

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 80

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 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 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Baldwin, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Campbell, Mr Cohen, Mr Cowan, Ms Crawford, Mr Downer, Ms Fatin, Mr Fife, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Hand, Dr Hewson, Mr Hicks, Mr Hollis, Mr Jenkins, Mr Johns, Mr Jones, Mr Jull, Mr Kerin, Mr Kerr, Mr Lamb, Mr MacKellar, Mr McLeay, Mr Millar, Mr Peacock, Mr Pratt, Mr Reith, Mr Robinson, Mr Rocher, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton, Mr Webster, Mr White and Mr Wilson, from 27, 69, 27, 164, 27, 80, 34, 27, 37, 27, 52, 56, 108, 27, 111, 63, 82, 185, 119, 108, 77, 98, 27, 27, 27, 53, 82, 67, 244, 81, 27, 27, 107, 111, 152, 53 and 2 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to place certain pharmaceutical drugs on the authority only listing be abandoned.

Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Cunningham and Mr McGauran, from 81, 30 and 30 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to place the anti-epileptic medication "Epilem" on the "Authority only" listing be rescinded.

Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr McGauran and Mr White, from 104, 72 and 139 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to place certain drugs on the "Authorities Required" list be reversed.

Mr Duffy and Mr Shipton, from 77 and 4 petitioners, respectively, praying that a request be made to the Romanian Government to abandon plans to destroy 7000 villages.

Mr Fife and Mr T. A. Fischer, from 15 and 382 petitioners, respectively, praying that television stations be compelled to reduce the incidence of crime and violence broadcast by 50 percent.

Mr Fife and Mr Miles, from 40 and 137 petitioners, respectively, praying that all advertising of alcohol on radio and television be banned.

Dr H. R. Edwards, from 216 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Kerr and Mr Pratt, from 671 and 40 petitioners, respectively, praying that X-rated video material and its R-rated equivalent be refused classification for the purpose of Commonwealth laws.

Mr Rocher and Mr Shack, from 99 and 73 petitioners, respectively, praying that a non-violent erotica video classification not be adopted and certain other action be taken in relation to film classifications.

Mr Shack, from 31 residents of Western Australia, in the same terms.

- Mr Scott and Mr Webster, from 66 and 17 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 Adermann, from 64 residents of Queensland, praying that the two dollar coin be removed from circulation and the two dollar note be reinstated.
- Mr N. A. Brown, from 42 petitioners, praying that the proposed changes to the pension income test be abandoned.
- Mr E. C. Cameron, from 28 members of the Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. Benalla Branch, in the Division of Indi, praying that the distribution of video tapes featuring sex, violence and obscene language be prohibited.
- Mr E. C. Cameron, from 1121 petitioners, praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.
- Mr E. C. Cameron, from 253 electors of the Division of Indi, praying that road funding levels be increased through a clear dedication of a proportion of fuel excise collected and certain other action be taken in relation to road funding arrangements.
- Mr E. C. Cameron, from 377 residents of the Division of Indi, praying that local government be allocated more resources to address the problem of deteriorating road networks.
- Mr Cowan, from 45 petitioners, praying that the Australian way of life be preserved and national identity be protected.
- Mr Cross, from 541 petitioners, praying that freehold titles to Australian land and property can be held and transacted only by those persons who are Australian by birth or naturalisation.
- Mr Cross, from 21 petitioners, praying that diplomatic pressure be exerted on the Chilean military regime for the release of all political prisoners and certain other action be taken in relation to Chile.
- Dr H. R. Edwards, from 51 petitioners, praying that any proposal for, or legislation permitting, a casino in the ACT be rejected.
- Mr T. A. Fischer, from 29 petitioners, praying that the hire and sale of R, X and the proposed Non-violent Erotica rated videos be banned.
- Mr P. S. Fisher, from 19 petitioners, praying that the last line in each chorus of the National Song be altered from "Advance Australia Fair" to "God bless Australia Fair".
- Mr Johns, from 96 petitioners, praying that the May and November adjustment dates for the aged pension be restored and certain other action be taken in relation to the pension.
- Mr Jull, from 38 electors of the Division of Griffith, praying that steps be taken to minimise noise levels and alter flight paths at the new Brisbane domestic airport.
- Mr Kent, from 631 petitioners, praying that importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.
- Mr Kerr, from 37 petitioners, praying that the importation of any radioactive substances or machinery for the purposes of food irradiation be banned and certain other action be taken in relation to food irradiation.
- Mr Kerr, from 709 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr Langmore, from 2843 petitioners, praying that ACTION bus fares in Canberra be reviewed and lowered.
- Mr Miles, from 94 residents of Tasmania, praying that the entry into Australia of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ* be rejected.
- Mr Miles, from 61 electors of the Division of Braddon, praying that the proposed closure of the Burnie, Tas., office of the Australian Electoral Commission be opposed.

