

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 98

TUESDAY, 20 MAY 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 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Bowen (Acting Prime Minister) informed the House of the following ministerial arrangements during the respective absences abroad of Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), Mr Hayden (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Hurford (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) and Senator Evans (Minister for Resources and Energy):
 - He was acting as Prime Minister;
 - Senator Button (Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs and would be represented in this House by Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence);
 - Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) was acting as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) was acting as Minister Assisting the Treasurer;
 - Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories) was acting as Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment, and
 - Mr Jones (Minister for Science) was acting as Minister for Resources and Energy.
 - 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 4 **TREASURER AND GOVERNMENT—MOTION OF CENSURE:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, moved—That this House censures the Treasurer and the Government for—
 - (1) having deceived and misled the Australian public about the real state of the Australian economy for at least the past 12 months;
 - (2) the chronic loss of confidence and instability created by the public displays of disunity and point scoring between the Treasurer and the Prime Minister;
 - (3) the intemperate language of the Treasurer in explaining his latest diagnosis of the Australian economy, and
 - (4) the Treasurer's failure to inform fully the Australian people of the Government's current views of the economy and the policy response it proposes.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr McLeay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 59

Mr Adermann	Mr Conquest	Mr Hodges	Mr Reith
Mr Aldred	Mr Cowan	Mr Hodgman	Mr Robinson
Mr Andrew*	Mr Dobie	Mr Howard	Mr Rocher
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr Blunt	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Shack
Mr Braithwaite	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Everingham	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Slipper
Mr Cadman	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr McVeigh	Mr Spender
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Millar	Dr Watson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mr Webster
Mr Carlton	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Mr White
Mr Coleman	Mr Hawker	Mr Peacock	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	

NOES, 72

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

- 5 **WOMEN'S BUSINESS—REPORT BY ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S TASK FORCE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) presented the following paper:

Women's business—Report of the Aboriginal Women's Task Force.

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

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for March 1986.

Australian Environment Council—Draft summary record of proceedings—17th meeting, Norfolk Island, 27 May 1985.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Pharmaceutical products, dated 4 April 1986 (No. 382).

National Health Act—Report on the operations of the registered health insurance organizations for 1984-85.

Nature Conservation Ministers—Council—Summary record of proceedings—14th meeting, Norfolk Island, 30 May 1985.

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984-85.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Health Services Ordinance—Australian Capital Territory Health Authority—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984-85.

7 REGIONAL COMMERCIAL TELEVISION SERVICES—FUTURE DEVELOPMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's intentions in relation to future development of regional commercial television services in the next decade.

Mr Moore, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

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

Mr Blunt, Mr Halverson, Mr Hunt and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that no cut backs be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Fife, Mr Hodges and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.

Mr Blunt, Mr Robinson and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Page and certain residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

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

Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Maher and Mr Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the standard pension be raised to 25% of average weekly earnings and certain other action be taken to assist pensioners and low income earners.

Mr Free, Mr Hicks and Mr Price—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.

Mr Blunt and Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Page, respectively, praying that the superannuation claim of the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.

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

Mr Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson; and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.

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

Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Fife and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Hunt—from certain citizens; and Mr Hawker—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the proposed capital gains tax legislation be introduced without delay and that it be rejected.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the world oil parity pricing policy be adhered to and the full flow on of the drop in world oil prices be given to the Australian public and business sector.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that a bi-partisan commitment to world-wide nuclear disarmament be made.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill not be passed.

Mr Carlton—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 the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

- Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Coleman—from certain citizens praying that new initiatives be taken to encourage all member states of the United Nations to conclude a treaty banning all nuclear weapons tests and that certain other action be taken in relation to nuclear weapons tests.
- Mr Coleman—from certain citizens praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- 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.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Orion family be granted residency status.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that the British Government be urged to improve the treatment of women prisoners in Armagh Gaol, Northern Ireland.
- Mr Hunt—from certain electors of the Division of Cowper praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill and associated Bills be rejected, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission be abolished and ratification of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights be withdrawn.
- Mrs Kelly—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to ensure all legal barriers to the equality of women workers are removed.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr Lindsay—from certain citizens praying that home loan subsidies be extended to include building society borrowers.
- Mr Mildren—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Constitution be reformed in order to recognise significant public expressions of concern.
- Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the north coast of New South Wales praying that the ABC radio studio in Grafton be retained and that the Grafton City Council's submission on the second regional radio network be heeded.
- 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 Scott—from certain citizens praying that importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.
- Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that the Government of Sri Lanka be persuaded to pursue a political solution to allow the Tamils to live in peace and dignity and certain other action be taken to aid the Tamils.
- Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying for official recognition of the African National Congress and the South West Africa Peoples Organisation and that certain other financial and humanitarian support be given to the South African and Namibian people.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that measures be taken to reduce the burden of imposed costs and regulation on Australian horticultural growers.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their former level.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the total ban on entertainment expenses be abandoned and tax deductibility be allowed for legitimate and necessary expenses.
- 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 home loan interest rates be tax deductible.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that means be sought for the protection of the people's interests to reverse the decision to hand Ayers Rock over to an Aboriginal Land Council.

