

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 119

TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 1986

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **FILMING IN CHAMBER—STATEMENT BY MADAM SPEAKER:** Madam Speaker informed the House that filming of proceedings would take place throughout the afternoon in connection with the production of an education kit for schools and that, in addition, television networks would film proceedings during question time to update the footage used in illustrating news items.
- 3 **PRIVILEGE—ADVERTISEMENTS IN "SYDNEY MORNING HERALD"—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Madam Speaker referred to the matter of privilege raised yesterday by Mr Coleman concerning advertisements placed in *The Sydney Morning Herald* in which his electorate office telephone number had been listed without his permission and stated that she was prepared to accord precedence to a motion in connection with the matter.
Mr Coleman then moved—That the matter of the disruption caused to the work of the electorate office of the honourable Member for Wentworth by telephone calls made in response to false advertisements in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 September 1986 be referred to the Committee of Privileges.
Question—put and passed.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Papers: Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) presented the following papers:
Travelling allowance—Definition of "principal place of residence"—Copies of letters from—
Sir Peter Lawler, Secretary, Department of Administrative Services, to Mr Justice D. L. Mahoney, Chairman, Remuneration Tribunal, dated 16 November 1982.
Mr Justice Mahoney to Sir Peter Lawler, dated 17 November 1982.
Questions without notice continued.
- 5 **EFFICIENCY AUDIT—REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL—PUBLICATION OF PAPER:**
Madam Speaker presented the following paper:
Efficiency audit—Commonwealth Schools Commission: administration of capital grants to non-government schools—Report of the Auditor-General, dated 22 September 1986.
Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—
(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Report of the Auditor-General, dated 22 September 1986, upon an efficiency audit of the Commonwealth Schools Commission: administration of capital grants to non-government schools, and
(2) That the report be printed.
Question—put and passed.

6 PAPER: Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Public Service Act—Department of the House of Representatives—Report for 1985-86.

7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Research and Development Corporation Act—Australian Meat and Live-stock Research and Development Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 31 March 1986.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Beale, Dr Blewett, Mr Blunt, Mr Cadman, Mr Carlton, Mr Conquest, Mr Cowan, Mrs Darling, Mr Drummond, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Hawker, Mr Howard, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, Mr O'Neil, Mr Porter, Mr Reith, Mr Robinson, Mr Shack, Mr Slipper, Dr Watson and Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr Hollis, Mr Kent, Mr Milton 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.

Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker 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 to the last preceding petition.

Mr Hawker, Mr Kent and Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.

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

Mr Jenkins, Mr Kent and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the US Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.

Mr Kent, Mr Milton and Mr Scott—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 E. C. Cameron and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be opposed and certain other action be taken in relation to the Bill.

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 Carlton and Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.

Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

Mr Hawker and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.

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

- Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the decision to phase down the Glen Waverley Rehabilitation Centre, Vic., be reversed.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Shack—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Government launch a public appeal to help the Chernobyl victims and certain action be taken to restrict Soviet nuclear activity.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that proclamation of the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be delayed until a referendum has been held.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Wollongong office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs be reversed.
- Mr Cadman—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.
- Mr Cowan—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 Cowan—from certain citizens praying that the threshold amount which renders applicants for pensions ineligible under the assets test be increased.
- 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 Drummond—from certain citizens praying that sub-section 16 (2) of the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended so that the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal shall consult the public when determining television standards and screening hours.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be cancelled.
- Mr Drummond—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the 20% sales tax on wine be cancelled.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- 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 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 Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Lalor/Thomastown, Vic.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that all prescribed medicines be provided to pensioners free of charge.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that announcers on the Albanian program on radio 3EA be replaced with community representatives.
- Mr Milton—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the decision to sell uranium to France be reversed.

Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the Income Tax Assessment Amendment (Capital Gains) Act be repealed.

Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that pony clubs be given tax exempt status.

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

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 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 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 proposed fringe benefits tax be abandoned.

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

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland 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.

Petitions received.

- 9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SYSTEM:** 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 urgent need in Australia for an industrial relations system which makes all parties equal before the law and provides incentives for enterprise-based productivity gains".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 10 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science), by leave, moved—That Mr Rocher be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and that, in his place, Dr Watson be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 EXCISE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS:** Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved—
Excise Tariff Proposals No. 10 (1986), and
Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 15 and 16 (1986).

Debate adjourned (Mr Sinclair—Leader of the National Party of Australia), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 12 SUPERANNUATION AND OTHER BENEFITS LEGISLATION 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 by Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House—"

- (1) expresses its concern that the level of discounting of superannuation, Defence Forces Retirement Benefits (DFRB) and Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (DFRDB) pensions imposed by the legislation has not yet been proposed in a National Wage Case, let alone given effect by a decision of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, and notes that—
- (a) the Bill imposes on Commonwealth superannuitants, without consultation, a burden greater than that proposed for the community generally, in that it will come into effect before equivalent discounting of wages is even considered;
 - (b) discounting of DFRB and DFRDB pensions further erodes conditions of service in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at a time when ADF resignations are at near-crisis level, and
 - (c) the Bill breaks, for the second time, Labor's 1983 election promise not to cut DFRB and DFRDB benefits, and
- (2) further calls on the Government to direct the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal, as a matter of urgency, to inquire into the adequacy of pay and conditions of service in the ADF compared with those in the private sector and public service”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 66

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

NOES, 49

Mr Adermann	Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Andrew*	Mr Dobie	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Beale	Mr Drummond	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper
Mr Blunt	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Spender
Mr Burr	Mr Everingham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sullivan
Mr Cadman	Mr Fife	Mr Macphree	Mr Tuckey
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Dr Watson
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mr Webster
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mr White
Mr Cobb	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Coleman	Mr Hodges	Mr Reith	
Mr Connolly	Mr Hunt	Mr Robinson	
Mr Conquest	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hurford (Minister representing the Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third time.

13 AUSTRALIAN LAND TRANSPORT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) 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 by Mr Lloyd who moved, as an amendment—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 its disgraceful neglect of the nation’s roads by—

- (1) being responsible for a dramatic fall in federal expenditure in real terms since 1983-84 from 2.12% of total budget outlays to 1.95% in 1984-85, and 1.78% in 1985-86 and an estimated 1.67% this financial year, as measured by the Australian Automobile Association;
- (2) retaining federal expenditure on roads at the same nominal level at \$1245 million for the third year in succession;
- (3) creating the dismal record of being responsible for the only 2 years since 1976-77 of not increasing federal road expenditure in nominal terms;
- (4) reducing the allocation to roads while at the same time increasing fuel excise tax by over 300% in 3 years of government;
- (5) artificially reducing the budget deficit by \$24 million and depriving the Australian Land Transport Program (ALTP) of this much needed finance, which has already been collected and allocated from fuel excise tax, and
- (6) generally abusing the trust fund principle for the ALTP and the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Trust Fund to cover the reduction in the Government’s budgetary commitment to roads”.

Debate continued.

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

14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport) moved--That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mr McVeigh, by leave, presented the following papers:

Royal Life-Saving Society—Tasmanian head centre—Photocopy of front page of 24th annual report and balance sheet for 1938-39.

Sport and recreation programs—Extracts from Budget papers.

Debate continued.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Blanchard, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cleeland, Mr Dawkins, Mr Free, Mr Griffiths, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Hayden, Mr Humphreys, Mr Jacobi, Mr Katter, Mrs Kelly, Mr Moore, Mr Punch, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton* and Mr Staples.

* On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives