

1985

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 47

WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER 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 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) raised, as a matter of privilege, the question of fees being required of Members of Parliament in respect of their requests under the Freedom of Information Act.  
Mr Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report to the House.  
Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, addressed himself to the matter raised.
  - 3 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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.  
It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
  - 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
  - 5 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—MOTION OF CENSURE OF PRIME MINISTER:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) having delivered to the Clerk a notice of motion of censure of the Prime Minister which he proposed to move at the next sitting and the notice having been reported to the House—  
Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith the motion of censure of the Prime Minister of which he has given notice for the next sitting.  
Question—put and passed.
  - 6 **PRIME MINISTER—MOTION OF CENSURE:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That this House censures the Prime Minister for his handling of matters related to the Australian Bicentennial Authority and specifically—
    - (1) his gross administrative incompetence and negligence regarding the payout of over \$500 000 to Dr Armstrong;
    - (2) his attempts to cover up and suppress his own role in initiating Dr Armstrong's removal and approving the payout;
    - (3) his persistent refusal to make full disclosure of relevant facts to the Parliament, and
    - (4) his attempts to blame others for his own administrative failures and mistakes.

Debate ensued.

*Closure:* Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—  
The House divided (the Speaker, Dr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 55

Mr Andrew*	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Shack
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mr Slipper
Mr Cadman	Mr Goodluck	Mr Miles	Mr Smith
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Millar	Mr Spender
Mr Carlton	Mr Halverson	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Cobb	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Coleman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Peacock	Dr Watson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodges	Mr Porter	Mr Webster
Mr Conquest	Mr Howard	Mr Reith	Mr White
Mr Cowan	Mr Hunt	Mr Robinson	Mr Wilson
Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	

NOES, 74

Mr Baldwin	Mrs Darling	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Mountford
Mr Beazley	Mr Dawkins	Mr Jones	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Beddall	Mr Dubois	Mr Keating	Mr O'Neil
Mr Bilney	Mr Duffy	Mrs Kelly	Mr Price
Mr Blanchard	Mr Duncan	Mr Kent	Mr Punch
Dr Blewett	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Keogh	Mr Saunderson
Mr Bowen	Ms Fatin	Mr Kerin	Mr Scholes
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Fitzgibbon	Dr Klugman	Mr Simmons*
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mr Lamb	Mr Snow
Mr Brumby	Mr Gayler	Mr Lee	Mr Staples
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr McLeay	Mr Tickner
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Maher	Mr Uren
Mrs Child	Mr Hand	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hawke	Mrs Mayer	Mr Willis
Mr Cleeland	Mr Holding	Mr Mildren	Mr Wright
Mr Cohen	Mr Hollis	Mr Milton	Mr Young
Mr Cross	Mr Howe	Mr A. A. Morris	
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Jacobi	Mr P. F. Morris	

\*Tellers

And so it was negatived.

**7 FILM CENSORSHIP BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:**

Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:

Film Censorship Board—Report on activities for 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.

**8 PAPER:** The following paper was presented:

Australian Industry Development Corporation Act—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984-85.

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

Mr Beale, Mr Brumby, Mr Cleeland, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Hawker, Mr Howe, Mr Milton and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

- Mr Blunt, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Hicks, Mrs Jakobsen and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.
- Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that military aid to The Philippines be stopped until atrocities there are halted.
- Mr Blunt—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.
- Mrs Jakobsen—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that urgent financial assistance be provided to the sugar industry.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that sufficient funds be allocated to the Australia Council to ensure ongoing funding of State arts councils.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr Cobb—from certain residents of the Orana region, NSW, praying that \$19 million be restored to the TAFE Participation and Equity Program and that certain other action be taken in support of the participating students.
- Mr Conquest—from certain citizens praying that the importation and sale of hard core pornography and grossly obscene publications be prevented and that certain other action be taken in relation to censorship.
- Mrs Darling—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.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying for the continuation of the public inquiry into the legislation relating to video classification.
- Mr Grace—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that no airport be approved at Badgery's Creek, NSW, and surrounding districts.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre and that certain other action be taken in relation to petrol pricing.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the Government uphold the Articles of the UN Convention on Women and request the Victorian Government to repeal the *Planning (Brothels) Act 1984*.
- Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that compulsory identity cards not be introduced and that certain action be taken in relation to the social security system.
- Mr Hunt—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 Queensland in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 Milton—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.

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

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the Government reconsider the assets test.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.

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.

Petitions received.

**10 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT'S HIGH INTEREST RATE STRATEGY:** The House was informed that Mr Carlton had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The high interest rate strategy employed by the Government to maintain the ALP-ACTU Accord in the face of a falling Australian dollar".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton rising to address the House—

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Dr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

AYES, 73

Mr Baldwin	Mrs Darling	Mr Keating	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Beazley	Mr Dawkins	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Neil
Mr Beddall	Mr Dubois	Mr Kent	Mr Price
Mr Bilney	Mr Duffy	Mr Keogh	Mr Punch
Mr Blanchard	Mr Duncan	Mr Kerin	Mr Saunderson
Dr Blewett	Mr R. F. Edwards	Dr Klugman	Mr Scholes
Mr Bowen	Ms Fatin	Mr Lamb	Mr Simmons*
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Langmore	Mr Snow
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mr Lee	Mr Staples
Mr Brumby	Mr Gayler	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr McLeay	Mr Tickner
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr Maher	Mr Uren
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mrs Child	Mr Hand	Mrs Mayer	Mr Willis
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hollis	Mr Mildren	Mr Wright
Mr Cleeland	Mr Howe	Mr Milton	Mr Young
Mr Cohen	Mr Jacobi	Mr A. A. Morris	
Mr Cross	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr P. F. Morris	
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Jones	Mr Mountford	

NOES, 53

Mr Andrew*	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shipton
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Sinclair
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Macphee	Mr Smith
Mr Burr	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Goodluck	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr Cobb	Mr Hawker	Mr Porter	Mr Webster
Mr Coleman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith	Mr White
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodges	Mr Robinson	Mr Wilson
Mr Conquest	Mr Hunt	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Cowan	Mr Jull	Mr Shack	
Mr Downer	Mr Katter	Mr Sharp	

\*Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 11 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill and acquainting the House that the Senate does not insist upon its amendment disagreed to by the House, and has agreed to the amendment made by the House in place thereof:  
8 October 1985—Message No. 127—National Crime Authority (Miscellaneous Amendments) 1985.
- 12 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—STUDENT ASSISTANCE (LOANS GUARANTEE AND SUBSIDY) REPEAL BILL 1985:** Message No. 128, dated 8 October 1985, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to repeal the ‘Student Assistance (Loans Guarantee and Subsidy) Act 1982’*”.  
Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—STUDENT ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Message No. 129, dated 8 October 1985, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Student Assistance Act 1973’, and for related purposes*”.  
Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 15 **AUSTRALIAN BILL OF RIGHTS BILL 1985:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Australians and all people in Australia.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION BILL 1985:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, to make provision in relation to human rights and in relation to equal opportunity in employment, and for related purposes.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1985*, and for related purposes.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 **HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal

- the *Human Rights Commission Act 1981* and to enact certain transitional provisions and make certain amendments in consequence of the enactment of the *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1985*.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 19 **TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to trade practices.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Spender), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 6, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 21 **HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BILL 1985:** Mr Howe (Minister representing the Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to financial assistance to the States and to the Northern Territory in connection with the provision of home and community care services.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Howe moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 **HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985:** Mr Howe (Minister representing the Minister for Community Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make amendments of various Acts providing for home and community care services, and for related purposes.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Howe moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 23 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND REPATRIATION (BUDGET MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to social security, repatriation and related matters.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Howe moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr White), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 **BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1985:** Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Broadcasting and Television Act 1942* and the *Broadcasting and Television Amendment Act 1985*, and for related purposes.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Duffy moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr White), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 **TELECOM AUSTRALIA—STATE HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, SYDNEY—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of State head office building for Telecom Australia, Sydney.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and passed.

- 26 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CANBERRA NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE—FITOUT FOR COMMONWEALTH USE:** 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: Fitout of office space at Canberra National Convention Centre, Canberra City, for Commonwealth use.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 27 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—TELECOM AUSTRALIA—RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CENTRE, CLAYTON, VIC.:** 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: Telecom Australia—Resources Management Centre, Clayton, Vic.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 28 **EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS ON ABORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the interim and final reports of the Standing Committee on Expenditure's inquiry into the Aboriginal Development Commission.

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

- 29 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 7.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.56 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 October 1985:  
Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—  
Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 60.  
Telecommunications (General)—Amendment No. 45.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Aldred\*, Mr Braithwaite, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Dobie, Mr Everingham, Mr Gear, Mr Hayden, Mr Hodgman, Mr Humphreys\*, Mr Hurford, Mr Lindsay\*, Mr MacKellar, Mr McVeigh, Mr Rocher\* and Mr Scott.

\*On leave

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