

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 37

THURSDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1988

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Dr Klugman (Chairman) presented the following report from the Committee of Members' Interests:
Committee of Members' Interests—Report on the operations of the committee, including the minutes of proceedings, for 1987.
 - 3 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES (CONVERSION TO PUBLIC COMPANY) BILL 1987:** Message No. 121, dated 17 February 1988, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to the conversion of the Australian National Airlines Commission to a public company, to repeal all but certain provisions of the 'Australian National Airlines Act 1945', and for other purposes*".
Bill read a first time.
Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 4 **COMMONWEALTH BORROWING LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Borrowing Levy Act 1987*.
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 Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 5 **INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (SHARE INCREASE) BILL 1988:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the purchase of additional shares of the capital stock of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
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 Carlton), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 6 **PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCTS BILL 1988:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the precincts of the new Parliament House, and to amend the *Parliament Act 1974*, the *Parliament House Construction Authority Act 1979* and the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr West 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.

7 REFERENDUM (MACHINERY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1988: Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Referendum (Machinery Provisions) Act 1984*.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr West 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.

8 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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 Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), 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 notes that:*

- (1) this Government is the highest taxing government in the post-war history of Australia;
- (2) an estimated 24.5% of GDP in 1987-88 will be collected in tax revenue;
- (3) there will be an estimated \$71 billion in taxation revenue in 1987-88, a \$5.5 billion increase on the previous year's collection;
- (4) the Government has increasingly burdened not only individuals but business with new incentive-sapping taxes like the fringe benefits tax and capital gains tax; and
- (5) without the incentive to invest and work productively, Australia will find it increasingly difficult to extricate itself from its \$83 billion foreign debt strait jacket without further reductions in our standard of living”—

Debate resumed.

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

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

AYES, 71

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

NOES, 55

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Katter	Mr Reith
Mr Aldred	Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Robinson
Mr Andrew*	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Rocher
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Ruddock
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shack
Mr Braithwaite	Mr T. A. Fischer	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	Mr Spender
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hunt	Mr Pratt	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Jull	Mr Prosser	

* 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Holding (Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

9 INCOME TAX (OFFSHORE BANKING UNITS) (WITHHOLDING TAX RECOUPMENT)

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 Holding (Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

10 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION (SAFEGUARDS) (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) 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 having been resumed by Mr Smith—

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order

106A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

11 AGED CARE PROGRAM: Ms McHugh, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House congratulates the Government on developing and implementing a comprehensive and integrated program of care for aged people which enables older people in the community to maintain the best possible quality of life, and in particular through the:

- (1) Home and Community Care Program which enables the aged to remain in their own homes rather than prematurely seeking admission to an institution;
- (2) Government's emphasis on providing a greater range of residential options whereby the aged can now receive the level and type of care most appropriate to their needs; and
- (3) development of quality of care standards for nursing homes, whereby aged people requiring nursing home care will be assured of high quality treatment.

Mr Blunt moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "this House condemns the Hawke Labor Government's discriminatory attacks on people who have retired or are about to retire from the Australian workforce, for its failure to develop a comprehensive retirement incomes policy, for causing insecurity and uncertainty amongst nursing home residents and for its autocratic approach to the implementation of changed nursing home funding arrangements".

Debate continued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109, as amended by sessional order.

Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notice No. 1, general business, be extended until 2 p.m.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr McLeay was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

13 **PORT ADELAIDE ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT:** Madam Speaker informed the House that it was her intention to issue a writ on Friday, 19 February 1988, for the election of a Member to serve for the electoral division of Port Adelaide in the State of South Australia, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Honourable Michael Jerome Young. The dates in connection with the election would be fixed as follows:

Issue of writ	Friday, 19 February 1988.
Close of rolls	Friday, 26 February 1988.
Date of nomination	Friday, 4 March 1988.
Date of polling	Saturday, 26 March 1988.
Date of return of writ	On or before Sunday, 29 May 1988.

14 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Report for 1986-87.

Public Service Act—Department of Science—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

15 **ABORIGINAL HOSTELS LIMITED—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House takes note of the following paper:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

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

16 **NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE—PROGRESS REPORT AND BUDGET UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the updated budget and construction progress of the new Parliament House project.

Mr Porter, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr West presented the following paper:

New Parliament House—Progress report and budget update to August 1987—
Ministerial statement, 18 February 1988—

and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Fife 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.

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

Mr Beale, Mr Kent, Mr Macphee 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 Brumby and Mr Courtice—from certain citizens praying that any changes to the system of charging for local telephone calls not disadvantage the aged, infirm and other fixed income groups.
- Mr Brumby and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Rocher and Mr Shack—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mrs Darling and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that Telecom abandon its proposal to time-charge local telephone calls.
- 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.
- Mr Rocher and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that the decision by the ABC not to televise the 1988 Jack High bowling tournament be reversed.
- Mr Rocher and Mr Webster—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 the capital gains tax be repealed.
- 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 Beale—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken in the ACT in relation to loitering, consumption of alcohol by under age persons and the production, sale and distribution of material depicting violence.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.
- Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that a Department of Social Security office be established in the Adelaide Hills area, SA.
- Ms Fatin—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken in relation to the survivors of HMAS *Voyager*, their widows and next-of-kin and other service personnel injured in peacetime.
- Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain citizens praying that any decision to introduce timed local calls by Telecom Australia be rescinded.
- Mr Hawker—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 Langmore—from certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory praying that the National Health and Medical Research Council Model Food Act and the Food Standards Code be adopted in the ACT.
- Mr Lee—from certain residents of the Division of Dobell praying that the income tax pensioner rebate for Social Security and Veterans' Affairs pensioners be increased.
- Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that the sale of violent videos, books and toys of violence be banned.
- Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Constitution be reformed in order to recognise significant public expressions of concern.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that the Australian community not be disadvantaged by any changes to Telecom's pricing system.
- Mr Moore—from certain citizens; and Mr McArthur—from certain residents of the Division of Corangamite, respectively, praying that Telecom's proposal to time-charge local calls be rejected.
- Mr Braithwaite, Mr Prosser and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

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

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

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that any legislation supporting timed local telephone charges be opposed.

Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that funding and approval be provided for nursing home facilities at the Joseph Cook Hostel, Rossmoyne, WA.

Mr Snowdon—from certain citizens praying that the granting of certain areas of land in connection with the Jawoyn (Katherine area) land claim not be made.

Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to time-charge local calls be reversed.

Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the termination of the Medicare agency rights for the Western District Health Fund and the withdrawal of Medicare services in Springwood, NSW, be prevented.

Petitions received.

- 18 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SUPERANNUATION:** The House was informed that Mr Connolly had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "Growing community concern resulting in an escalation in early retirements due to the Government's failure to clarify its intention regarding superannuation changes".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Connolly addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 19 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT—PROPOSED GENERAL PRINCIPLES—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr McLeay (Chairman) presented the following report from the Selection Committee:

General principles relating to the selection of private Members' business, dated 18 February 1988.

The report is as follows:

REPORT

The Selection Committee submits its report to the House on the proposed general principles relating to the selection of private Members' business, and recommends its adoption.

In accordance with sessional order 28D (b) the Selection Committee has resolved that the general principles should be as follows:

- General principles relating to the selection of private Members' business**
1. In formulating the priority to be given to items of private Members' business the Selection Committee shall have regard to:
 - (a) the importance of the subject;
 - (b) the current level of interest in the subject;
 - (c) the extent of the current discussion on the subject both in the Parliament and elsewhere;
 - (d) the extent to which the subject concerns the administrative responsibilities of a Minister or could come within the scope of ministerial action;
 - (e) the probability of the subject being brought before the House by other means within a reasonable time; and
 - (f) whether the subject is the same, or substantially the same, as another item of business which has been debated or on which the House has already made a decision in the same period of sittings and, if so, whether new circumstances exist.
 2. The Committee shall accord priority to private Members' business—

- (a) with regard to the numbers of Members affiliated with each party in the House;
 - (b) in a way which ensures that a particular Member or the Members who comprise the Opposition Executive do not predominate as the movers of the items selected; and
 - (c) in a way which seeks to ensure balance is achieved over each period of sittings.
3. Priority shall not be accorded to any item of private Members' business, the subject of which can be considered by the House in another, more appropriate, way.
 4. When a private Member will have the responsibility for the carriage of a Bill transmitted from the Senate for concurrence, the Bill shall be accorded priority in the same way as a private Member's Bill originating in the House is accorded priority by sessional order 104A.
 5. The general principles set out above shall be observed generally by the Selection Committee but nothing in the general principles shall be taken to prevent the Selection Committee departing from those general principles in order to meet circumstances, which, in its opinion, are unusual or special.

LEO MCLEAY
Chairman

18 February 1988.

Mr McLeay and Mr Fife, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

- 20 **NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION (SAFEGUARDS) (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) 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.
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, Customs and Small Business), the Bill was read a third time.
- 21 **COMMONWEALTH LEGAL AID 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 22 **COMMUNICATIONS 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—
Debate resumed by Mr Blunt 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 Government for its lack of action to date in abolishing a number of government-imposed constraints on Australia Post, Telecom Australia and the Overseas Telecommunications Commission including:
(a) unnecessary industrial relations co-ordination procedures which, in a number of cases, frustrate rather than expedite the resolution of particular industrial disputes;
(b) a costly and inflexible superannuation regime through the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme which, in the case of Telecom, represents a 20% on-cost compared to an average cost of superannuation in the private sector of between 10 and 12%;

- (c) restrictive borrowing limits which inhibit the raising of funds for capital works programs;
 - (d) cumbersome contracting and purchasing requirements, which, in the case of the latter, were recommended to be abolished by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts for Australia Post, Telecom Australia and the Overseas Telecommunications Commission; and
 - (e) constraints on new development initiatives such as joint ventures and subsidiary arrangements; and
- (2) further condemns the Government for its shabby handling of the privatisation debate, which is highlighted by the current intense conflict within the Labor Party on this issue”—
- Mr Snow addressing the House—
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23 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.06 p.m., Madam Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cohen, Mr Dobie, Mr Halverson, Mr Hayden, Mr Kerr, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Sharp and Mr White.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives