

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 50

WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1981

1 The House met, at 1.45 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **PETITIONS:** The Deputy Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Adermann, Mr Baume, Mr Bowen, Mr J. J. Brown, Dr Cass, Mrs Darling, Mr Dawkins, Dr Everingham, Mr Mountford and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the Community Youth Support Scheme be continued.

Mr Fisher, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kent, Sir Phillip Lynch and Mr Milton—from certain residents of Victoria, and, Mr Scholes—from certain residents of Geelong, Vic., in similar terms.

Mr Scholes—from certain residents of Geelong, Vic., in the same terms as the preceding petitions.

Dr Blewett, Mr Dawkins, Mr Free and Mr Mountford—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to re-introduce a system of health care based on ability to pay and that access to health care be based on medical need.

Mrs Child, Mr Drummond, Mr Holding and Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that insulin syringes for diabetics be made available on the National Health Scheme and insulin prescriptions revert to 10 bottles.

Dr Everingham, Mr Kent, Mr Morris and Mr Mountford—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.

Mr Bouchier and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent the Australian Postal Commission implementing any plan which will downgrade postal and mail services.

Mrs Darling and Dr Everingham—from certain members of Parents and Citizens Associations praying that the Schools Commission and Curriculum Development Centre be retained in their original forms and certain funding proposals and schools improvement programs be retained.

Mr C. K. Jones and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the decision to pass the responsibility of funding of women's and children's refuges and health and crisis centres to the States be reversed and certain other actions be taken to consolidate the existing services and develop new initiatives for women and children in the community.

Mr Kent and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant breeders' rights in Australia be rejected.

Mr Adermann—from certain citizens praying that social workers or welfare officers in the Department of Social Security not be removed either through direct action or by the non-filling of vacant positions.

Dr Blewett—from certain citizens praying that the Smithfield Transit 412 Station, S.A., be relocated from the metropolitan area.

Mr J. J. Brown—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Parramatta praying that the decision to introduce tuition fees for post-graduate study be reversed.

- Mr Carlton—from certain citizens praying that all photocopying and video-recording used exclusively for education purposes be exempted from the provisions of the Copyright Act.
- Mrs Child—from certain citizens praying that sanitary products for women be brought under the scrutiny of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee and certain other actions be taken in regard to the possible threat posed to the health of women by toxic shock syndrome.
- Mrs Child—from certain citizens praying that post-secondary tuition fees not be introduced, the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme be extended to meet the financial needs of students, and certain other action be taken in relation to tertiary and adult education.
- Mrs Child—from certain citizens praying that the Institute of Early Childhood Development be allowed to continue operating as an independent and autonomous institution.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that cost of living adjustments to payments of Commonwealth superannuation be made twice-yearly.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the basic pension be increased to 30% of average weekly earnings and the rent allowance be increased to \$20 a week.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that diabetics be allowed free use of insulin syringes.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that telegram services be retained at a standard and cost that will not disadvantage the ordinary citizen.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that funding of community kindergartens be restored to 1976 levels.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Australia's overseas aid and the proportion of aid channelled through recognised non-government organisations be increased.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the drug *Pancrease* be evaluated by the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee of the Department of Health as a matter of high priority.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that legislation be enacted to require the production of annual statistics on the numbers of live animals involved in research and that the National Health and Medical Research Council be required to develop humane and responsible standards of conduct for research using live animals in laboratories.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the Income Tax Assessment Act be amended to exclude from the schedule of assessable income payments of compensation arising from pneumoconiosis and that such payments not be tax deductible.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that Australian military participation in the proposed Sinai peacekeeping force not be ratified unless that force is fully controlled by the United Nations.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that certain recommendations of the Law Reform Commission discussion paper on Privacy and Personal Information be rejected and some other means be found to protect children from the excessive abuse of some parents.
- Dr Everingham—from certain electors praying that diplomatic contacts be made with countries with whom Australia has differences and certain other actions be taken to increase conciliation and arbitration with all nations of the world to avoid international disputes.
- Mr Free—from certain citizens praying that funds not be allocated for the development of roads or dams in South-West Tasmania but be provided instead for the preservation of the area.
- Mr Free—from certain citizens praying that local community health centres receive adequate funds to continue and expand their services to the community.

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that the proposed changes to assistance to the passenger motor vehicle and components industries after 1984 as recommended by the Industries Assistance Commission not be given effect.

Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the latest increase in taxes be stopped and a referendum be held on taxes and interest rates.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that immediate and positive action be taken to avert further poverty and suffering in the community by raising the level of all pensions and benefits to the poverty line and by reconsidering the recent Government decisions taken in relation to the health system.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that a maximum fixed interest rate on a first mortgage be established for the entire period for which the loan is taken out.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that post-secondary tuition fees not be re-introduced and visa charges upon private overseas students be removed immediately.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained, community health program funding and services be increased, the means test be abandoned and certain other action be taken in relation to the health care needs of the community.

Mr Kent—from certain residents of the Northern Territory praying that the offer of Darwin or any other location as a base or depot for American B-52 bombers be withdrawn and any request by the United States Government for the use of bases in Australia be rejected.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be re-introduced.

Mr Mountford—from certain citizens praying that disabled people be recognised as citizens who should have equal rights and that certain actions be taken to enable adequate planning of services needed by partially or totally disabled people to be undertaken.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth's constitutional and legislative powers be used to grant full land rights and self-management to the Aboriginal people of Queensland.

