

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 129

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER 1986

1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **DECLARATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1986 AS URGENT BILL—LIMITATION OF DEBATE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) declared that the Social Security and Veterans' Affairs (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 1986 was an urgent Bill.

Question—That the Bill be considered an urgent Bill—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mrs Child, in the Chair)—

AYES, 68

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

NOES, 50

Mr Adermann	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr Aldred	Mr Drummond	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McVeigh	Mr Slipper
Mr Blunt	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Macphee	Mr Smith
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Cadman	Mr Halverson	Mr Porter	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr Hicks*	Mr Reith	Dr Watson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hodges	Mr Robinson	Mr Webster
Mr Cobb	Mr Hodgman	Mr Rocher	Mr White
Mr Coleman	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Katter	Mr Shack	
Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

*Allotment of time:* Mr Young then moved—That the time allotted in connection with the Bill be as follows:

- (a) For the second reading, until 12.20 p.m. this day.
- (b) For the committee stage, until 12.30 p.m. this day.
- (c) For the remaining stages, until 12.40 p.m. this day.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 **PAPER:** Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security) presented the following paper:

Corrigendum to explanatory memorandum to the Social Security and Veterans' Affairs (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 1986.

4 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) 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 Blunt who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "the House—

- (1) condemns the Government for—
  - (a) its action in deferring all automatic pension increases due on 1 November 1986;
  - (b) its uncaring further 8 month deferral of the poverty traps relief measures;
  - (c) its illogical means testing of family allowances for 16 and 17 year olds, and
  - (d) its lifting of the rent threshold before a person paying private rent can qualify for rent assistance;
- (2) condemns the Government for persisting with its inequitable assets test on pensioners;
- (3) lodges a strong protest over the Government's continued assault on veterans and war widows through further restricting access to the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and freezing the maximum level of social security component where a war widow is also eligible for an aged pension;
- (4) calls on the Government to ensure a voluntary clearance is obtained from the veteran before proceeding with a claim on the veteran's private health insurance and points out that this aspect of the Bill seeking recompense for veterans' hospital and medical costs constitutes a breach of the fundamental obligation to look after those who served this country in the time of war, and
- (5) condemns the Government for taking three and a half years to do anything about social security fraud and doing nothing new or positive but relying merely on window dressing and public relations".

Debate continued.

*Limitation of debate:* At 12.20 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the second reading had expired—

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

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

AYES, 70

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

NOES, 49

Mr Adermann	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shipton
Mr Aldred	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Sinclair
Mr Beale	Mr Everingham	Mr McGauran	Mr Smith
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr McVeigh	Mr Spender
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Macphee	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr Carlton	Mr Halverson	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Cobb	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr White
Mr Coleman	Mr Hodges	Mr Reith	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Cowan	Mr Jull	Mr Shack	
Mr Dobie	Mr Katter	Mr Sharp	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Further 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. 185, dated 13 October 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*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Debate ensued.

*Limitation of debate:* At 12.30 p.m., the Deputy Chairman having called the attention of the committee to the fact that the time allotted for the committee stage had expired—

Question—That the Bill be agreed to—put and passed.

Further question—That the Bill be reported without amendment—put and passed.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), the House adopted the report.

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

Debate ensued.

*Limitation of debate:* The time allotted for the remaining stages having expired—  
Question—That the Bill be now read a third time—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

5 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

*Member named and suspended:* Madam Speaker named the honourable Member for the Northern Territory (Mr Everingham) for defying the Chair.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for the Northern Territory be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mrs Child, in the Chair)—

AYES, 72

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

NOES, 48

Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr Howard	Mr Ruddock
Mr Aldred	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Shack
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sharp
Mr Blunt	Mr Everingham	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fife	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Cadman	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr McVeigh	Mr Smith
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mr Spender
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cobb	Mr Halverson	Mr Peacock	Dr Watson
Mr Coleman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr Webster
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodges	Mr Reith	Mr White
Mr Cowan	Mr Hodgman	Mr Rocher	Mr Wilson

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The honourable Member was, therefore, suspended for the remainder of the day and for the next 7 consecutive days, this being his second occasion of suspension during the year, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Questions without notice continued.

6 **ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTRON—75TH ANNIVERSARY:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), by leave, moved—That this House—

- (1) congratulates the Royal Military College, Duntroon, on the 75th anniversary of its foundation, noting with deep appreciation that—
  - (a) it has played a vital role in educating and training officer cadets for service in the Australian Army;
  - (b) the product of its efforts has performed with fine distinction in 2 world wars and in Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, and
  - (c) its reputation for developing officers, respected by all Australians and by defence forces overseas, is well known, and

- (2) wishes the Commandant and all former and present cadets, staff and all those associated with the College best wishes for its 75th anniversary celebrations.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**7 GUIDELINES FOR PROVISION OF VIDEO AND AUDIO ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION SERVICES—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:**

Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) presented the following papers:

Provision of video and audio entertainment and information services—  
Guidelines, dated 13 October 1986—

Guidelines.

Statement by Mr Duffy, Minister for Communications.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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.

**8 COUNTER-TERRORISM IN AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Young (Special Minister of State), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of a review of counter-terrorism capabilities in Australia and of the administrative and financial arrangements which support them.

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

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

Mr Blunt, Mr Cadman, Mr Cobb, Mr Coleman, Mr Cowan, Mr Dobie, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Fife, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Free, Mr Gorman, Mr Hicks, Mr Hunt, Mr Punch, Mr Robinson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sinclair, Mr Snow and Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.

Mr Beale, Mr Cadman, Mr Drummond, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker, Mr Maher, Mr Nehl, Mr Rocher, Mr Ruddock, Mr Shipton, Mr Smith and Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

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

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

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.

Mr Free—from certain residents of New South Wales in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Drummond and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.

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

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

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 Beazley—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.
- Mr Blanchard—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the decision to deny secondary allowances to Year 11 students under the age of 16 years be reversed and allowances not be made directly payable to students.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the capital gains tax be repealed.
- Mr Reith—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Nehl, Mr Rocher and Mr Snow—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Coleman—from certain citizens praying that funding be restored to the English as a second language and multicultural education programs.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be cancelled.
- Mr Everingham—from certain residents of the Northern Territory praying that the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act, the Fringe Benefits Tax Act, the Fringe Benefits Tax (Application to the Commonwealth) Act and the Fringe Benefits Tax (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act be rescinded.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that announcers on the Albanian program on radio 3EA be replaced with community representatives.
- Mr Kent—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 Langmore—from certain citizens praying that the agreement between Australia and the USA concerning the Pine Gap facilities be terminated and certain other action be taken in any negotiations for a new agreement.
- Mr Lindsay—from certain citizens praying that the multi-channel television servicing proposal by North Queensland Television be supported.
- Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the principles of social justice, equity and redistribution of wealth be upheld.
- 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 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 praying that exhibition of the film "Hail Mary" be prevented.

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

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Shipton—from certain residents of Victoria praying that certain action be taken in relation to child care services.

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 an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights, NSW, or elsewhere within Australia.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down and no new reactors built.

Petitions received.

- 10 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—STUDENT ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1986: Message No. 343, dated 16 October 1986, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “An Act to amend the ‘Student Assistance Act 1973’, and for related purposes”.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EFFECTS OF NEW TAXES IN RURAL AUSTRALIA: The House was informed that Mr Cobb had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The devastating effects that the Government’s new taxes, especially the capital gains tax and the fringe benefits tax, are having on employment and business activity in rural Australia”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Cobb addressing the House—

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*Adjournment negatived:* It being 3.45 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Discussion continued.

Discussion concluded.

- 12 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr Hodgman rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr Humphreys moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 4.17 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Conquest, Mr Dubois, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Goodluck, Mr Hawker, Mr Hunt, Mr Jacobi\*, Mr MacKellar, Mr Millar and Mr Moore.

\* On leave

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