

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 121

THURSDAY, 25 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 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved— That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 7 October 1986, at 2 p.m., unless Madam Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

3 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS REPEAL 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 Cadman 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) is of the opinion that the Government’s decision to abolish the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs
 - (a) will break yet another promise to the Australian community;
 - (b) will establish a bureaucratically controlled research office;
 - (c) has ignored the Government’s own Review of Migrant and Multicultural Programs and Services;
 - (d) does not achieve savings of the magnitude announced by the Government;
 - (e) signals a downgrading of many important programs, and
 - (f) was instigated without any consultation or consideration for those who would be affected, and
- (2) further calls on the Government to explain how it intends to obtain data of the kind and quality provided by the Institute in order that governments, generally, might make appropriate decisions regarding our society”.

Debate continued.

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

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

AYES, 63

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

NOES, 50

Mr Adermann	Mr Downer	Mr McGauran	Mr Ruddock
Mr Aldred	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sharp
Mr Andrew*	Mr Everingham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sinclair
Mr Beale	Mr Fife	Mr Macphee	Mr Slipper
Mr Blunt	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Smith
Mr Braithwaite	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mr Spender
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Cadman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hodges	Mr Peacock	Dr Watson
Mr Cobb	Mr Hodgman	Mr Porter	Mr Webster
Mr Coleman	Mr Hunt	Mr Reith	Mr Wilson
Mr Conquest	Mr Lloyd	Mr Robinson	
Mr Cowan	Mr McArthur	Mr Rocher	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Postponement of general business:

Mr Hurford (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, moved—
That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent general business being postponed until passage of order of the day No. 1, government business.

Question—put and passed.

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 180, dated 21 August 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 Hurford, the Bill was read a third time.

4 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—POSTPONEMENT OF GENERAL BUSINESS

NOTICE: Mr McLeay, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 1, general business, being postponed to a later hour this day.

Question—put and passed.

5 BALTIC STATES OF LATVIA, LITHUANIA AND ESTONIA—HUMAN RIGHTS

UNDER USSR: Dr Klugman, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House—

Noting that—

- (a) the 3 Baltic States, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, were independent sovereign republics and members of the League of Nations from 1918 to 1940;

- (b) in 1940, as a consequence of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the USSR and Nazi Germany, the 3 States were incorporated into the USSR by military force and in a manner which violated elementary principles of freedom, democracy and justice;
 - (c) like other democratic governments, Australia does not recognise *de jure* the incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR;
 - (d) under Soviet rule, well-documented violations of human rights have occurred and continue to occur in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, and
 - (e) as a result of existing Soviet policies on indigenous languages and immigration, the very survival of the Baltic peoples as separate ethnic and cultural entities is endangered.
- (1) acknowledges the concern felt by the members of the Australian community over the situation in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, particularly the repression of individuals engaging in the non-violent expression of their ethnic and cultural identity and religious convictions;
 - (2) commends the Government for its action in bringing this concern to the attention of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights at the Commission's meetings in March 1985 and March 1986;
 - (3) invites the Government, on its own initiative and in consultation with like-minded governments, to continue to raise formally the question of self-determination and other human rights for the Baltic States before appropriate international forums;
 - (4) calls upon the Government of the USSR to end acts of repression against the Baltic peoples and to abide by the commitments which it has entered into under the various international covenants on human rights to which it is a signatory, and
 - (5) requests the Speaker to bring this resolution to the attention of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

6 AUSTRALIAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY: Mr McLeay, pursuant to notice, moved—
That this House—

- (1) congratulates the Government on the success of its policy of improving the efficiency of the Australian shipping industry, and
- (2) commends the turnaround in operating results of the Australian National Line, resulting in a \$22 million improvement in 1983-84 over 1982-83.

Mr Lloyd moved, as an amendment—That all words after "House" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

- "(1) commends the Fraser/Anthony Government on the success of its policy of improving the efficiency of the Australian shipping industry by—
- (a) the introduction of the Crawford Report incentives in relation to the purchase of Australian flag ships, and
 - (b) introducing the Australian Shipping Commission Amendment Bill 1982 to create a more commercially oriented Australian National Line;
- (2) condemns the Government for—
- (a) terminating the Crawford incentives;
 - (b) maintaining Australia's unenviable world record in 1985 of 21.54% of all maritime strike insurance claims;
 - (c) failing to improve the loading efficiency for containers, grain and other bulk tonnage beyond the current half to two thirds per hour rate of Australia's OECD competitors, and
 - (d) allowing the plethora of restrictive and inefficient work practices, and union blackmail to continue in the shore-based sector of the industry and

(3) calls on the Government to initiate -

- (a) a Royal Commission into the efficiency of the shore-based waterfront sector for liner cargoes similar to that about to commence for grain handlings and
- (b) an Industries Assistance Commission inquiry into the future of Australian flag shipping".

Debate continued.

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 O'Neil 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.

7 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

8 **EFFICIENCY AUDIT--REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL--PUBLICATION OF PAPER:**

Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Efficiency audit Australian Taxation Office: Prescribed Payments System
Report of the Auditor-General, dated 24 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 24 September 1986, upon an efficiency audit of the Australian Taxation Office. Prescribed Payments System, and
- (2) That the report be printed.

Question--put and passed.

9 **PAPER:** Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Public Service Act - Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff Report for 1985-86.

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

Australian Science and Technology Council Act--Australian Science and Technology Council--Report for 1985-86.

Film Censorship Board--Report for 1985.

11 **ELECTORAL REFORM--JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE--REPORT ON DETERMINING THE ENTITLEMENT OF FEDERAL TERRITORIES AND NEW STATES TO REPRESENTATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT--REPLACEMENT 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 (*in substitution for the paper presented on 17 September 1986*).

Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction) 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.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Beale, Mr Bilney, Mr Blunt, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cobb, Mr Cunningham, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker, Mr Katter, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, Mr Nehl, Mr O'Neil, Mr Robinson, Mr Rocher, Mr Ruddock, Mr Tickner and Dr Watson--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.

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

Dr H. R. Edwards from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt and Mr I. M. D. Cameron from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Maranoa, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

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 Blunt and Mr Rocher from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr McArthur, Mr Nehl and Mr Saunderson 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 Cadman 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.

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 and Mr Ruddock from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Dr H. R. Edwards and Dr Watson from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.

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

Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Cadman, Mr Nehl and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Baldwin—from certain citizens praying that no nuclear powered or armed warships be allowed access to Australian territorial waters.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the 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 the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.

Mr Bowen—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Sydenham Post Office, NSW, be prevented.

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 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 the decision to close the Wollongong office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs be reversed.

- Mr Campbell—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
- Dr Charlesworth—from certain citizens praying that aid be provided to the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and that certain other action be taken in relation to the disaster.
- Mr Cobb from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- 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 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 Howe from certain citizens praying that cuts to child care funding be reconsidered.
- 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 MacKellar from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.
- Mr Milton from certain residents of Victoria praying that the decision to sell uranium to France be reversed.
- Mr Nehl from certain citizens 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 Nehl from certain citizens praying that exhibition of the film "Hail Mary" be prevented.
- 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 Price 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 is undertaken in a humane manner.
- Mr Price—from certain citizens praying that wild horses be protected from industry and indiscriminate slaughter.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that an Australian republic be created on or before 1 January 1988.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down and no new reactors built.
- Mr Tickner—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights.
- Dr Watson—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Petitions received.

- 13 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER: Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence for 1 month be given to Mr Jacobi, on the ground of ill health.

Debate ensued.

Question— put and passed.

- 14 **PUBLIC SERVICE REFORMS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of measures to improve the efficiency of the public sector.
Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 15 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
25 September 1986 - Message No. 327 Superannuation and Other Benefits Legislation Amendment 1986.
- 16 **COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** The House was informed that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Smith to be a member of the Committee of Privileges in its consideration of the matter referred to it on 23 September 1986.
- 17 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Price presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
254th Report Project DESINE Proposed computer acquisitions by the Department of Defence—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 18 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Millar (Vice-Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
Report relating to warehouse development (stage 1) for 21st Supply Battalion, Moorebank, NSW (9th report of 1986)
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 19 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—DOMESTIC COST PRESSURES ON FARMERS:** The House was informed that Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to ease domestic cost pressures on farmers".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support
Mr Hunt addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 20 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LOANS BILL 1986:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 326

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to authorise the borrowing and expending of money for certain purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

D. MCCLELLAND
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 24 September 1986

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- No. 1 - Page 1, clause 1, line 5, leave out "Loans", insert "Loan".
- No. 2 - Page 1, clause 3, definition of "defence service", line 11, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 3 - Page 2, clause 3, definition of "financial year", paragraphs (a) and (b), lines 2 and 3, leave out the paragraphs, insert "the year ending on 30 June 1987".
- No. 4 - Page 2, clause 3, definition of "relevant appropriation Act", lines 4 to 15, leave out the definition, insert the following definition:
 "relevant appropriation Act", in relation to the financial year, means
 (a) the *Supply Act (No. 1) 1986-87*; or
 (b) an Act, whether passed before or after the commencement of this Act, appropriating the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the financial year ending on 30 June 1987, being an Act that is expressed to have effect subject to this Act."
- No. 5 - Page 2, clause 4, line 19, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 6 - Page 2, clause 4, lines 19 to 27, leave out "that financial year" (thrice occurring), insert "the financial year".
- No. 7 - Page 2, clause 5, line 29, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 8 - Page 2, paragraph 5 (a), line 31, leave out "that financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 9 - Page 2, clause 6, line 37, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 10 - Pages 2 and 3, clause 6, line 37 (page 2) to line 10 (page 3), leave out "that financial year" (thrice occurring), insert "the financial year".
- No. 11 - Page 3, sub-clause 9 (1), lines 22 and 23, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 12 - Page 3, sub-clause 9 (1), lines 22 to 28, leave out "that financial year" (thrice occurring), insert "the financial year".
- No. 13 - Page 3, sub-clause 9 (2), line 31, leave out "a financial year", insert "the financial year".
- No. 14 - Page 3, after sub-clause 9 (2), add the following new sub-clause:
 "(3) Nothing in this Act shall be taken to authorise expenditure (otherwise than for the expenses of borrowing) after 30 June 1987."
- On the motion of Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.
- Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Blanchard reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Hurford, the House adopted the report.

- 21 **INCOME TAX RATES 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.

Point of order: Mr Slipper referred to a point of order he had raised at question time today concerning a Member asking without notice at question time today a question similar to one the same Member had placed on the Notice Paper. Mr Slipper pointed out that the fact that Madam Speaker had ruled the question in order was not consistent with a statement in *House of Representatives Practice* and asked Madam Speaker to clarify her ruling.

Speaker's ruling: Madam Speaker reminded the House that the purpose of not permitting a question without notice to be asked which is substantially the same as one on the Notice Paper was to prevent the Member who placed the question on notice being disadvantaged and his question being pre-empted. Madam Speaker said that the point of order raised was essentially correct but that common sense and logic dictate that the practice is not intended to apply to a Member in respect of his own question because the questions of disadvantage and of pre-empting did not arise. This was the reason for her ruling. Mr Carlton also addressed the House on the matter.

Debate continued.

Mr Carlton 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 is of the opinion that

- (1) the Government's taxation policy, in particular its fringe benefits and capital gains taxes, is causing damage and confusion to business and farmers,
- (2) the Government's failure to deliver tax cuts on 1 September 1986 as promised in 1985 has caused additional hardship to families, and
- (3) this Government is the highest taxing Government in history with tax receipts estimated to reach 25.5% of GDP".

Debate continued.

Mr Tuckey addressing the House

Member named: The Deputy Speaker (Mr Blanchard) named the honourable Member for O'Connor (Mr Tuckey) for defying the Chair.

Mr Tuckey having apologised to the Chair, the matter was not further proceeded with.

22 **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. Madam Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday, 7 October 1986, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 September 1986:

Customs Act - Notices - 1986 - Nos. 8, 9.

Excise Act - Notices - 1986 - Nos. 15, 17.

Lands Acquisition Act - Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

Public Service Act - Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determination 1986 No. 1.

State Grants (Petroleum Products) Act - Amendments to the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 9 September 1986.

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

* On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives