

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 170

MONDAY, 4 MAY 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 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Hayden (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Senator Evans (Minister for Resources and Energy) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) was representing the acting Minister in this House.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Papers: Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) presented the following papers:
 Aboriginal separatist demands—Relationship to International Green Guard Movement—Copies of—
 Certain pages from *Australian Socialist*, Vol. 1, No. 8, February-March 1987.
 Extract from article entitled "A new spirit" from *The Green March*, January 1987, published by the International Green Guard Movement.
 Leaflet headed "Racial comrades of the left!", published by National Vanguard.
 Questions without notice continued.
- 4 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 Mr Conquest, Mr Fife and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
 Mr Langmore, Mr Macphee 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 Macphee—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 Mr Cobb and Mr Snow—from certain citizens praying that the pension discounting effect of the Superannuation and Other Benefits Legislation Amendment Act be limited to restore the base level for pension adjustment and certain other action be taken in relation to the Commonwealth Occupational Superannuation Schemes.
 Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that incentive and opportunity be restored to the Australian economy and certain restrictions on small business be abandoned.
 Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
 Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that Veterans' Affairs pharmaceutical benefits be restored to war widows.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

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

Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that delays in processing applications for the Austudy allowance be minimised.

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

Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.

Mr Keogh—from certain citizens praying that sand mining on Moreton Island be prevented and the island be declared a national park.

Mr P. F. Morris—from certain citizens praying that a scientific herbal researcher be appointed to the committee investigating proposed amendments to the national register of therapeutic goods for human use and certain other action be taken in relation to herbal medicines.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that funding be provided to improve the Pacific Highway between Port Macquarie and Woolgoolga, NSW.

Petitions received.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

AND OVERPAYMENTS: The House was informed that Mr Blunt had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The hardship caused to Australian families and aged pensioners through the Government's failure for 4 years to deal with massive social security fraud and overpayments".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Blunt addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr

Ruddock presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

272nd Report—Administration of the Commonwealth's property functions.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Ruddock, Mr Price and Mr Tickner, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

7 SHIPS (CAPITAL GRANTS) BILL 1987: 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.

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 241, dated 31 March 1987, 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.

On the motion of Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport), by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Heading to Part V, page 13, line 34, omit "FOR WHICH GRANT PAID".

Clause 22—

Page 14, lines 18 and 19, omit "in respect of which a grant has been paid", substitute "for which there is a category certificate".

Page 15, lines 1 and 2, omit "in respect of which a grant has been paid", substitute "for which there is a category certificate".

Clause 38, page 22, line 40, omit "(d) or (e)", substitute "(e), (f) or (g)".

Paper: Mr P. F. Morris presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

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

- 8 **CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL 1987:** 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 **CUSTOMS TARIFF (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1987:** 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 J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism), the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 **CUSTOMS TARIFF (INSTALLATIONS AT SEA) BILL 1987:** 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 J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 5 to 9, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 12 **DEFENCE POLICY—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry)—

That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 19 March 1987*), viz.:

Defence of Australia—A policy information paper, dated March 1987.

Defence of Australia—A policy information paper—Ministerial statement, 19 March 1987.

Debate resumed.

Mrs Jakobsen addressing the House—

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 4 May 1987:

- Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 67.
- Broadcasting and Television Amendment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 57.
- First Home Owners Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 68.
- Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under subsection 7 (1).
- Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 63.
- Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 61.
- Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 59.
- Radiocommunications (Temporary Permit Tax) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 60.
- Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 58.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1987—
 - No. 13—Magistrates Court (Civil Jurisdiction) (Amendment).
 - No. 14—Small Claims (Amendment).
 - No. 15—Testamentary Guardianship (Amendment).
- Regulations—1987—No. 3 (Juries Ordinance).
- Sex Discrimination Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 56.
- Superannuation Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 62.
- Therapeutic Goods Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 64.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Campbell, Mr Coleman, Mr Everingham, Mr Fife, Mr Gayler, Mr Hayden, Mr Hicks, Mr Jacobi, Mr Jull, Mr Katter, Mr Kent, Mr Rocher and Mr Uren.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives