

1985

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 48

THURSDAY, 10 OCTOBER 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 **PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:** Mr Speaker referred to the matter of privilege raised yesterday by Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) concerning 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 the circumstances outlined by the Member did not indicate an obstruction or impediment such as would be held to constitute a contempt, bearing in mind that the Parliament had passed a law on the matter and had not made any special comprehensive exemptions in respect of Members. Mr Speaker stated that, on the information available, no *prima facie* case of breach of privilege had been established.
- 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

- Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.
On the motion of Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), by leave, the following amendments were made together:
Clause 27—
Page 29, line 19, omit “of the present values”.
Page 29, line 27, after “values” insert “of the payment portions”.
Bill, as amended, agreed to.
Bill to be reported with amendments.

- The House resumed; Mrs Darling reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Cohen, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.
- 4 **INCOME TAX (INDIVIDUALS) 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 Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), the Bill was read a third time.

- 5 **INCOME TAX (COMPANIES, CORPORATE UNIT TRUSTS AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) 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 Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), the Bill was read a third time.

- 6 **MEDICARE LEVY 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 Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), the Bill was read a third time.

- 7 **REFORM OF THE AUSTRALIAN TAXATION SYSTEM—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 8 October 1985*), viz.:

Reform of the Australian taxation system—Ministerial statement by Mr Keating, Treasurer, dated September 1985, together with attachments—

Debate resumed.

Mr Carlton moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “this House, whilst welcoming the promised relief of double taxation of dividends and the promised reductions in marginal taxation rates, believes that the tax package presented by the Treasurer falls well short of the fundamental and lasting reform of our taxation system so frequently promised by the Government, and more specifically—

- (1) condemns the proposed introduction of the new capital gains tax;
- (2) notes that under the Government’s proposals the share of revenue carried by personal income tax will continue to rise;
- (3) condemns the arbitrary nature of the attack on fringe benefits and entertainment expenses;
- (4) expresses grave concern over the effects on enterprise, investment and employment due to the additional cost burdens on business arising from the capital gains tax, the higher rate of company tax, the fringe benefits tax and the loss of deductions for legitimate entertaining expenses;
- (5) regrets the package will have an adverse and discriminatory impact upon rural Australia;
- (6) notes the particular discriminatory nature of the attack on the deductibility of farm losses against non-farm income, and
- (7) condemns the proposed foreign tax credit system as likely to discourage investment by Australian companies in our region”.

Debate continued.

Mr Reith 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.

- 8 **COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES (EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS) BILL 1985:** Mr Shack, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision with respect to certain matters concerning Commonwealth employees.
Bill read a first time.

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

Debate, by leave, ensued.

Mr McGauran addressing the House—

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 notice No. 1 be extended until 2 p.m.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Punch was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction) presented the following paper:

Internal rates of return for investors in residential property—Table and attachment.

Questions without notice continued.

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

Fisheries Act—Copy of agreement between the Commonwealth and KKFC Proprietary Limited, dated 18 July 1985.

Human Rights Commission Act—Human Rights Commission—Report No. 15—The human rights of Australian-born children: A report on the complaint of Mr and Mrs M. Yilmaz, dated August 1985, together with statement by Mr Bowen, Attorney-General.

Independent Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—Statement of guarantees and payments, for 1983-84.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Criminal Injuries Compensation Ordinance—Report on the operation of the Ordinance, for 1984-85.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Beale, Mr Chynoweth, Mr Halverson, Mr Hand, Mr Hawker, Mr Holding, Mr Lloyd, Mr McArthur, Mr Macphee and Mr O'Keefe— from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Fife and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Fife and 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 Carlton, Mr Hollis and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.

Mrs Darling, Mr Fife 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 Bilney—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 Hollis and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.

Mr Hollis and Mr Ruddock—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 Keating—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that the concessional price of fuel in rural areas be restored.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that urgent financial assistance be provided to the sugar industry.
- 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 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 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.
- 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 built at Badgery's Creek, NSW, and surrounding districts.
- Mr Hand—from certain citizens praying that the Fitzroy South Post Office, Vic., not be closed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hollis—from certain citizens praying that efforts for nuclear disarmament be intensified, US military bases on Australian soil be removed and the Pacific and Indian Oceans be kept nuclear free.
- 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 Jacobi—from certain citizens praying that cuts to pre-school funding be reversed.
- Mr Miles—from certain citizens praying that sales tax be replaced by a broad based consumption tax with a uniform ad valorem rate.
- 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 Nehl—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to increase the burden of capital gains and wealth taxes be rejected.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the European Parliament's resolution in respect of the Baltic States be supported.
- Mr Sharp—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.

Petitions received.

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

10 October 1985—Message—

No. 133—States Grants (Petroleum Products) Amendment 1985.

No. 134—Grain Legumes Levy 1985 (*without requests*).

No. 135—Grain Legumes Levy Collection 1985.

No. 136—Wheat Tax Amendment 1985 (*without requests*).

13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT'S EXPENDITURE ON POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROJECTS: The House was informed that Mr Tuckey had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's

wasteful abuse of scarce taxpayers' funds by expenditure on politically motivated projects".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Tuckey addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BOUNTY (METAL WORKING MACHINES AND ROBOTS) BILL 1985:** Message No. 130, dated 9 October 1985, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to provide for the payment of bounty on the production of certain metal working machines, certain robots and related equipment, 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.

- 15 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BOUNTY (AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS AND EQUIPMENT) BILL 1985:** Message No. 131, dated 9 October 1985, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to provide for the payment of bounty on the production of certain tractors, tractor cabs and related equipment, 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.

- 16 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (GRANTS) AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Message No. 132, dated 10 October 1985, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to end financial assistance under the 'Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Grants) Act 1980', 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.

- 17 **CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 10 (1985):** Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 10 (1985).

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

- 18 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

10 October 1985—Message No. 137—Petermann Aboriginal Land Trust (Boundaries) 1985.

- 19 **REFORM OF THE AUSTRALIAN TAXATION SYSTEM—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 8 October 1985*), viz.:

Reform of the Australian taxation system—Ministerial statement by Mr Keating, Treasurer, dated September 1985, together with attachments—

And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 7)—

Debate resumed.

Mr Cowan addressing the House—

- 20 **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 October 1985:

Public Service Act—Determination—1985—No. 80.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 9 October 1985.

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

*On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives