

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 39

TUESDAY, 23 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 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.
 National Museum of Australia Act—National Museum of Australia—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.
 Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—1987 Review—
 Determinations—
 1987/12—Ministers of State.
 1987/13—Office Holders of the Parliament.
 1987/14—Members of the Parliament.
 1987/15—Parliamentary Secretaries to Ministers of State.
 1987/16—Travelling Allowance within Australia—Ministers, Office Holders and Members of the Parliament.
 1987/17—Entitlements of Members of the Parliament.
 1987/18—Secretaries of Departments and Holders of Public Offices.
 1987/19—Members of Aboriginal Land Councils.
 1987/20—Members of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly.
 Reports—
 1987/3—Ministers of State.
 1987/4—Judges.
 1987/5—President and Members of the Inter-State Commission.
 Statement.
 Standards, accreditation and quality—Statement by Senator Button, Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce, dated 22 February 1988.
- 4 **AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL DEFENCE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the actions the Government is taking in regional defence relations, and presented the following paper:
 Australia's regional defence policy: Self-reliance and cooperation—Ministerial statement, 23 February 1988.
 Mrs Kelly (Minister for Defence Science and Personnel) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
Suspension of standing orders—Time for speech: Mrs Kelly, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the honourable Member for McPherson speaking for a period not exceeding 35 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr White addressed the House.

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

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

Dr Blewett, Mr T. A. Fischer and Mr Kent—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 Cadman, Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Campbell, Mr Rocher 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.

Dr H. R. Edwards, 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 Cross and Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Telecom abandon its proposal to time charge local telephone calls.

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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the takeover of Thomas Borthwick's interests in Australia and Japan by Australian Meat Holdings be prevented and the future of Merinda Meatworks, Qld, be secured.

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

Mr Moore and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens; and Mr Courtice, Mr Fife, Mr McArthur and Mr Millar—from certain residents of the Divisions of Hinkler, Hume, Corangamite and Wide Bay, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

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

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

Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that a Department of Social Security office be established in the Adelaide Hills area, SA.

Mr Downer—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to introduce time charging on local calls not proceed.

Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain citizens praying that any decision to introduce timed local calls by Telecom Australia be rescinded.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the current system of charging for local telephone calls be maintained.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to time charge local calls not be approved.

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

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

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Camberwell South post office, Vic., be prevented.

Mrs Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to meter local telephone calls by Telecom be reconsidered.

Petitions received.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—URANIUM SALES:** The House was informed that Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to realise Australia's export potential by its irrational restrictions on the sale of uranium".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sinclair addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SELECTION:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the proposed general principles relating to the selection of private Members' business reported to the House by the Selection Committee on 18 February 1988 be adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 AUSTRALIA'S REGIONAL DEFENCE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER**

NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Kelly (Minister for Defence Science and Personnel)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented this day*), viz.:

Australia's regional defence policy: Self-reliance and cooperation—Ministerial statement, 23 February 1988—

Debated resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 PAPER:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Community Services and Health), by indulgence, added to an answer to a question without notice asked earlier this day and presented the following paper:

Health Insurance Commission—Release of information about individual patients and doctors—Copy of minute from Mr C. R. Wilcox, General Manager, Health Insurance Commission, to Dr Blewett, Minister for Community Services and Health, dated 7 January 1988, together with a draft response to Dr A. Passmore, Secretary General, Australian Medical Association.

Mr Tuckey, by indulgence, also referred to the matter.

- 10 SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—MOTION OF CENSURE OF MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH AND OF MEMBER FOR CANNING:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith—That this House censures the Minister for Community Services and Health and the Member for Canning for their conduct regarding confidential Health Insurance Commission records.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

- 11 MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH AND MEMBER FOR CANNING—MOTION OF CENSURE:** Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That this House censures the Minister for Community Services and Health and the Member for Canning for their conduct regarding confidential Health Insurance Commission records.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 72

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

NOES, 53

Mr Adermann	Mr Cowan	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Aldred	Mr Downer	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Andrew*	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Macphee	Mr Sinclair
Mr Beale	Mr Fife	Mr Miles	Mr Smith
Mr Blunt	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Goodluck	Mr Moore	Mr Tuckey
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Hall	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Porter	Mr White
Mr D. M. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Pratt	Mr Wilson
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Dr Woods
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hunt	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Carlton	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher	
Mr Cobb	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Connolly	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 54

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

NOES, 73

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

* Tellers

And so it was negated.

12 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being past 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 23 February 1988:

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Determinations listing fees and/or charges for purposes of the following ordinances—

Business Franchise (Tobacco and Petroleum Products), dated 17 December 1987.

Motor Omnibus Services, dated 3 December 1987.

Ordinance—1988—No. 2—Schools Authority (Amendment).

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

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives