

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 43

TUESDAY, 17 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 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Hall, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Keating (Treasurer)—
Mr Keating laid upon the Table the following paper: Flat tax—Note—*Canberra Times*—7 February 1981.
Questions without notice continued.
 - 3 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—
Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report for year 1984-85.
Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report for year 1984-85.
Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—11th Annual Report, for year 1984-85.
 - 4 **COMMONWEALTH LEGAL AID COUNCIL—LEGAL NEEDS OF INSTITUTIONALISED PEOPLE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:
Commonwealth Legal Aid Council—Legal needs of institutionalised people—
Report, dated May 1985.
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.
 - 5 **OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (AUSTRALIA)—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) presented the following paper:
Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 31 March 1985.
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.
 - 6 **DEFENCE AND THE 1985-86 BUDGET—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement outlining features of the Government's defence policies and programs in the context of the 1985-86 Budget.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Cadman, Mr Fife and Mr McArthur—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.

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

Mr Blunt, Mr Campbell and Mr Free—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.

Mr Blunt, Mr MacKellar and Mr Scholes—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 Bilney, Mr R. J. Brown, Dr Charlesworth, Mrs Child, Mr Hollis, Mr MacKellar and Mr Staples—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Andrew and Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that a service tax not be imposed.

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

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

Mr Blunt and Mr Downer—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 Fife and Mr Sinclair—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 Kent and Mr Staples—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 Milton and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.

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

Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that cuts to pre-school funding be reversed.

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 those laws which automatically increase the excise on beer, following an increase in the CPI, be repealed.

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 the ordinance superseding the ACT Objectionable Publications Ordinance be disallowed and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship matters.

- Mr Cross—from certain electors praying that the proposed shift towards increased indirect taxation not be adopted.
- Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that the Special Broadcasting Service be maintained as the funding authority for public ethnic broadcasting until all ethnic broadcasters can propose another solution.
- Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill 1984 [1985] be presented to the House of Representatives at the earliest possible time.
- Mr Free—from certain citizens praying that watercups be placed at regular intervals along roads and highways.
- 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 Hand—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 Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hollis—from certain citizens praying that the ban on the export of kangaroo products be re-applied.
- Mr Hollis—from certain citizens praying that the Government take immediate action to stop all military aid to Indonesia while the Indonesian occupation of East Timor continues.
- Mr Langmore—from certain citizens praying that staffing cuts in ACT government schools and TAFE colleges not be implemented.
- Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to supply residents of the Axe Creek region, Vic., with a satisfactory telephone service.
- 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.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.
- 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.
- Dr Watson—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Petitions received.

- 8 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAX REFORM:** The Deputy 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 erratic, inconsistent and deceitful conduct of the Government on tax reform".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 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, 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 Duncan addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 September 1985:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals for collection of information—1985—

No. 7—New topics to be included in the population survey.

No. 8—Survey of exits from the labour force.

Defence Act—Determination—1985—No. 58—Intermediate Term Duty Living Allowance and other allowances.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 11 September 1985.

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

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives