

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 46

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 1988

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.
- 2 **ABSENCE OF MADAM SPEAKER:** The Clerk having informed the House that Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) was unavoidably absent, the Chairman of Committees (Mr McLeay) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.
- 3 **TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** 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 Moore moved the following amendment: Clause 4, page 2, omit the clause, substitute the following clause:

Extension of section 65U

"4. Section 65U of the Principal Act is repealed and the following section is substituted:

Cessation of Division in respect of food and drinks

'65U. On 1 July 1990 this Division shall cease to have effect in respect of goods which are foods and drinks intended for human consumption.'"

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr R. F. Edwards reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Staples (Minister for Housing and Aged Care), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 4 **NORFOLK ISLAND AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** 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 Punch (Minister for the Arts and Territories), the Bill was read a third time.

- 5 CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** 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.
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.
- 6 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 7 PARLIAMENTARY CATERING SERVICE—INDUSTRIAL SITUATION—STATEMENT BY ACTING SPEAKER:** The Acting Speaker made a statement informing the House of an industrial dispute involving staff of the parliamentary catering service.
- 8 NATIONAL AGENDA FOR WOMEN—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:**
Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) presented the following paper:
National Agenda for Women—A say, a choice, a fair go—Report by the Office of the Status of Women—
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.
- 9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAX TREATMENT OF 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, “The dramatic impact on Australians of the Hawke Government’s proposed changes to the tax treatment of superannuation”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Connolly addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 10 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business) moved—Customs Tariff Proposals No. 4 (1988).
Debate adjourned (Mr Braithwaite), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 CRIMES (TORTURE) BILL 1988:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to give effect to certain provisions of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate adjourned (Mr Reith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1987-88—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1987-88:**
Message No. 66, dated 23 March 1988, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:
(a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1988; and
(b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums

appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1987-88*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1987-88*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

13 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1987-88—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1987-88: Message No. 67, dated 23 March 1988, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sum appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1987-88*, for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sum appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1987-88*, for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

14 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, FOR YEAR 1987-88—APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL (NO. 2) 1987-88: Message No. 68, dated 23 March 1988, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988, in relation to the Department of the Parliamentary Library; and
- (b) in accordance with the requirements of section 56 of the Constitution, recommending to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to appropriate certain sums out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act 1987-88*, for certain expenditure, in relation to the Parliamentary Departments, in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate certain sums out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the *Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Act 1987-88*, for certain expenditure, in relation to the Parliamentary Departments, in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1988, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 15 **HONEY MARKETING BILL 1988:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the marketing of honey and certain other matters concerning the honey industry.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Kerin 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 **HONEY LEVY (NO. 1) AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Honey Levy Act (No. 1) 1962*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Kerin presented an explanatory memorandum to the following Bills:

Honey Levy (No. 1) Amendment 1988.

Honey Levy (No. 2) Amendment 1988.

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

- 17 **HONEY LEVY (NO. 2) AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Honey Levy Act (No. 2) 1962*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 18 **HONEY EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industries and Energy) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Honey Export Charge Act 1973*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Kerin 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.

- 19 **DEFENCE POLICY—PROGRESS REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 22 March 1988*), viz.:

Defence policy—Progress report—Ministerial statement, 22 March 1988—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 20 **CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** 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.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr Reith, the following new clause was inserted in the Bill, after debate:

Page 2, after clause 3 insert the following new clause:

“3A. Section 26 of the Principal Act is repealed and the following section is substituted:

Reimbursement of expenses

‘26. (1) A witness appearing before the Authority shall be paid by the Commonwealth in respect of the expenses of his or her attendance an amount ascertained in accordance with the prescribed scale or, if there is no prescribed scale, such amount as the Authority determines.

‘(2) The Authority may direct that a person producing a document or thing pursuant to a notice issued under section 29 shall be paid by the Commonwealth in respect of the expenses of his or her attendance an amount ascertained in accordance with the prescribed scale or, if there is no prescribed scale, such amount as the Authority determines.’”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Mountford reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

21 SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS (MAINTENANCE INCOME TEST) AMENDMENT BILL 1988: 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 deplors the fact that the economic and social policies pursued by the Hawke Government since March 1983 have directly contributed to the continuing high level of marriage break-ups by:

- (1) increasing the number of Australian families living below the poverty line and bearing the brunt of unemployment, including an additional 165,000 children;
- (2) pursuing policies which have resulted in single income families on average weekly earnings with 2 children facing a decline of \$42 a week in their standard of living in real terms;
- (3) abolishing negative gearing between July 1985 and September 1987 which resulted in a decline in rental accommodation, and a steep rise in rental costs which has contributed to 160,000 Australians waiting for public housing, while thousands of families and individuals live in refuges, emergency accommodation or on the streets;
- (4) failing to give recognition to the increased burdens of families with dependants other than the approximately 23% eligible for assistance under the Family Assistance Scheme; and
- (5) contributing to a marked decline in the standard of living of veterans, war widows, ex-service personnel and serving personnel”.

Debate continued.

22 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being approximately 7.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Acting Speaker adjourned the House
until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 March
1988:

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Order—1988—No.
2—Export Control (Fish) as amended (Amendment).

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised
under subsection 7 (1).

Meat Inspection Act—Meat Inspection (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1988—
No. 1—Meat Inspection (Victoria).

No. 2—Meat Inspection (General) as amended (Amendment).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting)
except Mr Bilney, Mr Brumby, Mr D. M. Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mrs Child,
Mr Dawkins, Mr Duffy, Dr Hewson and Mr McGauran.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives