

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 28

TUESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1987

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Willis (Minister for Industrial Relations), Mr Young (Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs) was acting as Minister for Industrial Relations.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT AND PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPER:** The Acting Speaker presented the following papers:
 Audit Act—
 Certificates concerning the exempt accounts for 1986-87 in respect of—
 Australian Security Intelligence Organization, dated 15 September 1987.
 Australian Secret Intelligence Service, dated 7 August 1987.
 Financial statements prepared by the Minister for Finance for 1986-87.
 Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements prepared by the Minister for Finance, including a report of the independent auditor relating to the Auditor-General's Office, for 1986-87.
 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 on the financial statements prepared by the Minister for Finance for 1986-87, and
 (2) That the papers be printed.
 Question—put and passed.
- 5 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 Merit Protection (Australian Government Employees) Act—Merit Protection and Review Agency—Report for 1985-86.
 Public Service Act—Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Report, including the report on the operation of the *States Grants (Aboriginal Assistance) Act 1976* and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.
- 6 **GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE REPORTS—RESPONSE TO LIST PRESENTED BY SPEAKER—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:
 Government responses to parliamentary committee reports—Response to list presented by Madam Speaker on 3 November 1987—
 and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

7 COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:

Mr Keating (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Commissioner of Taxation—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 PRIME MINISTER—VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr

Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning his recent visit to New Zealand.

Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

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

Mr Beale, Mr Jenkins, Mr Kent, Mr Peacock 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 Simmons—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Beale, Mr Dobie, Mr Rocher and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.

Mrs Darling and Mr Shack—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 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 Beale—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 Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.

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.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that a time charge on local telephone calls not be introduced.

Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.

Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Jull—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 McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card legislation be withdrawn.

Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.

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

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the decision by the ABC not to televise the 1988 Jack High Bowling Tournament be reversed.

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.

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

Petitions received.

- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRIVATISATION:** The House was informed that Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The urgent need for the Government to privatise some publicly owned enterprises to make them more efficient and effective and thus benefit consumers, taxpayers and the employees of the enterprises themselves".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Howard addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 11 FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Martin (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration:
Australian iron and steel industry—
Report, dated November 1987.
Evidence received by the committee.
Minutes of proceedings of the committee and of the Standing Committee on Expenditure of the 34th Parliament.
Ordered—That the report be printed.
Mr Martin, Mr Braithwaite and Dr H. R. Edwards, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.
- 12 EXCISE TARIFF 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Jones (Minister for Science and Small Business), the Bill was read a third time.
- 13 PETROLEUM EXCISE (PRICES) 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 Jones (Minister for Science and Small Business), the Bill was read a third time.
- 14 RIVER MURRAY WATERS 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 Lloyd who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not opposing the Bill, the House is of the opinion that the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement should be amended:
(1) to recognise progress made (a) by previous governments, (b) by the persons who live along the Murray River and (c) in the River's drainage area;

- (2) to reduce the new bureaucratic administrative and consultative arrangements for the Basin to enable efficient action and co-ordination; and
- (3) so that the Government with the States provides a firm commitment to finance the already known necessary remedial measures along the Murray River which would immediately improve water quality”.

Debate continued.

Mr Porter addressing the House—

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

Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Debate continued.

Amendment negated.

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 P. F. Morris, the Bill was read a third time.

15 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.14 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mrs Child, Mr Cohen, Mr Hayden, Mr MacKellar, Mr Webster and Mr Willis.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives