

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 38

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 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 **LEADERSHIP AND WHIPS OF THE LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA:** Mr Howard, as Leader of the Opposition, informed the House that the Parliamentary Liberal Party had elected him as its Leader and Mr N. A. Brown as its Deputy Leader. Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Andrew had been appointed Opposition Whip and Deputy Opposition Whip, respectively.
Mr Howard, by leave, made a statement concerning the attitude and role of the Opposition.
Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a statement congratulating Mr Howard and relating to the role of the Opposition.
 - 3 **GOVERNMENT WHIPS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence of Mr Humphreys (Government Whip) owing to public business overseas, Mr Cunningham would act as Government Whip and Mr Scott as Deputy Whip.
 - 4 **DEATH OF SIR MACFARLANE BURNET:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) referred to the death of Sir Macfarlane Burnet, and moved—That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 31 August 1985 of Sir Macfarlane Burnet, OM, AK, KBE, places on record its recognition and esteem for his meritorious public service and unique contribution to medical science, and tenders its profound sympathy to Sir Macfarlane's widow and family.
And Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) and other Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—
Question—passed.
 - 5 **OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE—CHANGES OF STAFF:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the following promotions of officers in attendance in the Chamber had been made:
Mr I. C. Harris to First Clerk Assistant, and
Mrs B. L. Simons to Serjeant-at-Arms.
 - 6 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 7 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:
Audit Act—Report of the Auditor-General upon audits, examinations and inspections under the Audit and other Acts, dated 10 September 1985.

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 Auditor-General upon audits, examinations and inspections under the Audit and other Acts—September 1985, and
- (2) That the paper be printed.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN—SPECIAL REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:
Ombudsman Act—Commonwealth Ombudsman—Special Report No. 1—The Cotton Case involving the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, dated 2 September 1985.

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of Special Report No. 1 of the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Young moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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.

- 9 PAPERS:** Mr Speaker presented the following papers:

Public Service Act—

Department of the House of Representatives—Report for year 1984-85.

Joint House Department—Report for year 1984-85.

- 10 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account (and related financial matters) in the Northern Territory Land Rights Legislation—Report by Dr J.C. Altman, dated 19 December 1984.

Defence Act—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Regulations—Army and Air Force Canteen Service Board of Management—Report and financial statements, together with the auditor's report, for period 31 January 1984 to 28 January 1985.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report for year 1984-85.

Inter-State Commission Act—Report on operations of the Commission for year 1984-85.

Metal and electrical trades—Report of the Australian tripartite mission to study the training of skilled workers in Fiji and New Zealand.

- 11 AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE—OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Young (Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:

Australian Federal Police Act—Objectives and priorities—Direction under subsection 13 (2), dated 15 August 1985.

Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned (Mr N. A. Brown—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 12 COX RIVER (ALAWA/NGANDJI) LAND CLAIM—REPORT BY ABORIGINAL LAND COMMISSIONER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) presented the following paper:

Aboriginal Land Commissioner—Report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Administrator of the Northern Territory relating to Cox River (Alawa/Ngandji) Land Claim, dated 20 November 1984.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned (Mr N. A. Brown—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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

Mr Baldwin, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Cohen, Mr Gayler, Mr Howe, Mr Hunt, Mr Lee, Mr Simmons and Dr Theophanous—from certain citizens praying that 1989 be proposed as the International Year for Repairing the Earth and certain other action be taken in support of world peace.

Mr Blunt, Mr Cohen, Mr Gayler, Dr Klugman, Ms McHugh, Mr Ruddock, Mr Staples, Mr West and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Blunt, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Free, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Robinson, Mr Simmons and Mr West—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.

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

Mr Blunt, Mr Fife, Mr Gayler, Mr Ruddock, Mr Spender, Mr Uren and Mr Wright—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 Adermann, Mr Braithwaite and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that sales tax be replaced by a broad based consumption tax with a uniform ad valorem rate.

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

Mr Kent, Mr Staples and Mr Uren—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 Beale and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

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

Mr Porter, Mr Scott and Mr Young—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the principle that pensioner patients pay no more than their pension for nursing home care be restored and that certain other action be taken in relation to nursing home benefits.

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

Mr Burr and Mr Miles—from certain citizens praying that the assets test legislation be repealed and that certain other action be taken in relation to retirement incomes policy.

Ms Fatin and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the proposed shift towards increased indirect taxation not be adopted.

Mr Gayler and Ms McHugh—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 Jacobi and Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that cuts to pre-school funding be reversed.

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

Mr Katter and Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that a service tax not be imposed.

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

Mr O'Neil and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the concessional price of fuel in rural areas be restored.

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

- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the term of the Costigan Commission be extended, all necessary resources be provided to enable it to conclude its investigations and Parliament not be dissolved until its report has been fully debated by both Houses.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that those laws which automatically increase the excise on beer, following an increase in the CPI, be repealed.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that provision of subsidies for yacht chartering in Western Australia be stopped.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the Social Security and Repatriation Assets Test Abolition Bill be passed.
- Mr Blunt—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 Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the laws which banned the entry and sale of hard-core and violent pornography be re-enacted.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that all changes to benefits for veterans and conditions of service for military personnel announced in the May Economic Statement be withdrawn.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Shire of Pine Rivers, Qld, and certain residents of the Division of Fisher in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that anomalies in ABC radio transmission in North Queensland be rectified.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain residents of Queensland praying that minimum penalties be made sufficiently severe to deter future child abusers.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr Charles—from certain citizens praying that the tax threshold be raised to \$10 000 and certain other action be taken in support of low income earners and those on social welfare.
- Mr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that urgent talks be commenced at international level to formulate a new international sugar agreement and that certain other action be taken to assist the sugar industry.
- Mr Fife—from certain citizens praying that the rights of private enterprise be protected and any inequitable additional taxes be rejected.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre.
- Mr Fife—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hicks—from certain citizens praying that local telephone call rates apply between Silverton and Broken Hill, NSW.
- Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying that the introduction of a compulsory identification card be rejected.
- Mr Katter—from certain electors of the Division of Kennedy praying that the recent increase in fuel and oil prices be rectified.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Enterprise Migrant Hostel, Vic., be reversed.
- Mr Lamb—from certain residents of Victoria praying that positive steps be taken in the Budget to halt the destruction of ABC programming.
- Ms McHugh—from certain citizens praying that legislation imposing fees on overseas students be repealed.
- Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that the plight of the father in the Family Court be considered.