Petitions received.

3 **GOVERNMENT WHIPS:** Mr Anthony (Acting Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Bouchier (Government Whip), owing to public business overseas, Mr Hodges would act as Government Whip and Mr Sainsbury as Deputy Whip.

4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Kent, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr N. A. Brown (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs)—

Mr N. A. Brown laid upon the Table the following paper:

Community Youth Support Scheme—Minister's notes.

Questions without notice continued.

Distinguished visitors: Mr Speaker informed the House that a delegation from the Japanese Diet, led by Mr Koichiro Aino, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

Questions without notice concluded.

5 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Nominal Defendent, Australian Capital Territory—Annual Report for 1980.

6 MIGRANT ASSESSMENT—COMMITTEE OF REVIEW—REPORT AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Macphee (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Migrant assessment—Committee of Review—Report, dated July 1981.

Mr Macphee, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Migrant assessment—Committee of Review—Report—Ministerial statement, 9 September 1981.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers. Debate ensued.

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

7 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1981-82—ESTIMATES COMMITTEES B, C, D AND F: Mr Speaker informed the House that he had received advice from the Opposition Whip of the following alterations in the nomination of Members to Estimates Committees:

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B—To consider the proposed expenditure for the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—
(Members nominated, *see* page 456).

Dr Klugman in substitution for Mr Young, discharged.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C—To consider the proposed expenditure for the Department of Science and Technology—
(Members nominated, *see* page 456).

Mrs Darling in substitution for Mr Howe, discharged.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D—To consider the proposed expenditure for the Department of the Treasury—
(Members nominated, *see* page 457).

Mr Cunningham in substitution for Mr Howe, discharged.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE F—To consider the proposed expenditure for the Department of Trade and Resources—
(Members nominated, *see* page 458).

Mr R. J. Brown in substitution for Mrs Kelly, discharged.

8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence for 3 months be given to Mr Bouchier on the ground of public business overseas.
Question—put and passed.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FOOD PURITY AND PRODUCT SAFETY: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr J. J. Brown had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Fraser Government to implement legislation to ensure a standard national code of food purity and product safety, and compulsory recall of impure or dangerous products”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr J. J. Brown addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 INCOME TAX (INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1981:

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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1981-82—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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 (Dr Jenkins), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

12 **MEAT INDUSTRY—ROYAL COMMISSION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER**

NOTED: Mr Anthony (Acting Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to establish a Royal Commission into the meat industry, announcing the appointment of the Royal Commissioner and outlining the terms of reference, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Meat industry—Royal Commission—Ministerial statement, 9 September 1981.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House is of the opinion that the terms of reference of the proposed Royal Commission should be amended to take account of the following matters:

- (1) Whether legislative, administrative or other arrangements and procedures for the supervision and control of all relevant stages leading to the export of meat from Australia are adequate to ensure that all meat exported meets legal requirements and protects Australia's export markets;
- (2) Whether malpractices are occurring, or have occurred in the preparation, processing or handling of meat for export or the exportation of meat;
- (3) Whether investigations in relation to information which was available or could reasonably have been available in relation to malpractices which occurred or are occurring or which were alleged to have occurred have been diligently pursued;
- (4) If the answer to (3) is ‘no’, the persons, including Ministers, responsible for that lack of diligence, and
- (5) If there were such persons responsible for lack of diligence whether such lack of diligence constituted illegality, corruption or impropriety”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Sir Billy Snedden, in the Chair)—

AYES 61

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Hyde	Mr Rocher
Mr Anthony	Mr Cowan	Mr Jarman	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Dean	Mr Jull	Mr Sainsbury*
Mr Birney	Mr Dobie	Mr Killen	Mr Shack
Mr Bradfield	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shipton
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fisher*	Mr Lusher	Mr Sinclair
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Giles	Sir Phillip Lynch	Mr Spender
Mr Bungey	Mr Goodluck	Mr MacKellar	Mr Street
Mr Burr	Mr Groom	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Tambling
Mr Cadman	Mr Hall	Mr McLean	Mr Thomson
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Harris	Mr McVeigh	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hicks	Mr Millar	Mr Viner
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hodges	Mr Moore	Mr White
Mr Carlton	Mr Hodgman	Mr Newman	
Mr Chapman	Mr Howard	Mr Nixon	
Mr Coleman	Mr Hunt	Mr Porter	

NOES, 45

Mr Armitage	Mrs Darling	Dr Jenkins	Mr Morrison
Mr Beazley	Mr Dawkins	Mr Johnson*	Mr Mountford
Dr Blewett	Mr Duffy	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Scholes
Mr Bowen	Dr Everingham	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Scott
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mrs Kelly	Dr Theophanous
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Fry	Mr Kent	Mr Uren
Mr Campbell	Mr Hawke	Mr Kerin	Mr Wallis
Dr Cass	Mr Hayden	Dr Klugman	Mr West
Mr Charles	Mr Holding	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Willis
Mrs Child	Mr Humphreys*	Mr Mildren	
Mr Cross	Mr Hurford	Mr Milton	
Mr Cunningham	Mr Jacobi	Mr Morris	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being past 10 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.29 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bouchier*, Mr Cohen, Dr Edwards, Mr Falconer, Mr Fraser, Mr Innes, Mr Katter, Mr Keating, Mr McLeay, Mr Robinson, and Mr Young.

* On leave

D. M. BLAKE,
Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives