

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 50

THURSDAY, 14 APRIL 1988

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Brumby, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Holding, Mr Peacock and Mr Rocher, from 39, 10, 17, 186 and 52 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Dr Blewett, Mr Porter and Mr Wilson, from 945, 3142 and 49 petitioners, respectively, praying that the funding level for nursing and personal care staff hours be raised in all States.

Mr Fife, Dr Hewson and Mr Ruddock, from 84, 69 and 43 petitioners, respectively, praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

Mr Brumby and Mr Lloyd, from 12 and 30 petitioners, respectively, praying that due consideration be given to increasing the amount of funds available to local government authorities for roadworks.

Mr Lloyd, from 151 residents of the Division of Murray, in similar terms.

Mr Cross and Mr Johns, from 17 and 188 petitioners, respectively, praying that any changes to the system of charging for local telephone calls not disadvantage the aged, infirm and other fixed income groups.

Mr Punch and Mr Webster, from 247 and 90 petitioners, respectively, praying that Australia withdraw from the Asian Regional Co-operative Project on Food Irradiation and from the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation and certain other action be taken in relation to food irradiation.

Mr Andrew, from 51 residents of South Australia, praying that the House voice strong objections to the Government over plans to reduce staffing hours in nursing homes.

Dr Blewett, from 359 members of the Northern Region Careproviders Association, praying that the age limit of children covered by section 33 of the Childrens' Services Act be lowered from 6 years to 5 years.

Mr D. M. Cameron, from 515 petitioners, praying that those involved in the public release of confidential medical information be censured.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron, from 15 petitioners, praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.

Dr Hewson, from 17 petitioners, 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 Hunt, from 12 petitioners, praying that any wealth inquiry, new wealth taxes or death duties be rejected.

- Mr Kerr, from 129 petitioners, praying that measures be taken to ensure that the ABC continues to offer comprehensive broadcasting services under its present charter.
- Mr Langmore, from 89 residents or persons employed in the ACT, praying that the ACT be provided with an elected form of self government.
- Mr Lloyd, from 90 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 10 residents of the Division of Murray, praying that the Health Insurance Act and the National Health Act be amended to restore the rebates which were withdrawn following changes to Medicare benefits on 1 August 1987.
- Mr McArthur, from 20 electors of the Division of Corangamite, praying that the House ensure that there will be no further public release of private confidential medical information.
- Mr Milton, from 45 petitioners, praying that importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 32 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr Milton, from 10 petitioners, praying that the dismantling of the ABC and the introduction of any form of sponsorship or advertising material from commercial sources into its programs be opposed.
- Mr Moore, from 18 petitioners, praying that Telecom's proposal to time-charge local calls be rejected.
- Mr Hunt, from 78 residents of the Division of Gwydir, in the same terms.
- Mr Braithwaite, from 12 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr O'Neil, from 50 residents of Port Augusta, SA, praying that there be no difference between the level of unemployment benefit and the Austudy allowance.
- Mr Reith, from 660 residents of the Borough of Wonthaggi, Vic., praying that the decision to discontinue Medicare agency arrangements with Latrobe Health Insurance be reconsidered.
- Mr Reith, from 458 petitioners, praying that the Medicare agency services at Wonthaggi, Vic., be continued.
- Mr Rocher, from 5 petitioners, praying that the Constitutional Alteration (Electors' Initiative) Bill 1987 be referred to a parliamentary committee and certain other action be taken in relation to the Bill.
- Mr Rocher, from 39 petitioners, praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Ruddock, from 233 petitioners, praying that all advertising of alcohol on radio and television be banned.
- Mr Ruddock, from 104 employees of Rheem Australia Limited, North Rocks Plant, NSW, praying that no further tax on superannuation benefits or superannuation funds be imposed.
- Mr Sciacca, from 22 petitioners, praying that legislative action be taken to reverse the decision to increase excise duty automatically at 6-monthly intervals.
- Mr Webster, from 115 petitioners, praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.
- Mr Webster, from 20 petitioners, praying that the decision to time-charge local telephone calls be reversed.
- Mr Webster, from 130 petitioners, praying that the circulation of X-rated videos be prevented and laws regarding obscenity in the media be revived and enforced.
- Mr Webster, from 394 petitioners, 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.

3 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Mr Mountford (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Procedure:

2nd Report—The ringing of bells and the Chamber precincts in the new Parliament House and certification of petitions not in the English language—

Report, dated 12 April 1988.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Mountford, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr R. F. Edwards and Mr Fife made statements in connection with the report.

4 SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS—RELATIONS: Mr Downer, pursuant to notice, moved—

That this House expresses its deep concern at the negligent way the Government has conducted Australia's relations with the South Pacific nations since 1983.

Debate ensued.

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

5 NURSING HOMES: Mr Nehl, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House calls on the Government to review urgently the implementation of the care aggregate module and prevent a severe decline in the standard of care in Australian nursing homes.

Debate ensued.

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

6 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE—CONTAMINATION: Mr Scott, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Government promote Australian agricultural produce as being free from nuclear contamination and non-irradiated.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mr Webster, by leave, presented the following paper:

Food irradiation—Table detailing countries and food products which have international clearances for food irradiation as at August 1985.

Debate continued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A, the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr P. S. Fisher was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

7 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS: Members' statements were made.

9 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

10 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act—Commissioner for Employees' Compensation—Report for 1986-87.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—The wheat industry, dated 25 February 1988 (No. 411).

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Parole Ordinance—Parole Board of the Australian Capital Territory—Report for 1986-87.

11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—IMMIGRATION PROGRAM:

The House was informed that Mr Cadman had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The subversion of the proper process of inquiry and debate on Australia's immigration program by the Prime Minister".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Cadman addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

12 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr D. M. Cameron (Acting Chairman) presented the report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 21 April 1988.

13 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS: Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, notices Nos. 1 to 3 and order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1987-88: 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 Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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 notes that:

- (1) Budget estimates put Commonwealth Government outlays at over a quarter of Australia's GDP, and that this is funded by revenue collection that has made this the highest taxing Government in the post-war history of Australia;
- (2) the Government has increasingly burdened not only individuals but business with new incentive-sapping taxes like the fringe benefits tax and capital gains tax;
- (3) national productivity is not expected to rise much more than a dismal 0.5% during the course of 1987-88; and
- (4) without the incentive to invest and work productively, Australia will find it increasingly difficult to extricate itself from its \$87 billion foreign debt strait jacket without further reductions in our standard of living".

Debate continued.

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

15 NORFOLK ISLAND—REPORT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Beazley (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 13 April 1988*), viz.:

Norfolk Island—Report for 1986-87—

Debate resumed.

Mr Punch (Minister for the Arts and Territories), who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the House.

Question—put and passed.

16 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—UTILITY HELICOPTER FACILITIES, PHASE 2, RAAF BASE, TOWNSVILLE AND OAKEY ARMY AIRFIELD, QLD—DEVELOPMENT: Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions

of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Development of new utility helicopter facilities, phase 2, at RAAF Base, Townsville and Oakey army airfield, Qld.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 17 **EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 3 (1988)**: Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services) moved Excise Tariff Proposals No. 3 (1988).

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

- 18 **SUPERANNUATION BENEFIT (INTERIM ARRANGEMENT) BILL 1988**: Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services), for Mr Dawkins (Minister representing the Minister for Finance), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for an interim superannuation benefit for certain persons.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 19 **CIVIL AVIATION BILL 1988**: Mr Duncan (Acting Minister representing the Minister for Transport and Communications), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish a Civil Aviation Authority with functions relating to the safety of civil aviation, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 20 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1988**: Mr Duncan (Minister for Employment and Education Services) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 21 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEES—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS**: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 131

Madam Speaker,

The Senate acquaints the House of Representatives of the following Resolution agreed to by the Senate this day:

- (1) That the paper entitled *The Canberra Leasehold System* prepared by Professor Max Neutze at the request of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure for investigation and report.
- (2) That the Standing Committee when considering this matter be empowered to sit as a joint committee with the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure of the House of

Representatives when that Committee is considering this matter, under the same provisions as the joint committee empowered by Resolution of the Senate of 3 November 1987, concurred in by the House of Representatives on 5 November 1987, to examine proposed variations to the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra.

- (3) That nothing in paragraph (2) be taken to affect the power of the Senate Committee to consider the matter referred to in paragraph (1) or its duty to report to the Senate on this matter.

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives in paragraph (2) of this Resolution.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 14 April 1988

Ordered—That consideration of the message be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 22 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL 1988:** Message No. 132, dated 13 April 1988, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to establish a Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Development Authority, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 23 **MINISTERS OF STATE 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 having been resumed by Mr Tuckey—

Deputy Speaker's ruling: The Deputy Speaker (Mr Mountford) ruled that the remarks of the honourable Member were out of order as they were not relevant to the Bill.

Dissent from ruling moved: Mr Tuckey moved—That the ruling be dissented from.

Debate ensued on the motion of dissent.

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

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the ruling be dissented from—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 39

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Dr Hewson	Mr Sinclair
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Hicks*	Mr Smith
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Spender
Mr Blunt	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Tuckey
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr Miles	Mr Webster
Mr Burr	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Porter	Mr White
Mr Cadman	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Pratt	Mr Wilson
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Reith	Dr Woods
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr Halverson	Mr Rocher	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Cobb	Mr Hawker	Mr Sharp	

NOES, 64

Mr Baldwin	Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr O'Neil
Mr Beazley	Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr Price
Mr Beddall	Mr Duncan	Mr Johns	Mr Punch
Mr Bilney	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Jones	Mr Saunderson
Mr Blanchard	Ms Fatin	Mrs Kelly	Mr Sawford
Mr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kent	Mr Scholes
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Mr Kerin	Mr Sciacca
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Mr Kerr	Mr Scott
Mr Campbell	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb*	Mr Simmons
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Gorman	Mr Lee	Mr Snow
Mr Courtice	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lindsay	Mr Snowdon
Ms Crawford	Mr Hand	Ms McHugh	Mr Staples
Mr Cross	Mrs Harvey	Mr Martin	Dr Theophanous
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Holding	Mr Mildren	Mr Tickner
Mrs Darling	Mr Howe	Mr Milton	Mr West
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wright

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 73, dated 17 March 1988, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 24 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1987-88:** 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) (see entry No. 14)—*

Debate resumed.

Mr Milton addressing the House—

- 25 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Charles, Mr Cohen, Mr Cowan, Mr Grace, Mr Hayden, Mr Hollis, Mr Katter, Mr Lavarch, Mr Lloyd, Mr McLeay, Mr A. A. Morris, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr Ruddock, Mr Shipton, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Uren.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives