

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 72

TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1986

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- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984-85.  
National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council—Report for period 15 March 1984 to 30 June 1985.
- 4 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Hawker, Mr McArthur and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
  - Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms.
  - Mr Blunt and Mr Rocher—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 Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond and certain residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that the total ban on entertainment expenses be abandoned and tax deductibility be allowed for legitimate and necessary expenses.
  - Mr Blunt and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond and certain residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that depreciation be allowed on all buildings used to produce rental income.
  - Mr Blunt and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Fisher, respectively, praying that means be sought for the protection of the people's interests to prevent Ayers Rock being handed over to an Aboriginal Land Council.
  - 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 Nehl and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the export of koalas be discontinued, their habitats be revegetated and funding be made available for research into koala diseases.
  - Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that the Kerin dairy plan be rejected.

- Mr Halverson—from certain citizens praying that prescribed drugs remain free to the aged.
- 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 any proposal to increase the burden of capital gains and wealth taxes be rejected.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Enterprise Migrant Hostel, Vic., be reversed.
- Mr McArthur—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*.
- Ms McHugh—from certain citizens praying that the closure of North Randwick Post Office, NSW, be prevented.
- Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that an office of the South West Africa People's Organisation be funded in Australia and certain other action be taken to support the Namibian people.
- Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that both the Australian Bill of Rights Bill and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Bill be rejected.
- 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 Sharp—from certain citizens praying that the Illawarra region's only locally-based television station not be removed from VHF to UHF transmission.
- Mr Slipper—from certain electors praying that legislation be introduced or amended to permit negotiated employment contracts as an alternative for those who do not wish to have a trade union acting for them.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their former level.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher and certain residents of Queensland 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 Division of Fisher praying that the 1985 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 Staples—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 Staples—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 Staples—from certain citizens praying that the introduction of a compulsory identification card be rejected.
- Mr Staples—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.
- Dr Watson—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Petitions received.

- 5 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Saunderson be appointed a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, in the place of Mr Wright, resigned.
- Question—put and passed.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PETROL PRICE REDUCTIONS AND TAX CUTS:** The House was informed 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 implications of the revolt of the gang of seven Ministers on the Government's ability to honour its promises on petrol price reductions and tax cuts".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 PROTECTION OF MOVABLE CULTURAL HERITAGE 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—

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), the following amendment was made, after debate: Clause 25, page 11, at the end of the clause add the following sub-clause:

"(4) Without limiting the generality of paragraph (3) (f), regulations made for the purposes of that paragraph may confer powers and functions, and impose duties, on the Auditor-General and, in particular, may apply section 63G of the *Audit Act 1901* in relation to the Fund with such modifications as are specified in the regulations."

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay 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.

- 8 MINISTERS OF STATE AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** 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.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 116, dated 14 February 1986, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Young (Special Minister of State), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** 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.

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

- 10 ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Debate extended:* It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.10 p.m., Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 February 1986:

Defence Act—Determination—1986—No. 4—Education Allowance and other allowances.

Family Law Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1985, Nos. 341, 342.

Treaties—Text of—

Which have been signed by Australia and which require further treaty action by Australia before the treaty can enter into force for Australia—

- (1) Final Acts of the First Session of the World Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunications Union on the Use of the Geostationary Satellite Orbit signed at Geneva on 13 September 1985, signed for Australia on 13 September 1985.
- (2) Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984, signed for Australia on 10 December 1985.
- (3) Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the People's Republic of China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation of Income and Revenues Derived by Air Transport Enterprises from International Air Transport, signed at Beijing on 22 November 1985.
- (4) Reciprocal Agreement between Australia and Italy in the Matter of Health Assistance, signed at Rome on 9 January 1986.

To which Australia has become a party by signature—

- (5) Exchange of Notes at Canberra on 26 November 1985 constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan further extending the Agreement on Co-operation in Research and Development in Science and Technology, done at Canberra on 27 November 1980. The Agreement entered into force on 26 November 1985.
- (6) Exchange of Notes at Bangkok on 3 September 1982 and 17 May 1984 constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand amending the Agreement relating to Air Services, done at Bangkok on 26 February 1960. The Agreement entered into force on 17 May 1984.
- (7) Subsidiary Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Korea concerning Squid Jigging by fishing vessels of the Republic of Korea, signed at Canberra on 28 November 1985. The Agreement was deemed to have entered into force on 1 October 1985 pursuant to the provisions of Article X.
- (8) Exchange of Notes at Singapore on 18 and 24 July 1985 constituting an Agreement between Australia and Singapore to Terminate the Agreement concerning the Provision of Treatment in Singapore Hospitals for Asian Residents of Christmas Island, signed at Singapore on 27 June 1968. The Agreement entered into force pursuant to the provision of the Notes on 16 October 1985.
- (9) Exchange of Notes at Washington on 15 October 1985 and 10 January 1986 constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America further extending and amending the Agreement relating to Scientific and Technical Co-operation, signed at Canberra on 16 October 1968. The Agreement

entered into force pursuant to the provisions of the Notes on 16 October 1985.

Which Australia has accepted or to which Australia has acceded—

- (10) Convention on the Recognition of Divorces and Legal Separations, done at The Hague on 1 June 1970, acceded to by Australia on 24 September 1985. The Convention entered into force for Australia on 23 November 1985.
- (11) Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific, done at Bangkok on 16 December 1983, accepted by Australia on 23 September 1985. The Convention entered into force on 22 October 1985.

To which Australia has become a party by ratification—

- (12) Convention (No. 142) concerning Vocational Guidance and Vocational Training in the Development of Human Resources, signed at Geneva on 23 June 1975, ratified by Australia on 10 September 1985. The Convention will enter into force for Australia on 9 September 1986.
- (13) Convention (No. 150) concerning Labour Administration: Role, Functions and Organisation, signed at Geneva on 26 June 1978, ratified by Australia on 10 September 1985. The Convention will enter into force for Australia on 9 September 1986.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Burr, Mr Griffiths, Mr Hodgman and Mr P. F. Morris.

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