Mr Millar, from 34 petitioners, praying that the film *The Last Temptation of Christ* be prevented from being registered for screening in Australia.

Mr Porter, from 949 electors of the Division of Barker, praying that the incidence of crime and violence broadcast on television be reduced.

Mr Pratt, from 193 petitioners, praying that legislation which would reduce pension entitlements and access to fringe benefits does not apply retrospectively in relation to certain forms of investment.

Mr Reith, from 100 petitioners, praying that the standard of television reception on the Mornington Peninsula, Vic., be restored and improved.

Mr Rocher, from 282 petitioners, praying that the Commonwealth-owned land at Buckland Hill, WA, be retained by the Commonwealth and declared an "A" class reserve and certain other action be taken in relation to the land.

Mr Smith, from 936 petitioners, praying that the Invermay post office, Tas., be retained in its present state.

Mr Smith, from 98 petitioners, praying that the Newnham Court Newsagency post office, Tas., be retained.

Mr Uren, from 436 petitioners, praying that a commitment to non-discriminatory selection criteria for migrants and to the concept of a multicultural Australia be maintained.

Mr Webster, from 4 petitioners, praying that the House call a national day of prayer for Australia.

Mr Webster, from 174 petitioners, praying that the film *The Last Temptation of Christ* be rejected by the Film Censorship Board.

Mr Webster, from 49 petitioners, praying that legislation be passed to make participation in Government statistical surveys voluntary and to protect the privacy of Australians.

Mr Webster, from 85 petitioners, praying that the decision to impose the pension income test on money received from market linked investment products be revoked.

Mr Webster, from 29 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.

Petitions received.

4 COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION—33RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE—REPORT OF DELEGATION FROM COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA BRANCH—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

The Acting Speaker presented the following paper:

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—33rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, Kuala Lumpur, September 1987—Report of Delegation from Commonwealth of Australia Branch.

Mr Langmore, Mr Kent and Mr Andrew made statements in connection with the report.

5 GREENHOUSE EFFECT: Mr Chynoweth, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) recognises the serious environmental threat posed by the greenhouse effect; and
- (2) believes that urgent steps should be taken to implement and maintain research into the greenhouse effect and that such research should be funded by means of a levy on polluters and pollutants.

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 **VETERANS' WELFARE:** Mr Johns, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House acknowledges the debt of the Australian community to veterans and the need to compensate them for their sacrifices, and notes the achievements of the Government in providing for the welfare of veterans in times of restraint in public expenditure.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 7 **SCIENCE AND RESEARCH:** Mr Smith, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:
- (1) recognises the importance of science and research to the future economic and social well-being of Australia;
 - (2) acknowledges the contribution made to Australia's economic growth by the flagship of Australian science, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO); and
 - (3) notes the rapid decline in support for science, including the CSIRO, by the Government and accepts an urgency to address the appalling situation.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 8 **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.

- 9 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.

- 10 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice having been called on—

Suspension of standing and sessional orders moved: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the questioning by Members of this House of the Acting Treasurer regarding the conversation he had with the Prime Minister in which he advised the Prime Minister that it was his view the Prime Minister should resign so that the Treasurer might take his place.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—put.

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

AYES, 51

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

NOES, 67

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

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice were asked.

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

Director of Public Prosecutions Act—Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1987-88.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1987-88.

Petitions which are not in accord with standing and sessional orders of the House on the following subjects:

Chlorofluorocarbon chemicals (Mr Milton, 75 petitioners).

Citizens' initiative and referendum (Mr Beazley, 5 petitioners; and Mr Tickner, 10 petitioners).

Country road funding (Mr Tuckey, 74 petitioners).

Food irradiation (Mr Milton, 1357 petitioners; and Mr Scott, 17 petitioners).

Freedom of education (Mr Kerr, 3006 petitioners).

Nuclear reactors (Mr Tickner, 153 petitioners).

Nursing Homes (Mr N. A. Brown, 18 petitioners).

Recent events in Burma (Mr Beazley, 439 petitioners).

Romanian bulldozer program (Mr Howard, 6369 petitioners).

12 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr McLeay (Chairman) presented the report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 20 October 1988.

13 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOME OWNERSHIP:** The House was informed that Mr Downer had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The crippling effect of the Government's economic policies on Australians trying to buy their own homes".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Downer addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

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

12 October 1988—Message—

No. 212—State; (Works and Housing) Assistance 1988.

No. 213—Governor-General Amendment 1988.

- 15 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL 1988:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 214

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act relating to the prevention and settlement of certain industrial disputes, and for other purposes", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,

Canberra, 12 October 1988

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

- 16 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1988:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 215

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to enact certain transitional provisions, and to repeal certain Acts and amend certain Acts, in consequence of the enactment of the 'Industrial Relations Act 1988', and for other purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
President

The Senate,

Canberra, 12 October 1988

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

- 17 **CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS:** Mr Jones (Minister for Science, Customs and Small Business) moved—

Customs Tariff Proposals No. 11 (1988); and

Customs Tariff (Coal Export Duty) Proposals No. 1 (1988).

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

- 18 **QANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED (LOAN GUARANTEE) 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—*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) regrets that Qantas has been prevented from selling shares to Qantas employees and the Australian people to provide a capital increase to facilitate expansion of the airline to cope with increasing passengers and freight; and

(2) notes that the Australian Taxation Office has issued a statement on debt defeasance, a procedure adopted by Qantas to finance the acquisition of new aircraft"—

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 Willis (Minister for Transport and Communications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 19 **SALES TAX ASSESSMENT (NO. 1) 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 Telecommunications and Aviation Support), the Bill was read a third time.

- 20 **SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1988** [NO. 2]: 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:

- (1) notes that this Government has presided over an increasingly inefficient and inequitable indirect tax system that abounds with anomalies and inconsistencies;
- (2) calls into question the Government’s misguided priorities in increasing sales tax on a number of products, especially on packaging materials, when Australians are already suffering from the highest tax burden in the peacetime history of Australia; and
- (3) calls on the Government to undertake a thorough review of the sales tax and indirect tax system in an endeavour to relieve the burden on long-suffering taxpayers and furnish a system that will increase the incentive to save and invest in Australia”.

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 Punch (Minister for Telecommunications and Aviation Support), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 **AUSTRALIAN PARALYMPICS TEAM:** Mr Sharp, by leave, moved—That this House:
- (1) expresses its best wishes to all the members of Australia’s Paralympics team who are about to commence their Paralympics Games in Seoul; and
 - (2) congratulates all the members of the team on their dedication and determination in the knowledge that they will make every Australian proud of them.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 22 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL REVENUE) 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 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) this Government’s prospective 1988-89 budget surplus is mostly based on increased taxation, and over 70 per cent of the expenditure cuts in budget outlays comes from reduced payments to State governments;

- (2) this Government has been found wanting in the need to bear its share of expenditure restraint by cutting its own direct expenditure; and
- (3) the arrangements outlined in the Bill reflect policies that discourage the incentive to invest and work productively and therefore facilitate the restructuring of the Australian economy to address the nation's net foreign debt of some \$88 billion".

Debate continued.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—The Acting Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 13 October 1988:

Navigation Act—Navigation (Orders) Regulations—Order—1988—No. 7—Marine, Part 2.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 24 September 1988.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Blewett, Mr Bowen, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Brumby, Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Charles, Mrs Child, Mr Cohen, Mr Courtice, Mrs Darling, Mr Duffy, Mr Hall, Mr Humphreys, Mr Katter, Mr Keating, Dr Klugman, Mr McArthur, Mr Millar, Mr Mountford, Mr O'Keefe, Mr O'Neil, Mr White and Dr Wooldridge.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives