

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 51

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1981

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  - 2 **DEATH OF FORMER PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES (THE HONOURABLE SIR ROBERT ASKIN):** Mr Speaker informed the House of the death, on 9 September 1981, of the Honourable Sir Robert Askin, G.C.M.G., a former Premier of New South Wales. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.
  - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Deputy Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
    - Mr Armitage, Dr Blewett, Mr Bowen, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Coleman, Mrs Darling, Dr Everingham, Mr Humphreys, Mr Hurford, Mr Johnson, Mr Kerin, Dr Klugman, Mr Millar, Mr Milton, Mr Morrison, Dr Theophanous, Mr Uren and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the Community Youth Support Scheme be continued.
    - Mr Duffy, Mr Kent and Mr Shipton—from certain residents of Victoria in similar terms.
    - Mr Cunningham, Mrs Darling, Mr Jacobi, Mr Mildren, Mr Nixon 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.
    - Mr Humphreys, Mr Johnson, Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Dr Theophanous—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.
    - Mr Beazley and Mr B. O. Jones—from certain citizens praying that insulin syringes for diabetics be made available on the National Health Scheme and insulin prescriptions revert to 10 bottles.
    - Mr Chapman and Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that the proposed 17½ per cent sales tax on manufactured pet foods be withdrawn.
    - Mr Kent and Mr Scott—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 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.
    - Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that requests for export permits covering mineral sand products from Moreton Island, Qld, be refused.
    - Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that telegram services be retained at a standard and cost that will not disadvantage the ordinary citizen.
    - Mr Duffy—from certain citizens praying that immediate and positive action be taken to avert any further effects of increases in interest rates on home mortgage loans.
    - Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic influence be exerted in the United Nations to prevent any plan of the Soviet Union for the annexation of Czechoslovakia.

Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the value of family allowances be restored and then indexed and the spouse rebate be increased to \$1,342 per year.

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 tax laws be reformed to allow joint incomes to be equally divided, for taxation purposes, between husband and wife.

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

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that Australia exert its influence on the Republic of Korea to secure the release of all prisoners of conscience, seek fair and open trials for all political prisoners and the commutation of existing death sentences on humanitarian grounds.

Mr Scott—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.

Mr Scott—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Hindmarsh, praying that interest rate agreements be reduced annually with a maximum interest percentage ceiling on investors' capital and a scale of interest charges for loans.

Petitions received.

**4 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

**5 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Family Law Act—Family Law (Institute of Family Studies) Regulations—Institute of Family Studies—1st Annual Report, for period 28 February 1980 to 30 June 1981.

Repatriation Act—Repatriation Commission—Report for year 1980–81.

Services Trust Funds Act—Services Canteens Trust Fund—33rd Annual Report by the Trustees, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1980.

Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—11th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1980–81.

**6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—PARLIAMENT HOUSE—DECLARED STAGE—CONSTRUCTION AND FITTING-OUT—AUTHORIZATION OF COMMENCEMENT OF WORK:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Mr Speaker,

Message No. 157

The Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolution which was agreed to by the Senate this day:

That, for the purpose of sub-section 8 (2) of the *Parliament House Construction Authority Act 1979*, the Senate authorizes the commencement of work on the following declared stage in the construction of Parliament House, namely, the construction and fitting-out of the building that is to constitute Parliament House, together with—

- (a) the construction, on the site of Parliament House, of access roads, parking areas and other facilities to be provided on that site in connection with Parliament House; and
- (b) the landscaping of that site.

**HAROLD YOUNG**  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 9 September 1981

**7 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

9 September 1981—Message—

No. 82—Export Grants Acts Amendment 1981.

No. 83—Norfolk Island Amendment 1981.

No. 84—Remuneration and Allowances Amendment 1981.

**8 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Mr Speaker informed the House that, during consideration of the matter referred to the Committee of Privileges on 8 September 1981, the Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory) and Mr Duffy, respectively, to serve in their places as members of the Committee.

**9 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Government in the Senate had nominated Senator Hamer to be a member of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory.

**10 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the Committee of Privileges, when considering the matter referred to it on 8 September 1981, have power to send for persons, papers and records.

Question—put and passed.

**11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER:** Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for 3 months be given to Mr Johnson on the ground of public business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

**12 OPPOSITION WHIP:** Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Johnson (Opposition Whip), owing to public business overseas, Mr Humphreys would act as Opposition Whip.

**13 GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.15 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

**14 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SCHOOLS—FUNDING:**

Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Dawkins had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Minister for Education to resolve the impasse in the Commonwealth/State arrangements for the funding of government schools”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Dawkins addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**15 DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AMENDMENT BILL 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 by Mr Scholes who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “this House calls for the deferment of consideration of the Bill until the Government has prepared and presented additional amendments to provide for the establishment of the right of Service personnel who serve temporarily in a higher capacity than their substantive rank, to elect to contribute at the rate applicable to the temporary higher grade and to qualify for benefits as if the temporary higher rank were the substantive rank”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 85, dated 27 August 1981, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 16 **CRIMES (CURRENCY) BILL 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 29—

Page 14, sub-clause (2), omit “without warrant,” substitute “in accordance with sub-section (3A).”

Page 14, sub-clause (3), omit “without warrant,” substitute “in accordance with sub-section (3A).”

Page 14, after sub-clause (3) insert the following sub-clause:

“(3A) A constable or Officer of Customs may seize an article pursuant to sub-section (2) or (3) if, and only if—

(a) he acts in pursuance of a warrant properly issued by a judge or magistrate; or

(b) he believes on reasonable grounds that it is necessary to act without the authority of a warrant in order to prevent the loss or destruction of the article.”

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr C. K. Jones reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 17 **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate had nominated Senator Colston to be a member of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory in place of Senator Robertson.

- 18 **MEAT EXPORT (PENALTIES) BILL 1981:** Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide penalties for certain offences against the Exports (Meat) Regulations.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 19 **AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVE-STOCK CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 1981:**  
Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 50 of the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act 1977*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **COMMERCE (TRADE DESCRIPTIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1981:** Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905* in relation to the exportation of food.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 21 **CUSTOMS (UNLAWFUL EXPORTATION OF FOOD) AMENDMENT BILL 1981:**  
Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901* in relation to the exportation of food.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Moore moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 **COMPANIES AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1981:** Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend laws relating to companies and securities and for related purposes.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Moore moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 23 **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 (Mr Dean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 24 **DEFENCE INTEGRATED SECURE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the decision to call for new tenders for the Defence Integrated Secure Communications Network and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
Defence Integrated Secure Communications Network—Ministerial statement, 10 September 1981.  
Mr McVeigh (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved—That the House take note of the paper.  
Debate ensued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Dean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 **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 (Mr B. O. Jones), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 26 **TAX AVOIDANCE—PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** Mr Howard (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to tax avoidance on profits from short-term property transactions and the Government's intention to introduce amending legislation, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Tax avoidance—Property transactions—Ministerial statement, 10 September 1981.  
Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 27 **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.

Mr Milton addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.30 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at 1.45 p.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 Johnson\*, Mr Katter, Mr Keating, Mr McLeay, Mr Robinson and Mr Young.

\*On leave

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