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

Mr Young—from certain electors of the Division of Port Adelaide praying that the Exeter Post Office remain open.

Petitions received.

9 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—STATE OF ECONOMY: 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 gross misrepresentation by the Government of the true state of the economy until the Treasurer's radio interview last week and the resulting rapid deterioration in Australian living standards".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton rising to address the House—

Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Drummond, in the Chair)—

AYES, 70

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

NOES, 54

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Conquest	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Cowan	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Mr Dobie	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Mr Downer	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Everingham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Slipper
Mr Cadman	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mr Spender
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Moore	Dr Watson
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mr Webster
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Halverson	Mr Peacock	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hawker	Mr Porter	
Mr Coleman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS:

Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, moved—

(1) That, in accordance with section 4 of the *Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry Act 1986*—

(a) the Honourable Sir George Hermann Lush, the Honourable Sir Richard Arthur Blackburn and the Honourable William Andrew Wells be appointed members of the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry, and

(b) the Honourable Sir George Hermann Lush be appointed the Presiding Member.

(2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution agreed to by the House of Representatives.

Question—put and passed.

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

9 May 1986 a.m.—Message No. 258—Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry 1986.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

13 May 1986—Message—

No. 144—Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry 1986.

No. 145—Customs Administration (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) 1986.

No. 146—

Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage 1986.

Live-stock Export Charge Amendment 1986.

Dairying Industry Research and Promotion Levy Amendment 1986.

Community Employment Amendment 1986.

Apple and Pear Export Underwriting Amendment 1986.

Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Amendment 1986.

Trade Practices Revision 1986.

Oil Companies (Stock Loss Reimbursement) 1986.

Wool Industry Amendment 1986.

Excise Tariff Amendment 1986.

No. 147—

Barley Research Levy Amendment 1986.

Dried Fruits Levy Amendment 1986.

Live-stock Slaughter Levy Amendment 1986.

Meat Chicken Levy Amendment 1986.

Pig Slaughter Levy Amendment 1986.

Ministers of State Amendment 1986.

19 May 1986—Message No. 148—

Veterans' Entitlements 1986.

Veterans' Entitlements (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) 1986.

Veterans' Entitlements (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Amendment 1986.

13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) 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.

Paper: Mr McGauran, by leave, presented the following paper:

Funds for roads—Letter from K. H. Godridge, Shire Engineer, Shire of Woorayl, Vic., to Mr McGauran, MP, dated 13 May 1986.

Debate continued.

Mr Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services) addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Uren requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—
Question—put and negatived.

Mr Uren continued his speech.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 149, dated 2 May 1986, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 5, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 6—

On the motion of Mr Uren, the following amendment was made: Page 5, lines 1 and 3, omit “capital assistance grants” (twice occurring), substitute “capital assistance payments”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 7 and 8, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 9—

On the motion of Mr Moore, the following amendment was made, after debate: Page 9, after sub-clause (8) insert the following sub-clause:

“(8A) In reviewing, under sub-section (8), principles applicable to a State, the Minister shall, after the relevant State Minister has consulted a body or bodies representative of local government in the State with respect to the proposed review, consult with the relevant State Minister.”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Uren, by leave, the House adopted the report.

Mr Uren, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 May 1986:

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1986, Nos. 95, 96.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 92.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 93.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, Nos. 89, 91, 94.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Regulations—Declaration of defence practice areas, dated 8 April 1986.

Determinations—1986—

No. 20—Intermediate Term Duty Living Allowance and other allowances.

No. 22—Travelling Allowance and other allowances.

No. 23—Temporary Rental Allowance.

Dried Vine Fruits Equalization Levy Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 88.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Order—1986—No. 6—Export Meat (Amendment).

Fisheries Act—Plan of Management—No. 6—Northern Prawn Fishery (Amendment).

Health Insurance Act—

Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 87.

Statement of particulars of Ministerial determination made pursuant to section 106AA, dated 30 April 1986.

National Health Act—Principles formulated under sub-section 39A (6), dated 15 May 1986.

Norfolk Island Act—Regulations—1986—No. 5 (Census and Statistics Ordinance).

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following Acts and sections of Acts shall come into operation—

Bankruptcy Amendment Act 1985—19 May 1986.

Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1985—Section 7 and the amendment of section 41 of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*—7 April 1986.

Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986—22 May 1986.

Veterans' Entitlements (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1986—22 May 1986.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Determinations listing fees and charges for purposes of Health Authority Ordinance, dated 30 April 1986.

Ordinance—1986—No. 7—Legal Practitioners (Amendment).

Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 90.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cobb, Mr Cohen, Mrs Darling, Mr Hawke, Mr Hayden, Mr Hunt, Mr Hurford, Mr Lloyd, Mr Macphee, Mr Scott, Mr Simmons, Mr Smith and Mrs Sullivan.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives