

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 135

THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 1989

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Anderson, Mr Andrew, Mr Beddall, Mr Blanchard, Mr Braithwaite, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Connolly, Mr Courtice, Mr Cowan, Ms Crawford, Mr Cross, Mrs Darling, Mr Dobie, Dr H. R. Edwards, Ms Fatin, Mr Fife, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Jull, Mr Katter, Mr Lindsay, Ms McHugh, Mr MacKellar, Mr Mildren, Mr Millar, Mr Mountford, Mr Nehl, Mr Peacock, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sciacca, Mr Shack, Mr Simmons, Mr Snowdon, Mr Tickner, Mr Webster, Dr Woods and Mr Wright, from 51, 55, 155, 118, 125, 180, 103, 11, 514, 50, 513, 94, 457, 78, 38, 235, 72, 103, 5, 1832, 9, 238, 203, 24, 963, 26, 77, 10, 239, 930, 445, 25, 43, 236, 227, 136 and 923 petitioners, respectively, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and certain other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.

Mr Adermann, Mr Baldwin, Mr Cohen, Mr Connolly, Mr Cowan, Mr Cross, Mr Hancock, Mr Holding, Mr Hollis, Mr Kerr, Mr MacKellar, Mr Tickner and Mr Wilson, from 47, 71, 9, 25, 24, 94, 12, 372, 12, 12, 6, 23 and 37 petitioners, respectively, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Fife, Mr Hawker and Mr Jull, from 33, 298, 613 and 27 petitioners, respectively, praying that the excessive reliance on high interest rates as the major economic policy weapon cease.

Mr Cowan, Ms McHugh, Mr Martin and Mr Tickner, from 120, 235, 141 and 92 petitioners, respectively, praying that the importing and exporting of chlorofluorocarbons be banned and certain other legislative action be taken in response to the greenhouse effect.

Ms Crawford, Mr Gayler, Mr Humphreys and Mr Sciacca, from 13, 83, 38 and 144 petitioners, respectively, praying that the aged pension be increased to 30 per cent of average weekly earnings and certain other action be taken in relation to pensions.

Mr Anderson, Mr Howard and Dr Woods, from 20, 37 and 4277 petitioners, respectively, praying that the restructuring of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

Mr Baldwin, Mr Holding and Ms McHugh, from 10 099, 120 and 12 000 petitioners, respectively, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.

- Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Duffy and Mr Ruddock, from 15, 27 and 32 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to place certain pharmaceutical drugs on the "Authority only" listing be abandoned.
- Ms Fatin, Mr Johns and Ms McHugh, from 635, 440 and 282 petitioners, respectively, praying that any attempt to restrict access to abortion under Medicare be opposed.
- Mr Hawker, Mr McArthur and Mr McGauran, from 4877 petitioners, 161 electors of the Division of Corangamite and 260 electors of the Division of Gippsland, respectively, praying that a breast X-ray program for Australian women be implemented as soon as possible.
- Mr Anderson and Mr Sharp, from 566 and 61 petitioners, respectively, praying that the allocation to roads from fuel excise revenue be increased by 10 cents per litre from existing taxes and continue at that level for the next decade with adjustments for changes in fuel prices.
- Mr Brumby and Mr P. S. Fisher, from 38 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that the last line in each chorus of the National Song be altered from "Advance Australia Fair" to "God bless Australia Fair".
- Mr Cowan and Dr Woods, from 176 and 77 petitioners, respectively, praying that the provision of an adequately funded pharmaceutical benefits scheme which ensures availability of pharmaceutical benefits through local pharmacies be guaranteed.
- Ms Crawford and Ms McHugh, from 7 and 17 petitioners, respectively, praying that the introduction of food irradiation into Australia be blocked and certain other action be taken in relation to the irradiation of food.
- Mr Downer and Dr Woods, from 146 and 407 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to ensure the viability of community pharmacists.
- Dr H. R. Edwards and Dr Woods, from 64 residents of Berowra and 54 residents of Pendle Hill and Girraween, NSW, respectively, praying that proposed cuts in funding of pharmaceutical benefits be rejected and a family chemist service maintained.
- Mr Gayler and Mr Smith, from 65 and 38 petitioners, respectively, praying that the importation and availability of pornography in videos, films and television be banned and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography.
- Mr Hawker and Mr Howard, from 238 and 168 petitioners, respectively, praying that action to reverse rising cost trends be taken and positive incentives provided to encourage all health funds to share the cost of health care for the sick and elderly.
- Mr Holding and Mr MacKellar, from 11 and 11 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Shark Bay region, WA, be declared a national park and nominated for World Heritage listing.
- Mr Reith and Mr Smith, from 648 and 129 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation be enacted to establish a savings fund to encourage saving by young people and to provide low interest housing loans to its contributors.
- Dr Blewett, from 8 petitioners, praying that all advertising of alcohol on radio and television be banned.
- Mr Chynoweth, from 60 electors of the Division of Dunkley, praying that unemployment benefits for those under 18 be re-introduced and certain other action be taken in relation to the plight of homeless youth.
- Mr Gayler, from 201 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 Goodluck, from 20 petitioners, praying that the provision of an adequately funded pharmaceutical benefits scheme which provides a comprehensive range of modern therapeutic products be guaranteed.

- Mr Hand, from 209 overseas secondary students currently studying in Australia, praying for exemption from full fees in 1990 and for the duration of their tertiary study.
- Mr Hawke, from 103 residents of the Division of Wannon, praying that the incidence of crime and violence broadcast on television be reduced and tighter controls on the sale and classification of videos be introduced.
- Mr Hawke, from 18 petitioners, praying that the funding of road works be given higher priority and certain other action be taken in relation to upgrading Australia's road network.
- Mr Holding, from 81 petitioners, praying that the moratorium on mining of the Antarctic continent be extended and certain other action be taken in relation to environmental protection of the Antarctic.
- Mr Hollis, from 191 petitioners, praying that the levels of fee relief for occasional childcare be increased and certain other action be taken in relation to occasional childcare.
- Mr Humphreys, from 113 petitioners, praying that adequate research into production of large scale solar energy for industry be funded and certain other action be taken in relation to solar energy.
- Mr Jull, from 26 petitioners, praying that freehold titles to Australian land and property be held and transacted only by those persons who are Australian by birth or naturalisation.
- Mr Lloyd, from 49 petitioners, praying that access to SBS be extended to the Goulburn Valley and north-eastern Victoria.
- Mr McArthur, from 115 petitioners, praying that the Income Tax Assessment Act be amended to ensure tax exemption for pony clubs.
- Mr McArthur, from 16 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr MacKellar, from 18 petitioners, praying that legislation to counteract the greenhouse effect be introduced immediately.
- Mr Prosser, from 111 petitioners, praying that mining and tourism in the Antarctic be prevented and the Antarctic region be preserved as a heritage park.
- Mr Ruddock, from 44 petitioners, praying that the manufacture and importation of confectionery containing alcohol be banned.
- Mr Smith, from 1930 petitioners, praying that sufficient funding be provided to the Masonic Peace Haven Home, Launceston, for the home to remain open.
- Mr Smith, from 1802 petitioners, praying that facilities be established to transmit the SBS signal in northern Tasmania.

Petitions received.

- 3 FLAGS AMENDMENT BILL 1989:** Mr Fife, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Flags Act 1953* to ensure that the Australian National Flag is not altered except with the approval of the Australian people voting in a referendum, that the Australian National Flag is not supplanted by use of the powers under the Act, and that the appointment of other flags and ensigns is subject to disallowance by either House of the Parliament.

Mr Fife made a statement in relation to the Bill.

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, in accordance with sessional order 104A.

- 4 BALTIC STATES—SELF-DETERMINATION:** Mr N. A. Brown, pursuant to notice, moved—That, noting (a) the efforts of the peoples of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to become and remain independent and (b) that the USSR, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, and Nazi Germany entered into a secret agreement on 23 August 1939 known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop

Pact, one consequence of which was the occupation of the Baltic States, this House:

- (1) reaffirms Australia's longstanding affinity with the aspirations of the Baltic peoples and endorses their continuing quest for self-determination and the preservation of their cultural heritage;
- (2) welcomes the many positive reforms that have been recently initiated in the USSR under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev, and the improvements these have brought to the Baltic peoples; and
- (3) calls upon the Government of the USSR to:
  - (a) publicly denounce the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact;
  - (b) restore to the Baltic peoples the fundamental rights and freedoms which they seek; and
  - (c) establish a mechanism whereby the Baltic peoples may peacefully and democratically exercise their sovereign right to determine their own future.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**5 AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SERVICE:** Mr Kerr, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) accepts responsibility for its contribution to development of the existing social milieu within the Australian Public Service (APS) which has been variously described in Public Service Commission reports as “toxic, fear-based, pathological, repressive, reactive, paternalistic and neurotic” to the extent that some APS departments are seen as presenting the same manic depressive mental disorder symptoms which individuals present;
- (2) acknowledges that the manner in which Parliament seeks to maintain principles of fairness, impartiality, probity and public accountability is too often characterised by the use of its powers to seek punishment of those who are seen to have made mistakes, regardless of any consideration of risks involved, rather than to acknowledge and reward success;
- (3) notes that this hyper-critical approach is at variance with contemporary personnel management practices; and
- (4) acknowledges the serious efforts currently being made to implement improved management practices in the public sector and resolves to follow that lead by hencewith adopting a co-operative and constructive approach to its management of the Australian Public Service.

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 Lavarch was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**6 EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:** Mr Downer, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House urges Australian business to address the implications for itself and the Australian economy in general of European economic integration post 1992.

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 Hawker was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**7 IMPORTATION OF X-RATED AND EXCESSIVELY VIOLENT VIDEOS:** Mr Cobb, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in the light of the joint select committee report on video pornography and violence being finalised, the Government should recognise the urgent need to present legislation to stop the importation into Australia of X-rated and excessively violent videos.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.20 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with the resolution of the House of 30 August 1989, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Mr Cleeland was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

**8 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper:* Mr Keating (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Income tax scale—Table showing impact on single income family of two-rate income tax scale.

Questions without notice continued.

**9 WORLD WAR II—ANNIVERSARY OF OUTBREAK—RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE,**

**SYMPATHY AND COMMITMENT:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, moved—That, remembering (a) that 3 September 1989 is the fiftieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War and (b) that nearly 34 000 Australian service men and women died in that conflict, this House expresses its profound hope that the troubled peace since the end of the War will become a permanent peace in the world and, in particular:

- (1) reaffirms its deep and continuing gratitude to those Australian men and women who served their country in that War, both overseas and at home, and its continuing sympathy to the families and friends of those who died or were wounded in combat; and
- (2) resolves to ensure that the sacrifices of those men and women were not made in vain, by meeting our nation's continuing defence and security responsibilities and by working to preserve and extend the goals for which the War was fought: a peaceful world in which the human rights and democratic aspirations of all men and women are inviolate.

And Mr Peacock (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr Blunt (Leader of the National Party of Australia) having addressed the House in support thereof—

Question—put and passed.

All Members present then stood, in silence, in memory of those who died while serving Australia in World War II.

**10 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr Speaker (Chairman) presented the report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 7 September 1989.

**11 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE:** Mr Speaker presented the following papers:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit reports—1989-90—

No. 6—Department of Employment, Education and Training: Post-graduate Awards.

No. 7—Department of Employment, Education and Training: Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full Time Training.

No. 8—Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories: ACT Administration.

No. 9—Department of Defence: Post Separation Employment.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That:

- (1) this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of audit reports Nos. 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Auditor-General for 1989-90;
- (2) the reports be printed;
- (3) audit reports No. 6 of 1989-90—Department of Employment, Education and Training: Post-graduate Awards, and No. 7 of 1989-90—Department of Employment, Education and Training: Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full Time Training be referred to the Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training.

Question—put and passed.

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

Advance to the Minister for Finance—

Statements for May, June and July 1989.

Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during May, June and July 1989.

13 **PAPER:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Industrial Relations), by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

REMM Construction (Aust) Pty Ltd—Copy of advertisement published in the *Adelaide Advertiser* of 31 August 1989 with the heading “You’re wrong Mr Downer”.

14 **MASONIC PEACE MEMORIAL HAVEN OF NORTHERN TASMANIA (INC.)—REVIEW AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER—PAPERS NOTED:** Mr Staples (Minister for Housing and Aged Care) presented the following paper:

Masonic Peace Memorial Haven of Northern Tasmania (Inc.)—Management Performance Review by Coopers and Lybrand, Consultants, dated August 1989.

and, by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the management performance review on the Masonic Peace Memorial Haven of Northern Tasmania (Inc.).

Question—put and passed.

Mr Staples, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the management performance review and presented the following paper:

Masonic Peace Memorial Haven of Northern Tasmania (Inc.)—Management performance review—Ministerial statement, 31 August 1989.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

15 **PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AIRLINE PILOTS’ DISPUTE:** The House was informed that Mr Peacock (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Prime Minister to resolve the pilots’ dispute and prevent a major disruption throughout the economy, in particular, in the tourist and hospitality industries”.

Mr Peacock informed the House that he did not wish to proceed with the discussion at this sitting.

16 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—COMMONWEALTH OFFICES PROJECT, ALICE SPRINGS:** 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: Commonwealth offices project, Alice Springs.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

17 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1989-90—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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.

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*Statement by Mr Speaker:* Mr Speaker made a statement on security in the Chamber following a disturbance in the Chamber during question time.

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Debate continued.

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*Suspension of standing and sessional orders moved:* Mr Reith moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) order of the day No. 32, private Members' business, for the second reading of the Industrial Relations (Directions to Stop Industrial Action) Amendment Bill 1989 being called on forthwith; and
- (2) the passage of the Industrial Relations (Directions to Stop Industrial Action) Amendment Bill 1989 through all remaining stages without delay.

*Speaker's ruling:* Mr Speaker ruled that the motion was out of order as it was not relevant to the matter before the House.

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Debate continued.

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18 **ADJOURNMENT:** (t 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 Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Cohen, Mr Cowan, Mr Gorman, Mr Grace, Mr Johns, Dr Klugman, Mr Miles, Mr Mountford, Mr Shipton, Mr Sinclair, Mr Uren and Mr White.

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**A. R. BROWNING**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives