

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 38

MONDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 1988

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House of the following ministerial arrangements during the respective absences abroad of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) and Mr Duffy (Minister for Trade Negotiations):
- Senator Tate (Minister for Justice) was acting as Attorney-General and would be represented in this House by Mr Holding (Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs); and
- Senator Evans (Minister for Transport and Communications) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and would be represented in this House by Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence).
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS MOVED:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Prime Minister and the Member for Parramatta providing to the House forthwith a full explanation of the facts surrounding the resignation of the Member for Parramatta from the Ministry with particular reference to the Prime Minister's knowledge of the voting procedures for the theatre contract at Expo 88.

Debate ensued.

The time allowed by standing order 91 for debate on the motion having expired—  
Question—put.

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

AYES, 50

Mr Adermann	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Aldred	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Beale	Mr Fife	Mr Macphee	Mr Shipton
Mr Blunt	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mr Smith
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mrs Sullivan
Mr D. M. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr Hicks*	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Pratt	Dr Woods
Mr Cobb	Mr Hunt	Mr Robinson	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher	
Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock	

## NOES, 71

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

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

5 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented:

Alumina exports from Gove—Statement by Senator Cook, Minister for Resources.

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

Mr Beale, Mr Kent and Mr Milton—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 Beale and Mr Lloyd—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 Beale—from certain citizens praying that the legislation to tax fringe benefits not proceed.

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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that Telecom's proposal to time-charge local calls be rejected.

Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Moore, Mr A. A. Morris, Mr Prosser, Mr Sciacca and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens; and Mr Fife—from certain residents of the Division of Hume, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Chynoweth—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Chynoweth—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 Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.

Mr Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Cobb—from certain residents of the Division of Parkes praying that any plans to conduct a wealth inquiry or impose new taxes be rejected.

Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of the Division of Murray in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Telecom abandon its proposal to time-charge local telephone calls.

- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.
- Mr R. F. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that conditions and costs of local telephone calls not be made more arduous, expensive or difficult.
- Mr Howard—from certain citizens praying that amendments to ACT legislation and customs regulations which permit the distribution of pornographic material be reversed.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the current system of charging for local telephone calls be maintained.
- 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 Lloyd—from certain residents of the Division of Murray praying that the present untimed local call policy in regional and rural areas remain and be reinstated for those living in remote areas.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of the Division of McEwen praying that a Christian prayer and blessing be included in the opening of the new Parliament House.
- Mr A. A. Morris—from certain electors of the Division of Newcastle praying that a bilateral peace treaty containing certain proposals be offered to each nation-state.
- Mr Prosser—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 Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Camberwell South post office, Vic., be prevented.
- Mr Smith—from certain residents of Tasmania praying that the Armed Forces Food Science Establishment in Scottsdale, Tas., be maintained.
- 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 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.

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

19 February 1988—Message—

No. 122—Extradition 1987.

No. 123—Extradition (Repeal and Consequential Provisions) 1987.

**8 EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING—STANDING COMMITTEE:** The House was informed that the National Party Whip had nominated Mr Cowan to be a member of the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training in place of Mr McVeigh.

**9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RESIGNATION OF MEMBER FOR PARRAMATTA FROM MINISTRY:** 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 contempt shown to the Australian people by the Prime Minister and the Member for Parramatta through their failure to provide the Parliament with a full explanation of the facts surrounding the resignation of the Member for Parramatta from the Ministry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS:** Mr Hollis (Chairman) presented the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the construction of new telephone exchange building at Charlotte Street, Brisbane (1st report of 1988).

Report relating to the construction of State Head Office, Australia Post, Prince Alfred Park Centre, 219-241 Cleveland Street, Redfern, NSW (2nd report of 1988).

Severally ordered to be printed.

11 **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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Blunt, 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:

(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”—

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

12 **COMMONWEALTH TEACHING SERVICE 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

*In the committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Braithwaite, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 7—

Page 6, line 5, omit “Subject to subsection (2).”

Page 6, at end of proposed paragraph 32 (1) (b) add ", after consultation with the relevant staff organisation".

Page 6, proposed section 32, omit subsection (2).

Page 7, at the end of proposed section 33 add the following subsections:

"(6) A Joint Selection Committee shall not refuse to consider an application on the basis that the applicant is not a member of a relevant staff organisation.

(7) A Joint Selection Committee, or a member of a Joint Selection Committee, shall not, in assessing the claims of applicants in accordance with subsection (1), take into consideration whether an applicant is a member of a relevant staff organisation."

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Cowan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Punch (Minister for the Arts and Territories), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 **AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES (CONVERSION TO PUBLIC COMPANY) BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Duncan presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Mr Beale 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:

- (1) its double standards in introducing legislation similar to that which the previous coalition Government passed to convert the then Trans-Australia Airlines into a company and which this Government repealed;
- (2) its failure to take into account the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Australian Airlines' future capital requirements;
- (3) its failure to decide now whether or not to privatise Australian Airlines;
- (4) creating continuing unnecessary uncertainty among Australian Airlines' employees as to their future; and
- (5) the continuing poor administration of Australia's aviation infrastructure".

Debate continued.

Mr Jenkins addressing the House—

- 14 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.54 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 February 1988:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statement relating to failure to furnish periodic report within specified period—Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority—Report for 1986-87.

Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations—  
1987—No. 8.

1988—Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 8.

**Determinations—**

1987—No. 93—Overseas Rental and Utilities Allowance and other allowances.

1988—

No. 1—Salary of Permanent Force Members and other allowances.

No. 2—Child Care Reimbursement Allowance.

No. 3—Travelling Allowance and other allowances.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—1988—Postal—Amendment No. 1.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 16 February 1988.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr Bowen, Mr Burr, Mr Carlton, Mr Cohen, Mr Dobie, Mr Duffy, Mr Gayler, Mr Halverson, Mr Hand, Mr Hayden, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kerr, Dr Klugman, Mr P. F. Morris and Mr Tuckey.

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**A. R. BROWNING**

Clerk of the House of Representatives