

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

No. 85

FRIDAY, 24 AUGUST 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 Blunt, Mrs Darling, Mrs Kelly, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, Mr Scott and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that there be no increases in State aid to private schools and that the primary obligation to government schools be re-affirmed.
 - Mr Blanchard, Mr Blunt, Mr McArthur and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
 - Mr Blanchard, Mr Burr, Mr Groom and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that regulations amending the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations and Customs (Cinematograph Films) Regulations and the ordinance superseding the ACT Objectionable Publications Ordinance be disallowed and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship matters.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Charles and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the Omega base in Victoria be closed.
 - Mr Fife and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
 - Mr Dobie, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Ruddock and Mr Spender—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Rocher and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that confectionery be exempt from sales tax.
 - Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to discontinue the mining and supply of uranium.
 - Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken in relation to the reporting and recording of adverse drug reactions, the labelling of drugs, drug surveillance and the liability of pharmaceutical companies for their products.
 - Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that all drugs be prescribed and supplied by their generic names only and that information concerning possible side-effects be made freely available.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that recurrent expenditure for technical and further education be increased.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that proposed assets test legislation be abandoned and that action be taken to institute a retirement income policy which is fair and equitable.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the decision to alter the ACT Classification of Publications Ordinance be abandoned.

Mr Cross and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that amending legislation be drafted in respect of the ACT Classification of Publications Ordinance.

Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that the House consider the appointment of a joint select committee on the effects of pornography on children.

Mrs Mayer—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 Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the situation concerning the investigation of Dr Martinick by the Department of Health be clarified and the Health Insurance Act be amended if necessary to ensure medical practitioners receive a fair and just hearing.

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that chiropractic services be included in Medicare when it is introduced.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Sex Discrimination Bill be amended to prevent inconsistencies with the principles of justice and equality and that a conscience vote on the Bill be permitted to all Members of Parliament.

Mr Scott—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the Parliament require General Motors-Holden to continue its operations at the Woodville plant, SA.

Petitions received.

3 ELECTORAL REFORM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—PAPER NOTED: Dr Klugman (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Select Committee on Electoral Reform:

Joint Select Committee on Electoral Reform—2nd Report, dated 17 August 1984, incorporating a dissenting report, dated 22 August 1984, together with the minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Dr Klugman, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report and, by leave, presented the following papers:

Proportional representation—Letters and copies of letters from—

Dr Klugman to Mr J. F. H. Wright, President, Proportional Representation Society of Australia, dated 17 August 1984 and one undated.

Mr J. F. H. Wright to—

Dr Klugman, dated 29 October 1983, 28 January 1984, 20 April 1984 and 11 June 1984.

Secretary, Joint Select Committee on Electoral Reform, dated 15 February 1984.

Mr Young (Special Minister of State), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Milton (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation:

Protection of the Greater Daintree—Report, dated 23 August 1984, incorporating a dissenting report, together with an extract from the minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Milton, Mr Connolly, Mr Chynoweth and Mr Gear, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

- 5 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1984-85—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.
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.
- 6 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Member named: Mr Speaker named the honourable Member for Franklin (Mr Goodluck) for defying the Chair.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) and Mr Young (Leader of the House) having suggested that the honourable Member might be given the opportunity of apologising to the Chair, and the honourable Member having left the Chamber—
Mr Speaker stated that no further action on the naming would be taken if the honourable Member apologised immediately upon his return to the Chamber.
Questions without notice continued.
- 7 **GOVERNOR-GENERAL—LETTERS PATENT OF OFFICE—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) presented the following papers:
Governor-General—Copy of Letters Patent Relating to the Office of Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, dated 21 August 1984, together with statement by Mr Hawke, Prime Minister.
Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Debate adjourned (Mr Sinclair—Leader of the National Party of Australia), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 8 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE 1983-84—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance) presented the following paper:
Advance to the Minister for Finance for year 1983-84—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.
Ordered—That the statement be taken into consideration in committee of the whole House at the next sitting.
- 9 **LEGISLATION PROGRAM—BUDGET SITTINGS 1984—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, made a ministerial statement announcing the Government's legislation program for the 1984 Budget period of sittings.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 10 **SUPERANNUATION FUND INVESTMENT TRUST—INQUIRIES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to inquiries into the operations of the Superannuation Fund Investment Trust, and presented the following paper:
Superannuation Fund Investment Trust—Acceptance of gifts—Inquiry by Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations—Copy of minute from A. W. Briggs, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Social Security Division, Department of Finance, to Minister for Finance, dated 23 August 1984.
Mr Moore, by leave, also made a statement relating to the matter.
- 11 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIA-UNITED STATES RELATIONS:** The Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr MacKellar had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The damage to Australia-United States relations caused by Government policy and statements of the Foreign Minister".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr MacKellar addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

- 12 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (TERMS OF SENATORS) BILL 1984:** Message No. 263, dated 24 August 1984, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to change the terms of senators so that they are no longer of fixed duration and to provide that Senate elections and House of Representatives elections are always held on the same day*”.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (INTERCHANGE OF POWERS) BILL 1984:** Message No. 264, dated 24 August 1984, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to enable the Commonwealth and the States voluntarily to refer powers to each other*”.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 **APOLOGY BY MEMBER:** Mr Goodluck having entered the Chamber and apologised to the Chair, his naming was not further proceeded with.
- 15 **VIDEO CLASSIFICATION—PROPOSED JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—
- (1) That a joint select committee be appointed to report on the operation of Regulation 4A of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations and the ACT *Classification of Publications Ordinance 1983* in relation to videotapes and videodiscs and in particular—
 - (a) the effectiveness of such legislation by comparison with previous legislation purporting to govern the importation, production, reproduction, sale and hire of violent, pornographic or otherwise obscene material;
 - (b) whether the present classification system, as applied by the Film Censorship Board, is adequate as a basis for import and point of sale controls;
 - (c) whether video retailers are observing the conditions of sale or hire attached to ‘X’ classified material, particularly in relation to children under 18 years;
 - (d) whether Regulation 4A of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations is adequate in identifying categories of prohibited material, and operating effectively in preventing the importation of videotapes/discs falling within the prohibited categories;
 - (e) whether children under the age of 18 years are gaining access to videotapes/discs containing violent, pornographic or otherwise obscene material;
 - (f) whether the ACT *Classification of Publications Ordinance 1983* should be amended to make it an offence for persons purchasing or hiring ‘X’ classified videotapes/discs to allow, suffer or negligently permit children to view such material;
 - (g) whether cinemas should be permitted to screen for public exhibition ‘X’ classified material, subject to prohibition from entry of persons under the age of 18 years;
 - (h) whether films which would merit an ‘X’ classification are being produced in Australia and if so whether Australian men and women are adequately protected by existing law from pressure to act in such films, and
 - (i) the likely effects upon people, especially children, of exposure to violent, pornographic or otherwise obscene material.

- (2) That the committee consist of 7 members, 3 Members of the House of Representatives to be nominated by either the Prime Minister, the Leader of the House or the Government Whip, 1 Member of the House of Representatives to be nominated by either the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the Opposition Whip, 1 Member of the House of Representatives to be nominated by either the Leader of the National Party, the Deputy Leader of the National Party or the National Party Whip, 1 Senator to be nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and 1 Senator to be nominated by any minority group or groups or independent Senator or independent Senators.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the committee proceed to the dispatch of business notwithstanding that all members have not been duly nominated and appointed and notwithstanding any vacancy.
- (5) That the committee elect a Government Member as its chairman.
- (6) That the chairman of the committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the committee to be the deputy chairman of the committee, and that the member so appointed act as chairman of the committee at any time when there is no chairman or the chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee.
- (7) That, in the event of an equality of voting, the chairman, or the deputy chairman when acting as chairman, have a casting vote.
- (8) That the quorum of the committee be 3 members.
- (9) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources.
- (10) That the committee have power to send for and examine persons, papers and records, to move from place to place, to sit in public or in private, notwithstanding any prorogation of the Parliament, and have leave to report from time to time its proceedings and the evidence taken and such interim recommendations it may deem fit.
- (11) That the committee be empowered to print from day to day such papers and evidence as may be ordered by it, and a daily *Hansard* be published of such proceedings as take place in public.
- (12) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (13) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Mr Young addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 4 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Young requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr Spender was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

- 16 COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT CENTRE, CURRIE STREET, ADELAIDE—APPROVAL OF WORK: Mr Hurford (Minister for Housing and Construction), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee

has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of Commonwealth Government Centre, Currie Street, Adelaide.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

17 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 4 September 1984, unless Mr Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

18 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 4.31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 4 September 1984, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 August 1984:

First Home Owners Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1984, No. 197.

Home Deposit Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1984, No. 196.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Determinations, dated 22 August 1984, listing fees for purposes of—

Fishing Ordinance.

Hawkers Ordinance.

Motor Traffic Ordinance.

Nature Conservation Ordinance.

Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Ordinance.

Pounds Ordinance.

Scaffolding and Lifts Ordinance.

Weights and Measures Ordinance.

Ordinances—1984—

No. 43—Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 44—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 3).

No. 45—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 4).

No. 46—Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board (Amendment).

No. 47—Fishing (Amendment).

Regulations—1984—

No. 19 (Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Ordinance).

No. 20 (Motor Traffic Ordinance).

No. 21 (Motor Traffic Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Baldwin, Mr Burr, Mr Cohen, Mr Cunningham, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Hunt, Mr Porter, Mr Robinson and Mr Uren.

D. M. BLAKE

Clerk of the House of Representatives