

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 54

THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1981

- 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 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Armitage, Mr Charles, Mr Holding, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi, Mr Kent and Mr Scott—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.
 - Mr Beazley, Mr Charles, Mr Duffy, Mr Kent, Mr Mildren, Mr Milton and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.
 - Mr Duffy, Mr Howe, Mr Kent, Mr Mildren, Mr Milton, Mr Peacock and Dr Theophanous—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the Community Youth Support Scheme be continued.
 - Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Charles, Mr Cowan, Mrs Darling and Mr Holding—from certain citizens; Mrs Child, Mr Hawke and Mr Mildren—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Ballarat, and Mr Groom—from certain residents of the North-West Coast of Tasmania, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Beazley, Mr Duffy, Mr Mildren and Mr Milton—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 I. M. D. Cameron and Mrs Darling—from certain residents of the Electoral Divisions of Maranoa and Lilley, respectively, praying that steps be taken to prevent the Australian Postal Commission implementing any plan which will downgrade postal and mail services.
 - Mr Charles and Mrs Darling—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 Darling and 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 Charles—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant breeders' rights in Australia be rejected.
 - Mr Charles—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 Charles—from certain residents of Victoria praying that musicians dismissed from the A.B.C. Melbourne Showband be re-instated and that funds be made available to enable the band to continue.

- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that funding of community kindergartens be restored to 1976 levels.
- 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 the recent decisions made with respect to tertiary education be rescinded and no steps be taken towards the re-introduction of fees for tertiary education.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the General Aviation Study report proposing substantial increases to general aviation's air navigation charges be rejected.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the proposed health cost sharing arrangements be rejected and the present Queensland scheme be maintained.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that initiatives be taken to provide more funds to lending institutions for home loans in order to reduce pressure on banks and other lending institutions and reverse the trend of spiralling interest rates.
- 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 proposal to transfer funding of women's refugees to the States not be proceeded with and Federal funding levels for women's refugees be increased.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the means test for pensions be increased to the same relative level as applied in 1972.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the pensioner telephone concession means test be relaxed and the concession be increased to 50% of telephone rental charges.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the means test for all pensions be increased.
- 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 decision to reduce the rate of expansion of Regional Offices of the Department of Social Security and related decisions be rescinded.
- 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 requests for export permits covering mineral sand products from Moreton Island, Qld, be refused.
- 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 the value of family allowances be restored and then indexed and the spouse rebate be increased to \$1,342 per year.
- Mrs Darling—from certain members of Parents and Citizens Associations praying that the positive role of the Schools Commission and the functioning of the Curriculum Development Centre be ensured.
- Mr Free—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 Free—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Macquarie praying that telephone calls between Katoomba and Springwood, N.S.W., be restored to traditional local call conditions.
- 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 Morris—from certain citizens praying that the decision to pass the responsibility of funding of women's and childrens' 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 Rocher—from certain citizens praying that interest earned in bank and building society savings accounts up to \$500 not be counted as taxable income and interest charged on home mortgage loans up to \$1,000 be tax deductible.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Wool Corporation—Interim report for year 1980–81.

National Health Act—Proposed amendment—Statement by Senator Baume (Acting Minister for Health).

5 LAW OF THE SEA—UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE: Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved—That this House—

- (a) notes that the resumed Tenth Session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea decided on 28 August 1981 that the next (Eleventh) Session of the Conference, to be held from 8 March to 30 April 1982, is intended to take final decisions on the provisions of the text, so that a Convention can be opened for signature at Caracas, Venezuela, later that year; and also notes that the United States review of its Law of the Sea policies will soon be completed;
- (b) reaffirms its commitment to the basic objectives of the Conference in working for the conclusion of a comprehensive and widely-accepted Convention on the Law of the Sea which would lay down a balanced and equitable regime, both for the use of the seas by all people for all legitimate purposes, and for the management and use of the resources of the seas and the seabed;
- (c) recognises that Australia has vital interests in the early conclusion of these negotiations; and
- (d) strongly expresses the hope that the United States Administration will decide to join with the rest of the international community in working for the successful conclusion of the work of the Conference at its Eleventh Session.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ARMS LIMITATION: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to pursue a policy of nuclear disarmament, cessation of the global arms race and a significant reduction in the transfer of armaments".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bowen addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 DEFENCE ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to defence.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 8 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TAXATION (ADMINISTRATION) 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: “consideration of the Bill be deferred until (a) the House is provided with detailed comparisons with overall localised taxes and revenue measures applied in the States and the Northern Territory, and (b) the Australian Capital Territory House of Assembly is consulted on the application in the Australian Capital Territory of state related taxes and that the Assembly be requested to provide a list of priorities for concessions from state type fees and taxes, in order that the A.C.T. will have comparable rights to choose its own priorities as enjoyed by the States and the Northern Territory”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TAX (LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS) 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TAX (VEHICLE REGISTRATION) 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY TAX (INSURANCE BUSINESS) 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Willis, viz.—* That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House rejects the budget strategy because:
- (1) it deliberately reduces the rate of economic growth;
 - (2) it increases unemployment;
 - (3) it adds substantially to the rate of inflation;
 - (4) it relies on a massive private capital inflow;
 - (5) it fails to tackle the real causes of rising interest rates, and

(6) it increases the burden of taxation to the highest level in our history, and, in addition, deplores the Government's callous disregard of the millions of Australians living in poverty and its continued attempt to reduce the living standards of the great majority of Australians"—

Debate resumed.

Mr Charles addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 10.30 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House 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, Mr Cross, Dr Edwards, Mr Falconer, Mr Jarman, Mr Johnson*, Mr Keating, Mr MacKellar, Mr McLeay, Mr Macphee, Mr Robinson and Mr Young.

* On leave

J. A. PETTIFER,
Clerk of the House of Representatives