

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 164

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 1987

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

2 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1986-87:** 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 Carlton 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) condemns the Government for its continued mismanagement of the economy which has seen:
 - (a) interest rates for business, farmers and home owners soar to record levels;
 - (b) inflation rise to almost 8 times the average rate of the major 7 OECD economies;
 - (c) Australia’s overseas debt surpass the \$100 billion mark, and
 - (d) the value of the Australia dollar cut by one-third, and
- (2) calls on the Government to implement significant and genuine expenditure cuts of the order of \$4 billion in its May economic statement as a first step to restoring balance to its policies and reducing interest rates”.

Debate continued.

Dr H. R. Edwards addressing the House—

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.

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

4 **ELECTORAL REFORM—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT NO. 2—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Young (Minister representing the Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:

Joint Select Committee on Electoral Reform—Report No. 2—The operation during the 1984 General Election of the 1983-84 amendments to Commonwealth electoral legislation—Government response—Statement by Senator Tate, Special Minister of State.

Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport) 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.

5 RANGER URANIUM MINE—WATER MANAGEMENT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) presented the following paper:

Ranger uranium mine—Application of best practical technology to water management—Report of technical working group, dated 19 December 1986.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) 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.

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

Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kent, Mr Lamb, 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 Slipper—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

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

Mrs Kelly and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that landscaping for the new Parliament House be reinstated according to the original plans and certain action be taken to ensure this can be achieved.

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 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 national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

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

Mr Katter—from certain electors of the Division of Kennedy praying that vitamin and mineral formulations remain available on shop shelves other than as chemist-only lines.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

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 Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

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 Queensland praying that the 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 the Division of Fisher praying that unemployed people in the CES district serving Caboolture, Qld, be allowed to lodge their completed unemployment benefits forms at the Caboolture Job Centre.

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 Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that public funding for projects which are undesirable or of dubious worth be halted.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher 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.

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 capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.

Petitions received.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMPULSORY WORK

SCHEME FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: The House was informed that Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The need for a scheme of compulsory work for unemployment benefits".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr N. A. Brown addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1986-87: 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. 2)*—

Debate resumed.

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

Food irradiation—Copy of letter from Mr D. G. Walker, Director, Australian Atomic Energy Commission, to Mr K. W. Wright, MP, dated 8 January 1987.

Debate continued.

Mr Beale 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 words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—being accordingly put—

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

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

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Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Conquest	Mr Hunt	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Mr Drummond	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Shipton
Mr Burr	Mr Fife	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sinclair
Mr Cadman	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mr Smith
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Millar	Mr Tuckey
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hawker	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Cobb	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr White
Mr Coleman	Mr Hodges	Mr Reith	

* 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 Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1986-87:** 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Porter addressing the committee—

It being 7.15 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

Adjournment negatived: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Debate continued.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Scholes, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1986-87:** 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories), the Bill was read a third time.

11 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.58 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 1 April 1987:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—1987—No. 3—New topics to be included in the population survey.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Everingham and Mr T. A. Fischer.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives