

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

No. 176

WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 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 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 48A, ALTERATION OF HOUR OF MEETING AND PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered—
- (1) standing order 48A (adjournment of House), as amended by sessional order, be suspended for this sitting;
 - (2) the House, at its rising, adjourn until tomorrow at 9 a.m., and
 - (3) government business take precedence of general business for the next sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 75

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

NOES, 57

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

3 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1987-88: 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) draws attention to:

- (a) the widespread and growing concern among Australians about their future;
 - (b) fundamental weaknesses in the nation’s economy which are revealed in recent key economic indicators, including inflation at 4 times our major trading partners, a \$105 billion foreign debt which now accounts for 42.4% of GDP, record relative interest rates, a current account deficit of 6% of GDP which is the highest since the 1950’s and the highest taxation in post war history, and
 - (c) the government’s failure to correct these fundamental weaknesses, and
- (2) calls upon the Government to adopt as a matter of urgency the Opposition’s plan to redress the nation’s fundamental economic weaknesses and put Australia back on the road to economic recovery, namely:
- (a) creation of a climate of lower inflation and interest rates by adopting a more balanced policy approach, involving significant and genuine reductions of government spending;
 - (b) abolition of the anti-business taxes, such as the fringe benefits tax and the capital gains tax;
 - (c) reduction of excessive business regulations, and
 - (d) major reform of our industrial relations system”.

Debate continued.

Mr Hollis 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.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Audit Act—

Building and Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General’s Report, for 1985-86.

Canberra Public Cemeteries Trusts—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General’s Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—3rd Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General’s Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Capital Territory—Registrar of Co-operative Societies—Report for 1985-86.

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

Mr Adermann, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Conquest, Mr Everingham, Mr Hodges, Mr Gayler and Mr West—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.

Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Burr, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Langmore and Mr Miles—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 Cadman, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Jull and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Milton, Mr Scott, Mr Staples and Mr Tickner—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 Bowen, Mr Charles and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their 1976 real money value and certain other action be taken in relation to family allowance payments.
- Mr Hawker and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
- 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 a wealth tax not be introduced.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the capital gains tax be repealed.
- 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 assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Charles—from certain citizens praying that food irradiation not be allowed to become legal.
- Mr Duncan—from certain citizens praying that any changes to the Commonwealth Employees Compensation Act be rejected.
- Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.
- Mr Everingham—from certain residents of the Northern Territory praying that social security legislation be amended to allow the same level of support for all pensioners, regardless of marital status.
- Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain citizens praying that any act which would desecrate the Australian War Memorial be prevented.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain residents of Mortlake, Vic., praying that monies allocated to the Victorian Government for road funding be increased to allow adequate funding for the construction and maintenance of roads in south-west Victoria.
- Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased to 25% of average weekly earnings and the 2% reduction in superannuation be reconsidered.
- Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that there be no further decreases in Medicare benefits payments.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that all legislation banning the sale of "R" classification video movies be stayed pending certain action being taken.
- Mr Miles—from certain residents of Tasmania praying that the tariff on pile fabric not be increased to 25%.
- Mr Rocher—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 Scholes—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that national Aboriginal land rights legislation be established.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Mr Staples—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 Staples—from certain citizens praying that the "Star Wars" plans be condemned and Australia not be associated with these plans.

Mr Staples—from certain residents of the Division of Jagajaga praying that tertiary education remain free to all students.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down immediately and permanently.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the administrative charge for higher education students be withdrawn immediately.

Mr Tickner—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights.

Petitions received.

7 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE: The House was informed that the Opposition Whip had nominated Mr Burr to be a member of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs in place of Mr Shipton.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SMALL BUSINESSES AND FAMILY FARMS: The House was informed that both Mr Braithwaite and Mr Jull had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, Madam Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Braithwaite, namely, "The urgent need for a change in Government policies, which are adversely affecting small businesses and family farms, as evidenced by the record bankruptcies now occurring throughout Australia".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Braithwaite addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 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 the redevelopment of migrant accommodation facilities, Wacol, Qld (1st report of 1987)—

and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

10 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

11 CASH TRANSACTION REPORTS BILL 1987: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the reporting of certain cash transactions and transfers, to establish a Cash Transaction Reports Agency and to impose certain obligations on financial institutions in relation to the opening of accounts, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 12 **SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1987-88:** 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. 3)*—

Debate resumed.

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—was put accordingly, and passed.

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 Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 **SUPPLY BILL (NO. 2) 1987-88:** 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 Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 **SUPPLY (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL 1987-88:** 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 Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 15 **NURSING HOMES AND HOSTELS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT 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.

Ordered—That Mr Porter be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Wright was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

Suspension of sitting: At 7.11 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting: At 7.30 p.m., Madam Speaker resumed the Chair.

- 16 **BUDGET 1987-88—INITIAL MEASURES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Keating (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement outlining initial Government measures to meet budgetary needs for 1987-88, and presented the following paper:

Budget 1987-88—Initial measures—Ministerial statement, 13 May 1987.

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

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Young, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 23 minutes when the debate is resumed.

Question—put and passed.

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

17 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.55 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 9 a.m. in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 13 May 1987:
Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under subsection 7 (1).
Public Service Act—Determinations—1987—Nos. 20, 21, 22, 23.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Hayden, Mr Hicks, Mr Hodgman, Mr Shack, Mr Snow and Mr Webster.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives