

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 151

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1987

1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **MEDIA REPORTS—STATEMENT BY MADAM SPEAKER:** Madam Speaker referred to a tape recording and to media reports of 23 and 24 February 1987 of remarks made by Mr Tuckey yesterday outside the House and stated that as Mr Tuckey had been suspended from the service of the House until 2.43 p.m. today, she would not pursue the matter until he had the opportunity to return to the House.

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

4 **PRIVILEGE—SUSPENSION OF MEMBER:** Madam Speaker again referred to a tape recording and media reports of remarks made yesterday by Mr Tuckey outside the House which were critical of the Speaker (*see* entry No. 2) and stated that she had heard the recording and read a transcript of it.

Madam Speaker read to the House a letter which she had received on the matter from Mr Tuckey and presented the following papers:

Mr C. W. Tuckey—Comments on suspension from House, 23 February 1987—
Press conference held by Mr Tuckey on Parliament House steps, 23
February 1987—Part transcript of tape recording.

Copy of letter from Mr Tuckey to the Speaker, dated 23 February 1987.

Extracts from *The Australian*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Age*, and *The Sun News-Pictorial* of 24 February 1987.

Madam Speaker stated that she was in no doubt that Mr Tuckey's remarks were a grave attack on her and her office and therefore constituted a contempt of the House.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That this House (a) finds that remarks made by the honourable Member for O'Connor yesterday are a serious reflection on the character of the Speaker, contain an accusation of partiality in the discharge of her duty, and therefore constitute a contempt of the House, and (b) suspends the honourable Member for O'Connor from the service of the House for 7 sitting days including today.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 77

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

NOES, 60

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The honourable Member was, therefore, suspended for 7 sitting days including today, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Australian Capital Territory—Agents Board—Report for 1985-86.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act—Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Canberra Retail Markets Trust—Report for 1985-86.

National Capital Development Commission Act—National Capital Development Commission—29th Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Norfolk Island—Report for 1985-86.

6 COMMERCIAL RADIO—ADDITIONAL SERVICES IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS: Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of additional commercial radio services in regional Australia, and presented the following papers:

Commercial radio—Additional services in regional Australia—

Outline of planning procedures for new commercial radio services, dated 24 February 1987.

Planning program for 1987-89, dated 24 February 1987.

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

7 SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS—REVIEW OF MATERIAL RELATING TO ENTRY INTO AUSTRALIA—REPORT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the report of the review of material relating to the entry of suspected war criminals into Australia.

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

8 EXCISE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS: Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved—
Excise Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 and 2 (1987), and
Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 to 6 (1987).

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

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

Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that a bill providing for a national system for therapeutic goods for human use not be introduced and that therapeutic goods continue to be freely available through present outlets.

Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

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

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

Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Bowen—from certain citizens praying that the sale of the Queen Elizabeth II Rehabilitation Centre, Camperdown, NSW, be rescinded.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain residents of the Division of Dawson praying that transmission anomalies be rectified to allow listeners in the Mackay region to receive ABC FM radio.

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

Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.

Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that funding be restored to the English as a second language and multicultural education programs.

Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the annual administrative charge for higher education students not be introduced.

Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that funding for education centres be restored to 1986 levels.

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre and that certain other action be taken in relation to petrol pricing.

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.

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

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.

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 continued assistance be provided to the footwear industry.

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

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that no cutbacks be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.

Mr White—from certain citizens praying that the taxation system cease to discriminate against families.

Petitions received.

- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HIGHER EDUCATION:** The House was informed that Mr Shack had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Hawke Labor Government to provide the vision and policies for the much needed expansion of Australia's higher education system".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Shack addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 TRANSPORT SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mrs Darling (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Transport Safety:

Sports aviation safety—Report, dated January 1987, together with the minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mrs Darling and Mr Goodluck, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

- 12 PROMISES OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That this House condemns the Opposition parties for misleading and confusing the Australian people with reckless and reactionary promises of change—promises which they are unable to enunciate or cost.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "this House, noting the Government's belated acceptance of the Opposition's calls for a mini budget, and appalled by the damage to the nation and the burdens imposed on Australians by the failure of the Government's economic and other policies, calls for further urgent action to—

- (1) heavily reduce Government spending and public sector borrowings;
- (2) fundamentally reform the tax system to lower the burden of tax on all Australians, particularly families, and restore incentive and equity;
- (3) lift restrictions on foreign investment except those vital to protecting the national interest;

- (4) free Australia's over-regulated and over-controlled labour market;
- (5) significantly increase immigration, and
- (6) lift the burden of Government intervention in and regulation of the economy".

Debate continued.

Mr Blunt addressing the House—

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

Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) 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 24 February 1987:

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

Bankruptcy Act 1966—Amendments made by Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (No. 2) 1986—2 March 1987.

Insurance (Agents and Brokers) Act 1984—Section 37—1 March 1987.

Public Service and Statutory Authorities Amendment Act 1980—Sections 24 and 34—1 March 1987.

Taxation Laws Amendment Act (No. 4) 1986—

Paragraph 55 (2) (b)—1 March 1987.

Section 55—1 March 1987.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Dawkins, Mr Everingham, Mr Hodgman, Mr Jacobi and Mr Willis.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives