

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 115

WEDNESDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1986

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PETITIONS—SESSIONAL ORDER: Mr Young (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the following amendment to standing order 112 be adopted for the remainder of this session:

Petition to be lodged with Clerk

Standing order 112 be amended to read—

112. Every petition shall be lodged with the Clerk by 5 p.m. on the working day previous to the meeting of the House at which it is proposed that it be presented.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—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 Carlton, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the passage of this Bill, the House condemns the Government for—

(1) the failure of the Budget to tackle Australia’s fundamental economic problems, namely—

- (a) the record and rising level of overseas debt;
- (b) excessively high levels of government spending and taxation;
- (c) an inflation rate 4 times the average of our major trading partners;
- (d) interest rates once again approaching 20%;
- (e) a wages policy that does not take account of the capacity of individual enterprises to pay, and
- (f) the pernicious effects of the anti-business, anti-investment taxes such as the capital gains tax and the fringe benefits tax, and

(2) the loss of Australia’s AAA international credit rating following the failure of the Budget”—

Debate resumed.

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

Government’s trilogy of commitments—Table.

Debate continued.

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 being asked—

Paper: Mr Reith, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations)—

Mr Willis laid upon the Table the following paper:

Compulsory work-for-the-dole scheme—Notes, dated 17 September 1986.

Questions without notice continued.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statements for April, May, June, July and August 1986.

Advance to the Minister for Finance for 1985-86—Statement of Heads of Expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.

British nuclear tests in Australia—Royal Commission—Report—Government response to recommendations—Statement by Senator Evans, Minister for Resources and Energy.

Care of aged people—Statement by Senator Grimes, Minister for Community Services, dated August 1986.

Disability services—Statement by Senator Grimes, Minister for Community Services.

6 ELECTORAL REFORM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT ON DETERMINING THE ENTITLEMENT OF FEDERAL TERRITORIES AND NEW STATES TO REPRESENTATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Young (Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:

Electoral Reform—Joint Select Committee—Report No. 1—Determining the entitlement of federal Territories and new States to representation in the Commonwealth Parliament—Government response.

Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security) 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.

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

Mr Adermann, Mr Beale, Mr Beazley, Mr Blanchard, Mr Blunt, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Brumby, Mr Carlton, Mr Charles, Mr Cobb, Mr Cohen, Mr Dobie, Mr Everingham, Mr Fife, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Hall, Mr Hicks, Mr Jenkins, Mr McGauran, Mr McVeigh, Mr Martin, Mr Millar, Mr Nehl, Mr Price, Mr Robinson, Mr Scott, Mr Spender, Mr Tuckey and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr Hall, Mr Jenkins, Mr McGauran, Mr McVeigh and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.

Mr Brumby, Mr Langmore and 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 Beale and Mr McGauran—from certain citizens praying that family allowances be indexed and certain other action be taken to assist families.

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

- Mr Campbell and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that no cutbacks be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that capital funding be provided for the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that no reductions be made to repatriation benefits in the 1986 Budget.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.
- Mr Hall—from certain citizens praying that the right of employees to select their own superannuation scheme be guaranteed and certain other action be taken in relation to superannuation.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Hicks—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that SBS television continue to be made available to citizens in rural areas by means of the Aussat satellite.
- Mr Hollis—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' Wollongong area office be kept operational and fully staffed.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Lalor/Thomastown, Vic.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.
- Mr Nehl—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 Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that exhibition of the film "Hail Mary" be prevented.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens; and Mr Nehl—from certain residents of the Division of Cowper praying that the superannuation claim of the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens; and Mr Nehl—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.

Mr Price—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 Price—from certain citizens praying that Harp and Hooded Seals be listed on Appendix 1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

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 Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that funding for English as a second language programs be restored to the 1985 level.

Petitions received.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NEW TAXING MEASURES:

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 failure to explain adequately the operation of its new taxing measures, including the fringe benefits tax, and the resulting confusion and disincentive for business—big and small".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Tuckey addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Ruddock presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

250th Report—Review of the discontinuance of the efficiency audit of Australia

Post—Administration of counter services—

and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

10 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Ordered—That notice No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

11 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1986: Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various laws relating to health, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Dr Blewett moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Dr Blewett presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

12 CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1986: Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901* and the *Excise Act 1901*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

13 SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1986: Mr Jones (Minister for Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Science and Industry Research Act 1949* and the *Science and Industry Endowment Act 1926*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 14 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—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 Carlton (see entry No. 3)—*

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Grace), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 15 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1986:** Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Hurford presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Taxation Laws Amendment (No. 3) 1986.

Bank Account Debits Tax Amendment 1986.

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

- 16 **BANK ACCOUNT DEBITS TAX AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Bank Account Debits Tax Act 1982*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hurford 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.

- 17 **SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER BENEFITS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** Mr Hurford (Minister representing the Minister for Finance), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend certain Acts and Regulations relating to Superannuation and similar Benefits, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Hurford presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 18 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—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 Carlton (see entry No. 3)—*

Debate resumed.

Mr Campbell addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 September 1986:

Defence Act—Determination—1986—No. 56—Travelling Allowance and other allowances.

Health Insurance Act—Statements (2) of particulars of Ministerial determinations made pursuant to section 106AA, dated 8 September 1986.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Plans of Management, together with representations and comments of the Director on the representations pursuant to section 11, for—

Christmas Island National Park.

Kakadu National Park.

Uluru (Ayers Rock—Mount Olga) National Park.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cleeland, Mr Cunningham, Mr Dawkins, Mr Free, Mr Griffiths, Mr Halverson, Mr Jacobi, Mr Katter, Mrs Kelly, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton*, Mr Staples and Mrs Sullivan.

*On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives