

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 36

THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 1985

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- 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 **CHEQUES BILL 1985:** 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.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
  - 3 **BILLS OF EXCHANGE AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** 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 J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism), the Bill was read a third time.
  - 4 **PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL GALLERY ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMMODATION—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL:** Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House approves the following proposal contained in the report of the Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House presented to the House on 20 August 1985, namely: The construction of additional administrative accommodation at the Australian National Gallery.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
  - 5 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985—SENATE'S AMENDMENT:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendment made by the Senate.

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*In the committee*

## SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE

Page 2, after clause 4, insert the following new clause:

**Functions of Authority**

“4A. Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end of sub-section (1) the following word and paragraph:

‘; and (e) as required, to co-ordinate its activities with the activities of authorities and persons in other countries performing functions similar to the functions of the Authority.’.”

Mr Young (Special Minister of State) moved—That the Senate's amendment be disagreed to, but that, in place thereof, the following new clause be inserted in the Bill:

**Co-operation with law enforcement agencies and co-ordination with overseas authorities**

"4A. Section 17 of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end the following sub-section:

'(2) In performing its functions under this Act, the Authority may co-ordinate its activities with the activities of authorities and persons in other countries performing functions similar to functions of the Authority.'"

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Young, the House adopted the report.

- 6 SOCIAL SECURITY AND REPATRIATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1985—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendments made by the Senate.

*In the committee*

**SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE**

No. 1—Page 13, paragraph 34 (c), lines 30 to 37, leave out the paragraph.

No. 2—Page 14, clause 35, lines 1 to 24, leave out the clause.

No. 3—Pages 15 and 16, clause 37, line 34 (page 15) to line 20 (page 16), leave out the clause.

On the motion of Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Howe, the House adopted the report.

- 7 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES:** Ordered—That notices Nos. 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 8 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** 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 Cadman addressing the House—  
It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 9 GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, as amended by sessional order, the order of the day having being read—  
Question proposed—That grievances be noted.  
Debate ensued.  
It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106, as amended by sessional order.  
Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.
- 10 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the forthcoming absences abroad of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) and Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), Senator Evans (Minister for Resources

and Energy) would act as Attorney-General, Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) would represent the Acting Attorney-General in this House, and Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) would act as Minister for Defence.

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

12 **PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1984-85.

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

Australian Capital Territory—

Building Standards Committee—8th Annual Report, for year 1983-84.

Milk Authority—Report for year 1983-84.

Nominal Defendant—Report for 1984.

Australian National University Act—Council of the Australian National University—Interim report, for 1984—Part 1—Report.

Canberra Commercial Development Authority—9th Annual Report, for year 1983-84.

Tobacco Marketing Act—Australian Tobacco Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984.

14 **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories) presented the following paper:

Australian Capital Territory—Registrar of Co-operative Societies—Report for year 1983-84.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr MacKellar), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 **USE AND EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL AGENTS ON AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL IN VIETNAM—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION—PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Holding (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented the following papers:

Use and effects of chemical agents on Australian personnel in Vietnam—Royal Commission—Final report, dated 31 July 1985—

Volume 1—Introduction and exposure.

Volume 2—Toxicology and general health.

Volume 3—Birth anomalies.

Volume 4—Cancer.

Volume 5—Mental well-being.

Volume 6—Mortality, class action VVAA and section 47.

Volume 7—Benefits and treatment.

Volume 8—Conclusions, recommendations and epilogue.

Volume 9—Exhibits list and bibliography.

Statement by Senator Gietzelt, Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Mr Holding, by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the final report of the Royal Commission into the use and effects of chemical agents on Australian personnel in Vietnam.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Holding 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.

16 **LEGISLATION PROGRAM—BUDGET SITTINGS 1985—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:**

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, made a ministerial statement

announcing the Government's legislation program for the 1985 Budget period of sittings.

Mr MacKellar, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

**17 AUSTRALIA'S TRADE WITH CHINA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning trade between Australia and the People's Republic of China.

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

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

Mr Baldwin, Mr Blunt, Mr Dobie, Mr Fife, Mr Grace, Mr Keogh, Mr Kerin, Mr A. A. Morris, Mr Nehl and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that there be no taxation on illness and no special taxation on those who seek to insure themselves against the cost of private health care.

Mr Andrew, Mr Bilney, Mr Downer and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the concessional price of fuel in rural areas be restored.

Mr Wright—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Andrew, Mr Bilney, Mr Duncan and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that proposals for cuts in children's services be reversed.

Mr Andrew—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Andrew, Mr Cadman, Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Fife—from certain citizens praying that the rights of private enterprise be protected and any inequitable additional taxes be rejected.

Mr Carlton, Mr Humphreys, Mr Maher and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.

Mr Blunt, Mr Braithwaite and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that a national park be set aside for wild horses and action be taken to ensure that killing of feral animals be undertaken in a humane manner.

Mr Beale and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Carlton, Mr Fife and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt and Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to increase the burden of capital gains and wealth taxes be rejected.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Katter—from certain citizens praying that sufficient funds be allocated to the Australia Council to ensure ongoing funding of State arts councils.

Mr Cobb and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that society be protected from taxation changes and the introduction of new taxes.

Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that sales tax be replaced by a broad based consumption tax with a uniform ad valorem rate.

Mr Bilney—from certain residents of South Australia praying that funds to pre-school education be reinstated in the 1985-86 Budget or the South Australian Government be urged to make up the shortfall.

Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that \$20 million be restored to the ABC's budget for 1985-86 and that certain other steps be taken to ensure that ABC services are maintained.

- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the Social Security and Repatriation Assets Test Abolition Bill be passed.
- Mr Burr—from certain residents of the Division of Lyons praying that certain parts of the Veterans' Entitlements Bill 1985 be repealed and that a summit meeting be held with ex-service organisations.
- Mr Burr—from certain residents of Westbury, Tas., praying that the Government reconsider the reduction in the Special Education program funding in the forthcoming Budget.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that consideration be given to the inclusion of psychological services within Medicare.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that legislation be enacted to allow full compensation to all Australians where the Government requires the use of private property.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that a referendum be held on strengthening Australia's defence relationship with the United States.
- Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Tertiary Education Assistance allowance be raised to the level of the unemployment benefit.
- Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Indi praying that provision of the Channel 0/28 multicultural television service to Albury-Wodonga and surrounding districts be implemented immediately.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the petroleum products freight subsidy scheme be reviewed.
- Mr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that any action that would give ownership of Ayers Rock and Uluru National Park to any single group be opposed.
- Mr Everingham—from certain residents of Nhulunbuy, NT, praying that an assurance be obtained from the Northern Land Council that residents be granted unrestricted access by permit to Gove during the dry season.
- Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that Garden Island Naval Base, WA, be declared an isolated locality and that certain action be taken in relation to transport allowance for Garden Island defence personnel.
- Mr Fitzgibbon—from certain residents of the Shire of Singleton, NSW, praying that the School of Infantry at Singleton be retained and the decision not to consider Singleton Army Base as the site for the Combined Army Schools Complex be reviewed.
- Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre.
- Mr Andrew, Mr Fife and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Lamb—from certain residents of Victoria praying that positive steps be taken in the Budget to halt the destruction of ABC programming.
- Mr Langmore—from certain citizens praying that staffing cuts in ACT government schools and TAFE colleges not be implemented.
- Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that Australian aid to the Sudan be increased substantially and that certain other action be taken in relation to aid to northern Africa.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that more funds be provided to colleges of advanced education and other tertiary institutions and that tertiary fees not be introduced.
- Mr Nehl—from certain electors of the Division of Cowper praying that any attempt to introduce additional capital gains taxes, wealth taxes or death duties be opposed and existing taxes in these areas be repealed.
- Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that present federal funding of pre-school education be maintained,

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the European Parliament's resolution in respect of the Baltic States be supported.

Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their former level.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that Wollongong's northern suburbs be included within the Sydney television area.

Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.

Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the previous legislation relating to the entitlements of war veterans and their dependants be restored.

Petitions received.

- 19 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CRISIS IN RURAL AUSTRALIA:** 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 failure of the Government to address the crisis in rural Australia adequately".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hunt addressed the House.

*Paper:* Mr Hunt, by leave, presented the following paper:

Budgetary cuts by Hawke Labor Government since March 1983 affecting rural Australians—Table.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 20 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—WHEAT MARKETING AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 115

Mr Speaker,

The Senate has agreed to the new amendments made by the House of Representatives as an alternative to the amendment to which the Senate had disagreed in the Bill for "*An Act relating to the marketing of wheat*".

D. McCLELLAND

President

The Senate,

Canberra, 22 August 1985.

- 21 **GRAIN LEGUMES LEVY BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a levy on certain grain legumes produced in Australia.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 22 **GRAIN LEGUMES LEVY COLLECTION BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for the collection of levy imposed by the *Grain Legumes Levy Act 1985*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 23 **FOREIGN FISHING BOATS LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Foreign Fishing Boats Levy Act 1981*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 **FISHERIES AGREEMENTS (PAYMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Fisheries Agreements (Payments) Act 1981*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 **NORTHERN PRAWN FISHERY VOLUNTARY ADJUSTMENT SCHEME LOAN GUARANTEE BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the guarantee of the repayment of money borrowed for the purposes of the Northern Prawn Fishery Voluntary Adjustment Scheme.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 26 **DAIRYING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Dairying Industry Research and Promotion Levy Act 1972*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 27 **WHEAT TAX AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Tax Act 1957*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 28 **EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGES (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Export Inspection Charge Act 1985* and the *Export Inspection Charge Collection Act 1985*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 29 **EXPORT INSPECTION (SERVICE CHARGE) BILL 1985:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a charge on the provision of certain export inspection services.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Kerin moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**30 EXPORT INSPECTION (ESTABLISHMENT REGISTRATION CHARGE) BILL 1985:**

Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a charge on the registration of export establishments.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

**31 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—RESTORATION OF FACADE, GPO, SYDNEY:** Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Restoration of facade, General Post Office, Martin Place, Sydney.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**32 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 7 TO 9 (1985):** Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 7, 8 and 9 (1985).

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

**33 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

**34 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86—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 by Mr Peacock (Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because—

- (1) it is only half a Budget which fails to outline any approach to the urgent problems of tax reform and tax relief;
- (2) it fails to remove the threat of new taxes on investment and jobs, such as a capital gains tax which will include death duties and gift taxes;
- (3) it condemns 750 000 Australians to higher marginal tax brackets during the year;
- (4) it fails to address the fundamental problems facing the Australian economy, particularly high inflation, the lack of international competitiveness and the need for further cuts in Government spending;
- (5) it fails to provide clear direction on the Government’s approach to discounting wage indexation for the effects of depreciation of the dollar and so potentially destroys its employment benefits;
- (6) it fails to move towards the deregulation of labour markets required to give all Australians the chance for a job, and
- (7) it burdens Australia with the threat of continued high interest rates which hurt not only homebuyers but hit business investment and jobs”.

Debate continued.

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



35 ADJOURNMENT: Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr Slipper rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 10.26 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 August 1985:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of periodic report—Council of the Australian National University, report for 1984.

*States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1984*—Statement of particulars of direction given under sub-section 26 (1), dated 11 June 1985.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Aldred and Mr Jull.

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A. R. BROWNING  
Clerk of the House of Representatives