Mr Moore—from certain electors of the Division of Ryan praying that a post box be installed on the corner of Gresham and Piddington Streets, St John's Wood, Qld.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that present federal funding of pre-school education be maintained.

Mr Moore—from certain residents of Queensland in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to cut funding for pre-school education be reconsidered.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the signal from Adelaide commercial television be boosted to cover a wider area and to regain channels lost by boosted signals from Channel 6 at Ballarat, Vic.

Mr Porter—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the price of petrol be reduced immediately and that international parity pricing be abandoned.

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

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

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Shire of Pine Rivers, Qld, praying that the tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Shire of Pine Rivers, Qld, and certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that no form of broadly based indirect or consumption tax be levied but that gift and death duties and certain other taxes be imposed.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that there be no increase in State aid to private schools and that the primary obligation to government schools be re-affirmed.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be declared International Year for Greening the Earth and certain other action be taken in support of world peace.

Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that nursing home patients be means-tested so that only those with the ability to pay are charged more than their pensions and the Commonwealth benefit.

Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the neglect of folklife in Australia be redressed.

Petitions received.

- 14 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr N. A. Brown be discharged from attendance on the Committee of Members' Interests, and that, in his place, Mr Spender be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

- 15 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NEW PRICES AND INCOMES ACCORD:** The Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The damage to employment prospects arising from the new prices and incomes accord between the Government and the ACTU".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr N. A. Brown addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

16 **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE:** Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

23 August 1985—Message—

No. 117—Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment 1985.

No. 118—National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment 1985.

17 **MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Administrator were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

26 August 1985—Message—

No. 63—Building Industry 1985.

No. 64—Wheat Marketing Amendment 1985.

2 September 1985—Message No. 65—

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment 1985.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment 1985.

5 September 1985—Message No. 66—Social Security and Repatriation Legislation Amendment 1985.

18 **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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Peacock, viz.*—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) if 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 resumed.

Mr McGauran addressing the House—

19 **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.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 10 September 1985:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage (Interim Protection) Act—Declaration made pursuant to sub-section 12 (1), dated 21 June 1985, together with explanatory statement.

- Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 209.
- Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, Nos. 213, 216, 219.
- Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 203.
- Australian Antarctic Territory Act—Ordinances—1985—
 No. 2—Medical Practitioners Registration.
 No. 3—Poisons and Narcotic Drugs.
 No. 4—Poisons.
- Automotive Industry Authority Act—Directions to the Authority pursuant to section 26M, dated 29 August 1985.
- Defence Act—
 Determinations—1985—
 No. 52—Special Royal Navy Allowance paid to RAN Members Posted to and Serving in Britain.
 No. 53—Separation Allowance.
 No. 54—Meal Allowance Overseas.
 No. 55—Salary of Permanent Force Members.
 No. 56—Temporary Rental Allowance and other allowances.
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, Nos. 210, 211, 214, 217.
- Dried Fruits Levy Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 220.
- Fisheries Act—Notices, Nos. 75B, 136.
- Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, Nos. 205, 207.
- Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Airport purposes—Extensions to Brisbane Airport.
- National Health Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 206.
- Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, Nos. 212, 215, 218.
- Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—Postal—1985—Amendment No. 4.
- Proclamations by His Excellency the Administrator fixing the dates on which the following Acts and sections of Acts shall come into operation—
Fisheries Licences Levy Act 1984 and the *Fishing Legislation Amendment Act 1985*—31 August 1985.
Health Legislation Amendment Act 1985—Sections 4, 5, 7 and 10—1 September 1985.
Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Amendment Act 1985—Section 33—6 September 1985.
- Public Service Act—
 Appointment—Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Mansell, B. M.
 Determinations—1985—Nos. 61, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 70.
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 208.
- Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 221.
- Radiocommunications (Frequency Reservation Certificate Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 224.
- Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 223.
- Radiocommunications (Temporary Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 222.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—
 Determinations listing fees for purposes of—
 Business Franchise (Tobacco and Petroleum Products) Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.
 Co-operative Societies Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.
 Dog Control Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.
 Housing Ordinance, dated 9 August 1985.
 Motor Traffic Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.
 Plumbers, Drainers and Gasfitters Board Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.
 Pounds Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.

Weights and Measures Ordinance, dated 19 August 1985.

Ordinances—1985—

No. 40—Crimes (Amendment) (No. 3).

No. 41—Court of Petty Sessions (Amendment) (No. 3).

Regulations—1985—

No. 21 (Dog Control Ordinance).

No. 22 (Motor Omnibus Services Ordinance).

No. 23 (Electricity Ordinance).

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated—

20 August 1985.

3 September 1985.

Superannuation Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 204.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment

No. 59.

Telecommunications (General)—Amendments Nos. 43, 44.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Baldwin, Mr Bowen, Mr Humphreys, Mr Jull, Mr Staples, Mr White and Mr Wilson.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives