

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 40

THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 1985

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 **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) 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 resumed.

Mr D. M. Cameron 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.

3 **SPORT—GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:** Mr Free, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House congratulates the Government on its major achievements in the field of sport, in particular—

- (1) the generous financial support for Australia's world class athletes provided by the recently announced National Athlete Award Scheme grants;
- (2) the great success of the recent Australia Games in which the Government was the major financial sponsor, and
- (3) the announcement of Government support for the Brisbane City Council's bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games.

Mr Blunt moved, as an amendment—That all the words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “this House expresses concern that the Government’s policies on sport fail to preserve the independence of sport and prevents sporting bodies and organisations from controlling the pace and direction of future developments”.

Debate continued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109, as amended by sessional order.

Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notices be extended until 2 p.m.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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

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

Australian Capital Territory—

Gaming and Liquor Authority—3rd Annual Report, for year 1983-84.

Registrar of Motor Vehicle Dealers—8th Annual Report, for year 1984-85.

Surveyors Board—Report for year 1984-85.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park—Far northern section zoning plan, dated August 1985.

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

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

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

Mr Cobb, Mrs Darling 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 and Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that the concessional price of fuel in rural areas be restored.

Mr Andrew and 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 Blunt and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.

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

Mr Blunt and Dr H. R. Edwards—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.

Dr Charlesworth and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt 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.

Mr Blunt and Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children’s services be restored.

- Mrs Darling and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that wild horses be protected from industry and indiscriminate slaughter.
- Mr Fife and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.
- Mr Hodgman and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that sales tax be replaced by a broad based consumption tax with a uniform ad valorem rate.
- Mr Rocher and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that the proof range facilities at Port Wakefield, SA, be retained and that they be allowed to expand.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that a service tax not be imposed.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that proposals for cuts in children's services be reversed.
- Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that a state park be set aside for wild horses.
- Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that the Government's proposed redistribution of wealth policy be implemented in a way that will have greater support for lower income earners and social welfare recipients.
- 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 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 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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that urgent financial assistance be provided to the sugar industry.
- 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 Cobb—from certain citizens praying that peace studies not be taught in Australian schools.
- Mr Conquest—from certain citizens praying that no change in existing taxation legislation with respect to fringe benefits and capital gain be introduced.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying for the continuation of the public inquiry into the legislation relating to video classification.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the Queensland Government be called on to adjust rents to rectify the anomaly that exists through the depletion of pensioners' earnings by increased rents.
- Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that cuts to pre-school funding be reversed.
- 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 Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that compulsory national service be re-introduced.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Enterprise Migrant Hostel, Vic., be reversed.

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

Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that all moves which lead to the establishment of a republic in Australia be rejected and that the rights and honour of orders of chivalry be protected.

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 Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Post agency at Joondanna, WA, continue to operate.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.

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

Mr Smith—from certain citizens praying that Swan Island lighthouse continue to be a manned station.

Dr Watson—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Petitions received.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE UNION POWER—

ABUSE: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The irresponsible use of trade union power in the Mudginberri and other industrial disputes and the Government's failure to respond adequately to that abuse of power".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr Millar (Vice-Chairman) presented the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the construction of a submarine escape training facility, HMAS Stirling, Garden Island, WA (6th report of 1985).

Report relating to laboratory development at CSIRO Floreat Park Laboratories, Perth (7th report of 1985).

Report relating to the construction of State head office building for Telecom Australia, Sydney (8th report of 1985).

Report relating to the refurbishment of Commonwealth Centre and associated major fitout works, Melbourne (9th report of 1985).

9 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 (see entry No. 2)—*

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr McVeigh), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

10 **GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK—FAR NORTHERN SECTION ZONING PLAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the zoning plan for the far northern section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

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

11 **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 (see entry No. 2)—*

Debate resumed.

Mr A. A. Morris addressing the House—

12 **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.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 12 September 1985:
Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

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

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives