

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 177

THURSDAY, 14 MAY 1987

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- 1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **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.
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 Bill be now read a second time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 249, dated 7 May 1987, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
Mr Hurford (Minister for Community Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.
 - 3 **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL 1987:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the prevention and settlement of certain industrial disputes, and for other purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Willis moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Ordered—That Mr Willis be granted an extension of time.
Paper: Mr Willis presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 4 **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1987:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to enact certain transitional provisions, and to amend certain Acts, in consequence of the enactment of the *Industrial Relations Act 1987*, and for other purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Willis moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Willis presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY DISTRIBUTIONS) 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 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 Hawke Labor Government for raising the company tax rate from 46% to 49% at a time when company tax rates around the world are being lowered;
- (2) notes that the Government’s so called ‘tax reform’ proposals have imposed an additional tax burden on business in excess of \$2,000 million;
- (3) notes that these new business taxes have been imposed at a time when the level of business investment in this country has fallen to an appallingly low level and there is a rising tide of bankruptcies;
- (4) notes with concern that the interaction of the proposals in the Bill with the foreign tax credit system and the new capital gains tax imposes a tax disadvantage on companies and on their shareholders;
- (5) notes that the Bill also contains unnecessarily complex administrative and compliance procedures for companies, and therefore
- (6) calls upon the Government to restore the incentive to invest by pursuing a more balanced economic policy and reducing the taxation and administrative burden on business”.

Debate continued.

Mr Rocher addressing the House—

It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 101, as amended by sessional order, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 MILITARY COUP IN FIJI—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the invasion of the Fiji Parliament building and some Government offices in Suva earlier today by sections of the Royal Fiji Military Forces and of the Australian Government’s monitoring of the situation.

Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.

7 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

8 BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT: Madam Speaker (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings:

Provision of sound and vision services in the new Parliament House—Report, dated May 1987.

9 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Australian Capital Territory—Joint Committee—Report on hospitality in the ACT—Government response—Statement by Mr Scholes, Minister for Territories, together with detailed responses to the committee’s recommendations.

Australian Marine Sciences and Technologies Advisory Committee—Report for 1985-86.

10 AVIATION INDUSTRY—OUTLOOK—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:

Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Aviation) presented the following paper:

Outlook for the aviation industry—Information paper by the Department of Aviation, dated March 1987.

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

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

11 **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE:** Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

13 May 1987—Message No. 428—National Health Amendment 1987.

14 May 1987—Message—

No. 429—Sugar Cane Levy 1987 (*without requests*).

No. 430—Sugar Cane Levy Collection 1987.

No. 431—Olympic Insignia Protection 1987.

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

Mr Aldred, Mr Cobb, Mr Free, Mr Langmore, Mr Moore, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Peacock, Mr Reith and Mr Uren—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.

Mrs Jakobsen, 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 Cadman, Mr Nehl and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Keogh and Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.

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

Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that any act which would desecrate the Australian War Memorial be prevented.

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

Mr Baldwin—from certain citizens praying that the legislation providing for the annual administrative charge for higher education students be repealed.

Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax and other taxes and administrative burdens of small businesses be repealed.

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 the capital gains tax be repealed.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.

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 proposal for an identification card be rejected.

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

Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the proposed introduction of a \$2 coin not proceed.

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

Mr Campbell—from certain citizens praying that the Australian National Railways store at Parkston, WA, not be closed.

Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that all child pornography entering or being produced in Australia be banned.

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

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

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

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.

Petitions received.

- 13 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FAMILIES:** The House was informed that Mr Jull had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Hawke Government to address the real concerns of families in Australia".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Jull addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—18TH REPORT:** Mr Brumby (Chairman) presented the 18th Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

18TH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The joint committee, having considered petitions and papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Annual Report (3rd) 1985-86.

Australian Heritage Commission Act—Australian Heritage Commission—Annual Report 1985-86.

Automotive Industry Authority Act—Automotive Industry Authority—Report on the State of the Automotive Industry, 1986.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—

Arbitration Inspectorate—Annual Report 1985-86.

Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—Annual Report (13th) of President, for year ended 13 August 1986.

Fishing Industry Research Act—Fishing Industry Research Committee—Annual Report 1985-86.

Higher Education Administration Charge—Report of Monitoring Committee, dated 29 April 1987.

Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act—Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board—Annual Report 1985-86.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report on Pulp, Paper, Paper Products and Printing Industries, dated 25 February 1987 (No. 401).

National Companies and Securities Commission Act—National Companies and Securities Commission—Annual Report 1985-86.

National Policy on Languages—Report by Mr J. Lo Bianco, dated 28 November 1986.

Parliament House Construction Authority Act—Parliament House Construction Authority—Annual Report 1985-86.

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust—Annual Report 1985-86.

Services Trust Funds Act—Services Canteens Trust Fund—Annual Report—(39th and Final) 1986.

The joint committee also recommends the printing of a corrigendum to be inserted in the following paper:

Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—Annual Report 1985-86.

J. M. BRUMBY
Chairman

14 May 1987

Mr Brumby, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

15 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Blanchard (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs:

Return to country—The aboriginal homelands movement in Australia—Report, dated March 1987.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Blanchard, Mr Connolly, Mr Hand and Mr I. M. D. Cameron, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

16 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT: Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 26 May 1987, at 2 p.m., unless Madam Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

17 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 3 to 6, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

18 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH BILL 1987: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 427

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to establish an Australian Institute of Health, and for related purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the

Amendment indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 13 May 1987

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

- 19 **COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Young (Minister representing the Special Minister of State) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Young presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Shack), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **OCCUPATIONAL SUPERANNUATION STANDARDS BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide operating standards for certain superannuation funds and approved deposit funds, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 21 **INSURANCE AND SUPERANNUATION COMMISSIONER BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an office of Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 **INSURANCE AND SUPERANNUATION COMMISSIONER (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend certain Acts in consequence of the enactment of the *Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner Act 1987*, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 23 **SALES TAX LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the laws relating to sales tax, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 24 **CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901* and the *Excise Act 1901*, and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 **CUSTOMS TARIFF (COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES) AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1982* and the *Customs Tariff Act 1987* in relation to goods owned by the Commonwealth or certain authorities and bodies, and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 26 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES:** Ordered—That notices Nos. 6 and 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 27 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY DISTRIBUTIONS) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 5)*—
 Debate resumed.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Downer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 28 **BUDGET 1987-88—INITIAL MEASURES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Young (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 13 May 1987*), viz.:
 Budget 1987-88—Initial measures—Ministerial statement, 13 May 1987.
 Debate resumed.
 Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 29 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY DISTRIBUTIONS) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 5)*—
 Debate resumed.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Lamb), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 30 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), for Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Social Security and Veterans' Entitlements and other matters.
 Bill read a first time.
 Dr Blewett moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Dr Blewett presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Shack), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 31 **HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973* and the *National Health Act 1953*, and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Dr Blewett moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Dr Blewett presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Shack), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 32 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT (COMPANY DISTRIBUTIONS) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 5)*—
 Debate resumed.
 Amendment negatived.
 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 Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 33 **INCOME TAX (FRANKING DEFICIT) 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 Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 34 **INCOME TAX RATES 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—
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
 On the motion of Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 35 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 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 is of the opinion that the provisions relating to the entitlement of an authorised taxation officer to facilities and assistance in a building or place should be accompanied by provisions for the owner or occupier to be reimbursed by the Commissioner of Taxation for all reasonable expenses incurred in making those facilities and assistance available”.
 Amendment negatived.
 Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—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, and debated.
 It being 10.15 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 Dawkins (Minister for Trade) 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

Mr Cobb moved the following amendment: Schedule 4, page 54, *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*, omit proposed subsection 263 (3).

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

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

36 **BANK ACCOUNT DEBITS TAX 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

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

37 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday, 26 May 1987, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr N. A. Brown, Ms Fatin, Mr Hayden, Mr Hicks, Mr Snow, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Tuckey and Mr Webster.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives