

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 11

MONDAY, 25 MARCH 1985

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- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Dr H. A. Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 3 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 - Australia-China Council—Report for year 1983-84.
 - Parliament Act—Proposal, together with site plan and design sketches, for the provision of additional administrative accommodation at the Australian National Gallery.
 - Serving multicultural Australia—The role of broadcasting—Report by the Committee of Review of the Special Broadcasting Service, dated 31 December 1984—
 - Report—
 - Part 1.
 - Part 2.
 - Appendixes.
 - Synopsis and summary of recommendations.
 - 4 **CSIRO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT—REPORT OF JOINT WORKING PARTY—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Hurford (Minister representing the Minister for Finance) presented the following papers:
 - CSIRO financial management—CSIRO-Department of Finance—Report of joint working party, together with statement by Senator Walsh, Minister for Finance.
 - Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
 - Debate adjourned (Mr MacKellar), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 5 **EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON TELECOM'S ZONAL CHARGING POLICIES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the report of the Standing Committee on Expenditure on Telecom's zonal charging policies and the delay in the Government's response to the report.
 - Mr Moore, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.
 - 6 **PETITIONS:** The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Beale, Mr Charles and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
 - Mr Blanchard—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the customs regulation prohibiting the importation of obscene, indecent or blasphemous materials be restored.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying for legislation to reverse the extension of certain entitlements to de facto and homosexual partners of parliamentarians and public servants and to confer proper recognition upon traditional de jure marriage.

Mr Burr—from certain residents of the west coast of Tasmania praying that the Government reconsider the reduction in the Special Education program funding in the forthcoming Budget.

Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Mr Chynoweth—from certain citizens praying that the establishment of an Australian aerospace agency be supported.

Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain citizens praying that the laws which banned the entry and sale of hard-core and violent pornography be re-enacted.

Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that funding be made available for a child care centre in Carramar, NSW.

Mr P. F. Morris—from certain citizens praying that the ordinance superseding the ACT Objectionable Publications Ordinance be disallowed and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship matters.

Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that the Government support the stand taken by the New Zealand Government on nuclear vessels and that the policy of developing zones of peace and nuclear free zones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans be implemented.

Mr Sharp—from certain citizens praying for Commonwealth and State co-operation and financial commitment in making certain aircraft available for fighting bushfires in New South Wales.

Petitions received.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NSW POLICE TAPES—NEED FOR ROYAL COMMISSION:** The Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr N. A. Brown had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The necessity for the Government to appoint a royal commission to inquire into the New South Wales police tapes in order to restore public confidence in the administration of justice".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr N. A. Brown addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 8 ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER:** Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation on Australia's participation in international environmental organisations, and presented the following paper:

Environment and Conservation—Standing Committee—Report on Australia's participation in international environmental organisations, dated October 1982—Recommendations.

Mr Connolly, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

- 9 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign,

and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address:

“, but the House is of the opinion that the Government’s program outlined in the Speech fails to address critical problems facing Australia in that—

- (1) it fails to reassure the Australian people that the country’s defence arrangements within the Western Alliance will be preserved and strengthened following—
 - (a) the Prime Minister’s capitulation to internal party pressures on the issue of Australia providing logistical assistance to the US for its testing of the MX missile, and
 - (b) increasing uncertainty as to the future of the ANZUS Treaty fuelled by members of the Labor Government, including a Cabinet Minister;
- (2) contains no coherent economic strategy at a time when recovery is threatened by—
 - (a) record government taxation and spending;
 - (b) continuing pressure within the Government for new taxes on assets;
 - (c) growing demands for higher wages and other extra cost burdens on industry;
 - (d) the level of public debt repayments, and
 - (e) loss of value of the currency reflecting world concern about Australia’s competitiveness and government instability, and
- (3) it endorses a rigid, centralised wage determining structure which imposes the same cost burdens on commerce and industry regardless of ability to pay”—

Debate resumed.

Dr Charlesworth addressing the House—

10 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 March 1985:
 Extradition (Foreign States) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 14.
 Navigation Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 28.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cross, Mrs Darling, Mr Dawkins, Mr Dobie, Mr Hawke, Mr Hollis, Dr Klugman, Mr McGauran, Mr Robinson and Mr Wilson.

A. R. BROWNING
 Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives