AGE PENSION

Senator BOB BROWN (Tasmania—Leader of the Australian Greens) (3.33 pm)—I move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes the following statement of claims from the Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition:

1. That the Federal Government increases the pension rate from 25% of average weekly earnings to 35% of average weekly earnings until a more appropriate pension measure is developed.
2. That proper and improved healthcare measures for pensioners are prioritised, including medical, dental, optical, hearing, pharmaceutical and culturally appropriate services.
3. That the level of funding for aged care services, including culturally appropriate services, is significantly increased and extended to meet the growing demand in this area.
4. That our pensions are not restricted due to overseas travel to visit loved ones.
5. That legislation/regulations be enacted to protect older people considering taking out reverse mortgages.
6. That a thorough review of the means test and GST impact for pensioners and concessions should be undertaken to ensure that pensioners are not losing out; and

(b) asks the Government to consider it for inclusion in the 2008-09 Budget.

Question put.

The Senate divided. [3.38 pm]

(The Deputy President—Senator the Hon. AB Ferguson)

Ayes………….. 6
Noes………….. 40
Majority……… 34

AYES
Brown, B.J.
Hanson-Young, S.C.
Siewert, R. *

NOES
Abetz, E.
Arbib, M.V.
Birmingham, S.
Boyce, S.
Bushby, D.C.
Cash, M.C.
Collins, J.
Cormann, M.H.P.
Feeney, D.
Fifield, M.P.
Furner, M.L.
Hurley, A.
Kroger, H.
Lundy, K.A.
McLuscan, J.E.
Parry, S. *
Pratt, L.C.
Ryan, S.M.
Stephens, U.
Williams, J.R.

Fielding, S.
Ludlam, S.
Xenophon, N.

Abbots, E.
Adams, J.
Bilyk, C.L.
Boswell, R.L.D.
Brown, C.L.
Cameron, D.N.
Colbeck, R.
Coonan, H.L.
Farrell, D.E.
Ferguson, A.B.
Fisher, M.J.
Humphries, G.
Joyce, B.
Ludwig, J.W.
McEwen, A.
Nash, F.
Polley, H.
Ronaldson, M.
Scullion, N.G.
Sterle, G.
Wortley, D.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEV X INCIDENT

Senator HANSON-YOUNG (South Australia) (3.41 pm)—I move:

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) 19 October 2008 marks the 7th anniversary of a boat known as the Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel X (SIEV X), bound for Australia and carrying 421 passengers and crew,

(ii) this boat sank with the tragic loss of 353 lives, including 146 children, and

(iii) in Opposition, the Government repeatedly expressed its anger and frustration with the former Government’s inaction on establishing a full judicial inquiry into the SIEV X tragedy;

(b) expresses its regret and sympathy at the tragic loss of so many innocent lives; and
(c) calls on the Government immediately to establish an independent judicial inquiry into all aspects of the ‘People Smuggling Strike Team’ operated by the Commonwealth Government from 2000 to date, in particular the boat known as SIEV X.

Question put.
The Senate divided. [3.42 pm]
(The Deputy President—Senator the Hon. AB Ferguson)

Ayes………………... 6
Noes………………... 40
Majority…………... 34

AYES
Brown, B.J. Fielding, S.
Hanson-Young, S.C. Ludlam, S.
Siewert, R. * Xenophon, N.

NOES
Abetz, E. Adams, J.
Arbib, M.V. Bilyk, L.
Birmingham, S. Boswell, R.L.D.
Boyce, S. Brown, C.L.
Bushby, D.C. Cameron, D.N.
Cash, M.C. Colbeck, R.
Coonan, H.L. Cormann, M.H.P.
Crossin, P.M. Farrell, D.E.
Feeney, D. Ferguson, A.B.
Fifield, M.P. Fisher, M.J.
Furner, M.L. Humphries, G.
Hurley, A. Joyce, B.
Kroger, H. Ludwig, J.W.
Lundy, K.A. McEwen, A.
McLucas, J.E. Nash, F.
Parry, S. * Polley, H.
Pratt, L.C. Ronaldson, M.
Ryan, S.M. Scullion, N.G.
Stephens, U. Sterle, G.
Williams, J.R. Wortley, D.

Question negatived.

TERMINATION PAYOUTS FOR EXECUTIVES

Senator BOB BROWN (Tasmania—Leader of the Australian Greens) (3.45 pm)—I seek leave to amend general business notice of motion No. 227 standing in my name, relating to termination payouts for executives. I wish to amend the motion to make it contemporary by substituting the two words ‘currently before’ with the two words ‘passed by’. The motion refers to the economic reform package now passed by the US Congress.

Leave granted.

Senator BOB BROWN—I move the motion as amended:

That, in light of the US $700 billion economic reform package to address the financial crisis in the United States of America (US) passed by the US Congress, which includes potential restrictions on chief executive officers’ ‘golden handshake’, the Senate calls on the Australian Government to investigate similar measures for termination payouts for executives.

Question put.
The Senate divided. [3.45 pm]
(The Deputy President—Senator the Hon. AB Ferguson)

Ayes………………... 6
Noes………………... 40
Majority…………... 34

AYES
Brown, B.J. Fielding, S.
Hanson-Young, S.C. Ludlam, S.
Siewert, R. * Xenophon, N.

NOES
Abetz, E. Adams, J.
Arbib, M.V. Bilyk, L.
Birmingham, S. Boswell, R.L.D.
Boyce, S. Brown, C.L.
Bushby, D.C. Cameron, D.N.
Cash, M.C. Colbeck, R.
Coonan, H.L. Cormann, M.H.P.
Crossin, P.M. Farrell, D.E.
Feeney, D. Ferguson, A.B.
Fifield, M.P. Fisher, M.J.
Furner, M.L. Humphries, G.
Hurley, A. Joyce, B.
Kroger, H. Ludwig, J.W.
Lundy, K.A. McEwen, A.
McLucas, J.E. Nash, F.
Parry, S. * Polley, H.
Pratt, L.C. Ronaldson, M.
Ryan, S.M. Scullion, N.G.
Stephens, U. Sterle, G.
Williams, J.R. Wortley, D.