

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 7

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 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 **OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER:** Kathy Martin Sullivan made and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
  - Christmas Island Act—
    - Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island Ordinance—Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for period 18 November 1985 to 30 June 1986.
    - Services Corporation Ordinance—Christmas Island Services Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.
  - Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for year ended 31 March 1987.
- 5 **HIGHER EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of long term plans for development of the higher education system, and presented the following paper:
  - Higher education plans for 1988—Guidelines to the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission.Mr Carlton, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 6 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
  - Mr Beale, Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Lloyd, Mr Jull, Mr Miles, Mr Peacock, Mr Ruddock and Dr Wooldridge— from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.
  - Mr Beale, Mr Kent, Mr McArthur, Mr McGauran, 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 Martin and Mr Sinclair— from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
  - Mr Cobb, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Millar, Mr MacKellar and Mr Shack— from certain citizens; and Mr Cowan— from certain residents of the Division of Lyne praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

- Mr Blunt, Mr Braithwaite and Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond, Dawson and Murray, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Cowan, Mr Halverson, Mr McGauran, Mr Martin and Mr Scholes—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 Fife, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr McArthur and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken within the Australian Taxation Office and other departments to counter tax evasion and fraudulent practices.
- Mr Prosser, Mr Rocher, Mr Shack and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.
- Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Cobb and Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.
- Mr Dobie and Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that the major recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985 be implemented without delay.
- Mr Miles and Mr Smith—from certain citizens praying that the planned introduction of the Australia Card not proceed.
- Mr Rocher and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that the importation and possession of child pornography be made a criminal offence and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography in the ACT.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the Kurnell peninsula, NSW, be rezoned.
- Mr Duncan—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken in relation to South Africa and Namibia, and support be given to the South West Africa People's Organisation.
- Mr Halverson—from certain citizens praying that all legislation banning the sale of "R" classification video movies be stayed pending certain action being taken.
- Mrs Jakobsen—from certain citizens praying that the French Government be urged to abandon plans to use the Kerguelan Islands as its proposed nuclear testing base.
- Mrs Jakobsen—from certain citizens praying that initiatives be taken to encourage all member states of the United Nations to conclude a treaty banning all nuclear weapons tests and that certain other action be taken in relation to such tests.
- Mr Kerr—from certain citizens praying that any legislation designed to impose a national identification system be opposed.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of the Division of Murray praying that the Health Insurance Act and the National Health Act be amended to restore the rebates which were withdrawn following changes to Medicare benefits on 1 August 1987.
- Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card legislation be withdrawn.

Mr McGauran—from certain citizens praying that uranium not be sold and that all uranium mining cease forthwith.

Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Social Security offices at Corrimal, Warrawong and Dapto, NSW, be kept open and deliver full services.

Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that amendments to ACT legislation and customs regulations which permit the distribution of pornographic material be reversed.

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

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

Petitions received.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMODITY PRICES AND THE BUDGET:** The House was informed that Mr Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to take the necessary action in the Budget to reduce the likelihood of Australia being faced with intervention by the International Monetary Fund if there was another commodity price slide".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Peacock addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 8 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:**

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

*Papers and photographs:* Mr Johns, by leave, presented the following papers and photographs:

Brisbane region—

City of Brisbane town plan—Statement of intent—Structure plan.

Map.

Photographs (4) of native birds, Pine River, Queensland.

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

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Sciacca), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 9 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1987-88—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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.

- 10 ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 22 September 1987:

**Defence Act—Determinations—1987—**

No. 57—Overseas Living Allowance.

Nos. 58, 59 and 60—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.

No. 61—Loss on Sale of Motor Vehicle on Posting Overseas.

No. 62—Common Duties Allowance and Antarctic Allowance.

No. 63—Disturbance Allowance.

**Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—1987—Postal—Amendment—No. 5.**

**Soil Conservation (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for soil conservation, between the Commonwealth and—**

New South Wales, dated 21 July 1987.

Northern Territory, dated 6 July 1987.

Queensland, dated 24 June 1987.

South Australia, dated 24 June 1987.

Tasmania, dated 3 July 1987.

Victoria, dated 31 July 1987.

Western Australia, dated 1 July 1987.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Duffy, Mr Goodluck, Mr Griffiths, Mr Hayden, Mr Hollis, Mr Keating, Mr Macphee, Mr A. A. Morris and Mr Spender.

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**A. R. BROWNING**

Clerk of the House of Representatives