. But they proved to the world that the future belongs to the brave and the bold. For the half century since, we have deepened our friendship, our economic interdependence and our collaboration on mutual defence. Now, more clearly than ever, we can see a hopeful future for the far-flung kinsmen of Australia and America and for all who share those fundamental ideals that we hold dear. We are prepared to work as partners in the next century to break new ground for freedom, cooperation and economic progress.

For me, this has been a great honour. For Barbara and me, it has been a sheer pleasure to be with you all here for these short 2½ days. The hospitality of the Australian people is indescribable. I could not possibly tell you how emotional I feel about it.

So let me simply say thank you again for the extraordinary honour of allowing me to address this distinguished Parliament. May your debates be lively and full of friendship and affection, as they once in a while are. May God bless you all and may the Lord smile on the kinship and friendship of Australia and the United States of America. Thank you very, very much.

Whereupon honourable members and honourable senators rose in their places and applauded.

Mr SPEAKER—Mr President, on behalf of members and senators, I thank you for

your address. I wish you and Mrs Bush a successful and enjoyable stay in Australia.

The Honourable George Bush having left the chamber—

ADJOURNMENT

Mr SPEAKER—Before adjourning this meeting, the President of the Senate and I would like to thank the staff of the parliamentary departments for the outstanding efforts that they have put in to ensure the success of President Bush's visit to Parliament House today.

Honourable members and honourable senators—Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER—I know that many of them have had to reschedule family holidays, and on behalf of members, senators and the President, I thank them most sincerely for doing so. I hope that their families will understand.

The President and I also thank members and senators for their attendance and we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy new year.

I hereby declare this meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate concluded.

House adjourned at 2.09 p.m. until Tuesday, 25 February 1992, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to on 19 December 1991.

PAPERS

The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 January 1992:

Civil Aviation Act—

Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Parts—

105—Amendments, 10 December 1991.

106—Amendments, 10 December 1991.

Fisheries Act—

Copy of agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Tuna Longline Development Cooperation Pty Limited, 21 November 1991.

Notices—1991—Nos. NTF 4, TEC 7, TEC 8, TEC 9.