

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 53

FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 1984

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Dr H. A. Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Cross, Mrs Darling, Mr Hawker, Mr Keogh, Mr McGauran, Mr Mildren, Mr Porter and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that chiropractic services be included in Medicare when it is introduced.

Mr Carlton, Mr Connolly, Mr Cowan, Dr H. R. Edwards, Ms McHugh, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Mountford and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the nation's total dependence on God the Creator in accordance with the Constitution and the standing orders of the House of Representatives be reaffirmed.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Millar, Mr Porter and Mr Tuckey—from certain elected representatives and officers of local governments praying that the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act be amended to provide a real term minimum guarantee to local government general revenue sharing arrangements.

Mr Blanchard, Mr Cross and Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that the ban on the export of kangaroo products be re-applied.

Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Fife—from certain residents of the Divisions of Indi and Farrer, respectively, praying that biological control of Paterson's Curse be implemented.

Mr Carlton and Ms McHugh—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying that the oath of allegiance remain unchanged.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the Sex Discrimination Bill be passed.

Mr Fry—from certain electors of the Divisions of Fraser and Canberra praying that the inclusion of a retail component in the development plan for certain sections of Kaleen, ACT, be abandoned.

Mr Hawker—from certain residents of Victoria praying that Victorian parent clubs be recognised as education auxiliaries and be exempted from bank account debits tax.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that parent clubs in government schools be granted exemption from bank account debits tax.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that no further action be taken in respect of territorial or local government in the Australian Capital Territory until the findings of the inquiry into ACT finances have been made public and a further referendum of electors has been held.

Mr Simmons—from certain citizens praying that the proposed closure of Telecom Australia's Manual Assistance Centre at Parkes, NSW, be halted, pending a full and open inquiry into the needs of affected subscribers and certain other matters.

Mr Snow—from certain parents representing government schools in New South Wales praying that an adequate general recurrent resource base for government schools be created and a planned program of improvements in government schools throughout the coming decade be ensured.

Petitions received.

3 **EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the National Party of Australia Whip had nominated Mr Adermann to be a member of the Standing Committee on Expenditure in place of Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia).

4 **SEX DISCRIMINATION BILL 1983:** 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 Macphee, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst welcoming the intention of the Bill to remove discrimination against the people on the basis of sex, marital status or pregnancy, the House is of the opinion that:

- (1) the Bill should not rely on the external affairs power as a head of power;
- (2) Australia's signature to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women should not be used to extend the powers of the Commonwealth;
- (3) the removal of discrimination against people on the basis of sex should be recognised as not obliging anyone to enter the paid workforce or alter their view of their responsibilities towards their spouses or children;
- (4) no decision or action by any educational or child care or other body established for the education of students or the care of children in accordance with the doctrines of a religion or creed or in accordance with stated principles should be affected where that decision or action has been taken in good faith to enable the body to conform with those doctrines or principles;
- (5) nothing in the Bill should be taken as approving those articles of the Convention which are not implemented by the Bill, and
- (6) the clauses of the Bill should be re-drafted accordingly”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Burr addressing the House—

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

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

6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Australian Capital Territory—

Agents Board—12th Annual Report, for year 1982-83.

Registrar of Motor Vehicle Dealers—6th Annual Report, for year 1982-83.

Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—4th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—9th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act—South Australian Local Government Grants Commission—Report for 1983.

National Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation—10th Annual Report, for year 1982-83.

Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act—Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

**7 COMMONWEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES AND FACILITIES—REPORT OF INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY—PAPERS AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Technology) presented the following papers:

Commonwealth laboratory services and facilities—Report of independent committee of inquiry, dated November 1983—

Volume 1—Report and general recommendations.

Volume 2—Reports on laboratories.

Volume 3—Directory of laboratories.

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Report of the Inquiry into Commonwealth Laboratories, and

(2) That the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Jones, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report and presented the following paper:

Commonwealth laboratory services and facilities—Report of independent committee of inquiry—Ministerial statement, 2 March 1984.

Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

**8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BEEF AND STEEL EXPORTS:**

The Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The confusion and concern caused by the Prime Minister's actions and statements in Japan and China about beef and steel exports".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hunt addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**9 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Punch presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

218th Report—Finance Minute on Report 187—Reports of the Auditor-General 1978-79—

and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

**10 SEX DISCRIMINATION BILL 1983:** 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 Macphee (see entry No. 4)—*

Debate resumed.

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

11 **ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 4.30 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 March 1984:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of periodic report—Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, report for year 1982-83.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Cohen, Mr Cowan, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi, Mr Shipton and Mr Wilson.

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**D. M. BLAKE**

Clerk of the House of Representatives