

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 25

WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 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 **INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987—SENATE'S REQUEST:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendment requested by the Senate.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE REQUEST BY THE SENATE FOR AMENDMENT
 Page 2, clause 4, lines 3 and 4, leave out "and for all subsequent financial years", insert "the financial year that commenced on 1 July 1987 and, until the Parliament otherwise provides, the financial year commencing on 1 July 1988".
 On the motion of Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the requested amendment was made, after debate.
 Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr Humphreys, the House adopted the report.

- 3 **MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1987—SENATE'S REQUEST:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendment requested by the Senate.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE REQUEST BY THE SENATE FOR AMENDMENT
 Page 2, Schedule, proposed amendment of subsection 11 (1) of the Principal Act, leave out "and for all subsequent financial years", insert "the financial year that commenced on 1 July 1987 and, until the Parliament otherwise provides, the financial year commencing on 1 July 1988".
 On the motion of Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the requested amendment was made, after debate.
 Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr R. F. Edwards reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr Humphreys, the House adopted the report.

- 4 **BASS STRAIT FREIGHT ADJUSTMENT LEVY 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.

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

Petrol prices—Diagram detailing breakdown of the price of petrol.

Debate continued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr P. F. Morris (Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), the Bill was read a third time.

5 BASS STRAIT FREIGHT ADJUSTMENT LEVY COLLECTION 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 P. F. Morris (Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), the Bill was read a third time.

6 BASS STRAIT FREIGHT ADJUSTMENT TRUST FUND 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 P. F. Morris (Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), the Bill was read a third time.

7 SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS 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 Connolly 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 Government's imposition of 2.5% deemed income on disregarded property in all cases under the hardship provisions of the assets test should not be proceeded with, and that the discretion of Departmental officers to apply this provision under the regulations should be maintained to prevent unfair and discriminatory treatment of pensioners, especially farmers".

Debate continued.

Mr Tuckey 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.

8 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

9 EFFICIENCY AUDIT—REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL—PUBLICATION OF PAPER: Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Efficiency audit—Australian Government Publishing Service—Report of the Auditor-General, dated 17 November 1987.

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of the Auditor-General, dated 17 November 1987, upon an efficiency audit of the Australian Government Publishing Service, and

(2) That the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

10 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Bureau of Transport Economics—Report 61—Assessment of the Australian road system: 1987.

Rural Industries Research Act—Cotton Research Council—Report for 1986-87.

Soil Conservation (Financial Assistance) Act—Soil Conservation Advisory Committee—Report for 1986-87.

- 11 TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEE:** The House was informed that the Government Whip had nominated Mr Snow to be a member of the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure for the purpose of any inquiry into proposals for modification or variation of the plan of layout of the City of Canberra and its environs.
- 12 PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Beale, Mr Halverson, Mr Jenkins, Mr Kent, Mr Milton and Mr Scott—
from certain citizens praying that the importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.
 - Mr Cadman, Mr Cobb and Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens; and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Maranoa praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.
 - Mr Braithwaite and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Dawson and of Peak Downs, Qld, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Beale and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.
 - Mr Bowen and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the major recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985 be implemented without delay.
 - Ms Crawford and Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the 24-hour telegraph service at East Block, Canberra, be retained until July 1989.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the circulation of X-rated videos be prevented and laws regarding obscenity in the media be revived and enforced.
 - Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
 - Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
 - Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Bicentennial Authority and the Expo 88 Authority engage local professional artists for Expo 88.
 - Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Maranoa praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.
 - Mr Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.
 - Mr Cobb—from certain residents of the Division of Parkes praying that any plans to conduct a wealth inquiry or to impose new taxes be rejected.
 - Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Telecom abandon its proposal to time charge local telephone calls.
 - Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that an anti-poverty level of income for all young people be established, educational opportunities be increased and a long term job creation program be established.
 - Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.

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 McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to prevent the implementation of the Australia Card legislation.

Mr Moore—from certain citizens praying that all bans on smoking in the workplace and on domestic air travel be lifted and discriminatory smoking legislation not proceed.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the proposed closure of the Army Reserve subsection at Macksville, NSW, be stopped and a permanent depot be built.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the Constitution be amended to provide for the holding of referenda if a certain percentage of electors petition either House of Parliament.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that legislation for any type of national identity system be abandoned.

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

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that 1989 be proposed as the International Year for Repairing the Earth and certain other action be taken in support of world peace.

Petitions received.

- 13 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TOURIST INDUSTRY:** The House was informed that Mr Sharp had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories to lead Australia's tourist industry to achieve its full potential, resulting in the loss of job opportunities and income for Australia's economy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sharp addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That order of the day No. 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 15 **STUDENT ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Holding (Minister for Employment Services and Youth Affairs), for Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Student Assistance Act 1973*, the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940*, the *Social Security Act 1947* and the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 16 **CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Small Business) presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation relating to Customs and Excise, 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 T. A. Fischer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

17 **EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Small Business) presented a Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Excise. 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 Connolly), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

18 **PETROLEUM EXCISE (PRICES) BILL 1987:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) presented a Bill for an Act to establish prices in relation to which Duties of Excise are to be imposed on certain crude petroleum oil, and for related purposes. Bill read a first time.

Bill read a first time.

Mr P. F. Morris moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr P. F. Morris 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.

19 **WILLIAMSTOWN DOCKYARD EMPLOYEES BILL 1987:** Mrs Kelly (Minister for Defence Science and Personnel), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for certain employees of Williamstown Dockyard. Bill read a first time.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Kelly moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mrs Kelly 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.

20 **SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Connolly, viz.—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 Government's imposition of 2.5% deemed income on disregarded property in all cases under the hardship provisions of the assets test should not be proceeded with, and that the discretion of Departmental officers to apply this provision under the regulations should be maintained to prevent unfair and discriminatory treatment of pensioners, especially farmers"—*

Debate resumed.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 70

Mr Baldwin	Mrs Darling	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Mountford
Mr Beddall	Mr Dubois	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Neil
Mr Bilney	Mr Duffy	Mr Johns	Mr Price
Mr Blanchard	Mr Duncan	Mr Jones	Mr Punch
Dr Blewett	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mrs Kelly	Mr Saunderson
Mr Bowen	Ms Fatin	Mr Kent	Mr Scholes
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kerr	Mr Sciacca
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Free	Dr Klugman	Mr Scott
Mr Brumby	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb*	Mr Simmons
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Snow
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr Lavarch	Mr Snowdon
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lee	Dr Tiephanous
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Mr Tickner
Mr Cleeland	Mrs Harvey	Ms McHugh	Mr West
Mr Courtice	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr Willis
Ms Crawford	Mr Hollis	Mr Mildren	Mr Young
Mr Cross	Mr Howe	Mr Milton	
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Humphreys	Mr A. A. Morris	

NOES, 56

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Cowan	Mr Katter	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr Macphee	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Goodluck	Mr Millar	Mr Smith
Mr Cadman	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mrs Sullivan
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Halverson	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Peacock	Mr White
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Dr Woods
Mr Cobb	Mr Hunt	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge

* 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.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 24, dated 5 November 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 Howe (Minister for Social Security), by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Clause 41, page 36, lines 4 and 5, omit the definition of "parent", substitute the following definition:

"parent", in relation to a person (in this definition called the 'child'), means another person who is:

- (a) a natural or adoptive parent of the child;
- (b) acting as the child's guardian on a long term basis; or
- (c) the spouse of such a parent or guardian;

but does not include another person:

- (d) with whom the child does not live if the child is living with a different person to whom paragraph (a), (b) or (c) applies; or
- (e) who the Secretary decides, in the special circumstances of the case, should not be treated as a parent of the child;"

Clause 109, page 67, lines 22–24, omit the note in italics at the foot of subclause (2), substitute the following note: "*Commencement: Immediately after the commencement of the provisions of the Veterans' Entitlements (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 1986 (other than section 61 of that Act)*".

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Mildren reported accordingly.

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

21 **HEALTH LEGISLATION 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—

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 25, dated 5 November 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.

On the motion of Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), the Bill was read a third time.

22 **STUDENT ASSISTANCE 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 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 condemns the Government for its failure to administer AUSTUDY student assistance grants in a timely and efficient manner, thus causing grave inconvenience to students and their families”.

Mrs Darling addressing the House—

Adjournment negated: It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Debate continued.

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

23 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—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 18 November 1987:

Commonwealth Teaching Service Act—Determination—1987—No. 3.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1987—Nos. 79, 105, 106, 107, 108.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Mr Cohen, Mr Gayler, Mr Kerin, Mr MacKellar, Mr Staples, Mr Uren, Mr Webster and Mr Wright.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives