

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 7

THURSDAY, 17 MAY 1990

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 Dawkins, Mr Halverson, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr McArthur, Mr Martin, Mr Taylor and Mr Tuckey, from 368, 13, 34, 164, 56, 21 and 15 petitioners, respectively, praying that policies be implemented to increase Australian aid, fight poverty, protect the environment and promote human rights.

Mrs Darling, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Martin and Mr Webster, from 11, 59, 84 and 36 petitioners, respectively, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.

Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Lee, Mr Martin and Mr J. L. Scott, from 15, 48, 9 and 21 petitioners, respectively, praying that support for the capital gains tax be maintained.

Mr Bradford, Mrs Darling and Mrs Sullivan, from 174, 20 and 79 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken to recognise Lithuania's Declaration of Independence and endorse its right to self-determination.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Newell and Dr R. L. Woods, from 17, 3 and 1723 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be rejected and a public inquiry held into the registration of the natural healing profession and regulation of natural therapeutic goods.

Mr Charles, Mr Newell and Mr Truss, from 67, 50 and 46 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.

Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker and Mr McArthur, from 144, 152 and 143 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill be supported.

Mr McArthur, Dr R. L. Woods and Dr Wooldridge, from 181, 67 and 212 990 petitioners, respectively, praying that the restructuring of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 1861 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Taylor, Dr R. L. Woods and Dr Wooldridge, from 59, 134 and 2291 petitioners, respectively, praying that steps be taken to maintain both high quality health care for the community and equity for community pharmacists.

Mr Broadbent and Mr Charles, from 45 and 36 petitioners, respectively, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be ratified.

- Mr Hall and Mr Simmons, from 8 and 13 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation which makes superannuation funds pay capital gains tax be repealed.
- Mr Lee and Dr R. L. Woods, from 5047 and 83 petitioners, respectively, praying that the recent decision of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Remuneration Tribunal be set aside.
- Mr Webster and Mr Wilson, from 500 and 17 petitioners, respectively, praying that Government funding of abortion be abolished.
- Ms Crawford, from 17 electors of the Division of Forde, praying that location of a Medicare office at Sunnybank Hills, Qld, be considered.
- Mr Free, from 65 students of the University of Western Sydney, praying for the immediate approval of a seeding grant of \$100 million to the University of Western Sydney, Nepean, and that the level of per capita funding be reconsidered.
- Mr Halverson, from 58 petitioners, praying for the implementation of a breast cancer screening and education program which is covered by Medicare and accessible to all Australian women.
- Mrs Jakobsen, from 176 petitioners, praying that action be taken to ensure the production of disposable nappies which are biodegradable and free of dioxin.
- Mr Kerr, from 640 petitioners, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.
- Mr Kerr, from 80 petitioners, praying that the export of kangaroo products be banned and action be taken to prohibit the commercial killing of kangaroos.
- Mr Kerr, from 51 petitioners, praying that methods other than high mortgage rates be explored to solve Australia's external debt problem.
- Mr Kerr, from 34 petitioners, praying that mining and mineral exploration in the Kakadu conservation zone be halted and certain other action be taken in relation to Kakadu National Park.
- Mr Lee, from 280 electors of the Division of Dobell, praying that the branch of the Commonwealth Bank at Long Jetty, NSW, not be closed.
- Mr McArthur, from 32 petitioners, praying that obscene language be banned from television, radio and the print media.
- Mr McArthur, from 10 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Newell, from 1061 petitioners, praying that the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be set aside until their effect upon the practice of natural therapies is investigated and assessed and that procedures for the registration of practitioners of natural therapies be initiated.
- Mr Newell, from 335 petitioners, praying that proceedings on the Therapeutic Goods Regulations be delayed for six months while an inquiry is held into their effect.
- Mr Shack, from 16 petitioners, praying for a temporary ban on the use of the artificial food colourings E123 and E102 pending investigation and assessment of their effects on health.
- Mrs Sullivan, from 11 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to protect the Antarctic environment from mining, land based tourism and pollution from bases.
- Mrs Sullivan, from 10 petitioners, praying that legislation be passed to deny industrial relations commissions the power to compulsorily direct award superannuation contributions into specified funds.
- Mr Tuckey, from 538 petitioners, praying for a twelve month moratorium followed by a referendum to enable the citizens of Australia to consider and decide whether the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should be ratified.

Mr Tuckey, from 40 petitioners, praying that the continued viability of neighbourhood pharmaceutical services be guaranteed by an adequately funded Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 1256 petitioners, praying that the current Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be maintained and that future decisions affecting the scheme not be made without consulting the relevant bodies.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 395 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to ensure the viability of community pharmacists.

Dr R. L. Woods, from 247 petitioners, praying that the provision of an adequately funded pharmaceutical benefits scheme which ensures availability of pharmaceutical benefits through local pharmacies be guaranteed.

Petitions received.

3 PRIVATE TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS: Mr N. A. Brown, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes the report of the Australian Telecommunications Authority (Austel) entitled "Private Networks: Common Interest";
- (2) notes that the report recommends three categories of common interest for the joint use of private telecommunications networks;
- (3) notes, in particular, that the report recommends that persons should be permitted to share the capacity of a private telecommunications network, subject to conditions;
- (4) notes that the report concludes that this new category of shared capacity private network service would provide greater opportunities for the use of private telecommunications networks;
- (5) notes that the report also concludes that a new ministerial direction under subsection 73 (2) of the *Telecommunications Act 1989* is required before the recommendations contained in the report can be implemented;
- (6) notes that the report further recommends that the three categories of common interest should be allowed in relation to international as well as national private telecommunications networks;
- (7) notes that the Prime Minister in his recent letter to the Minister for Transport and Communications said that this matter was "particularly vital";
- (8) agrees with and endorses Austel's recommendations;
- (9) calls on the Government to implement Austel's recommendations; and
- (10) calls on the Minister for Transport and Communications to give the new ministerial direction under subsection 73 (2) of the *Telecommunications Act* to enable the early implementation of Austel's recommendations.

Debate ensued.

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

4 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP: The House was informed of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade:

Mr Bevis, Mr Dubois, Mr Ferguson, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Hollis, Mr Langmore, Mr Lee, Mr Lindsay, Mr Punch, Mr J. L. Scott and Dr Theophanous had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Connolly, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Halverson, Mr MacKellar, Mr Moore and Mr Taylor had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Hicks and Mr Sinclair had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

- 5 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Presentation of Address in Reply: The House was informed that Mr Speaker had ascertained that His Excellency the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply at Government House at 5.15 p.m. this day. Mr Speaker would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other Members, would accompany him to present the Address.

- 6 **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.

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

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

Papers: Mr Reith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), in accordance with standing order 321, having called for the documents quoted from by Mr Keating (Treasurer)—

Mr Keating laid upon the Table the following papers:

Reform of the Australian Tax System—Draft White Paper, dated June 1985.

Press release by Mr Reith, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, dated 16 May 1990.

Questions without notice continued.

- 9 **RETIREMENT OF MR J. M. CAMPBELL, PRINCIPAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER AND CHANGE OF SERJEANT-AT-ARMS:** Mr Speaker informed the House of the retirement of Mr J. M. Campbell, Principal Parliamentary Reporter, on 14 March 1990, thanked him for his untiring service to the Parliament since 1960 and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr Speaker announced that Mr J. W. Templeton had taken up duty as Secretary of the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff and Mr B. A. Harris had been appointed Chief Hansard Reporter.

Mr Speaker also stated that Ms L. Simons would cease to be Serjeant-at-Arms in July and that Mr P. F. Bergin had been selected to replace her.

- 10 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Auditor-General—Audit report No. 31 of 1989-90—Ministerial portfolios—Autumn sittings 1990.

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 the Auditor-General's audit report No. 31 of 1989-90; and
- (2) the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

11 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Audit Act—Department of Defence factories and dockyard—Financial statements, including Auditor-General's Reports, of certain former Office of Defence Production establishments for the period 1 July 1988 to 3 May 1989 and the Explosives Factory, Maribyrnong, for 1988-89.

Commissioner of Taxation—Report and financial statements, including freedom of information statement and a report pursuant to the Child Support Act, for 1988-89—Corrigendum (Auditor-General's Report).

Environment, Recreation and the Arts—Standing Committee—Report—Use of ionising radiation, dated November 1988—Government response.

Migration Regulations—Joint Select Committee—

1st Report, dated 28 November 1989.

2nd Report, dated 12 December 1989.

Copy of letter from—

Senator Ray, Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs to Dr Theophanous, Chairman, dated 20 December 1989.

Dr Theophanous to Senator Ray, dated 14 February 1990.

12 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Scholes be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, and that, in his place, Mr Langmore be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

13 PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1948*, Mr Holding be appointed a trustee to serve on the Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust.

Question—put and passed.

14 ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of section 10 of the *Archives Act 1983*, this House appoints Mr Hollis as a member of the Advisory Council on Australian Archives for a period of three years from 6 June 1990.

Question—put and passed.

15 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of section 11 of the *Australian National University Act 1946*, this House elects Dr Catley to be a member of the Council of the Australian National University for the period from and including 17 May 1990 to 17 August 1991.

Question—put and passed.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: Message No. 8, dated 17 May 1990, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that Senator Tambling had been discharged from further attendance on the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, and that Senator Brownhill had been appointed a member of the committee.**17 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC POLICY:** The House was informed that Dr Hewson (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's policy paralysis in the face of Australia's economic crisis".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Hewson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

18 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** Message No. 9, dated 17 May 1990, from the Senate was reported:

- (a) concurring in the resolution of the House relating to the appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations; and
- (b) acquainting the House that Senators Cooney, Jenkins, McKiernan and Olsen had been appointed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations.

19 **MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP:**

The House was informed of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations:

Dr Catley, Mr Holding and Dr Theophanous had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Ruddock and Mr Wilson had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Sinclair had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

20 **MULTI-USER ARMY RESERVE DEPOT, OAKLEIGH, VIC.—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Oakleigh multi-user Army Reserve Depot, Vic.

Question—put and passed.

21 **HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS BY THE DEFENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY, LAVERTON AND MACLEOD, VIC., AND BULLSBROOK, WA.—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Housing developments by the Defence Housing Authority at Laverton and MacLeod, Vic., and Bullsbrook, WA.

Question—put and passed.

22 **COMMONWEALTH LAW COURTS, BRISBANE.—CONSTRUCTION—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of Commonwealth Law Courts, Brisbane.

Question—put and passed.

23 **REDEVELOPMENT, PUCKAPUNYAL, VIC.—STAGE 1—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Redevelopment, Puckapunyal, Vic.—Stage 1.

Question—put and passed.

- 24 **ARMY AVIATION CENTRE, OAKEY, QLD—REDEVELOPMENT—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), for Mr Beddall (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Redevelopment of the Army Aviation Centre at Oakey, Qld.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 25 **WOOL TAX (NOS. 1 TO 5) AMENDMENT BILLS 1990:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bills be now read a second time—
Debate resumed.

Presentation of Address in Reply: At 4.45 p.m., the sitting was suspended until 8 p.m. Mr Speaker, after resuming the Chair, reported that, accompanied by Members, he had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's speech on the Opening of the 1st Session of the 36th Parliament, agreed to by the House this day, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:

Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your Address in Reply which you have just presented to me.

It will be my pleasure and my duty to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives, to which the Address gives expression.

Debate continued.

Limitation of debate: At 10.20 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the remaining stages had expired—

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

Further question—That the remaining stages of the Bills be agreed to—put and passed—Bills together read a third time.

- 26 **TRADE PRACTICES (MISUSE OF TRANS-TASMAN MARKET POWER) BILL 1990:** 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 Duffy (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

- 27 **BOUNTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1990:** 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.

Limitation of debate: At 11.30 p.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the remaining stages had expired—

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

Further question—That the remaining stages of the Bill be agreed to—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

- 28 **PARLIAMENTARY ENTITLEMENTS BILL 1990—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole to consider the amendments made by the Senate.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- No. 1—Page 2, clause 3, definition of "Parliamentary officer", lines 26 to 28, leave out the definition, insert the following definition:
 "Parliamentary office-holder" means a person holding a particular office, or performing particular functions, in or in relation to the Parliament or either House of the Parliament;".
- No. 2—Page 2, subclause 4 (2), line 42, leave out "Parliamentary officers", insert "Parliamentary office-holders".
- No. 3—Page 3, subclause 5 (1), line 8, leave out "Parliamentary officers", insert "Parliamentary office-holders".
- No. 4—Page 3, paragraph 6 (1) (a), line 18, leave out "Parliamentary officer", insert "Parliamentary office-holder".
- No. 5—Page 3, clause 7, lines 27 to 37, leave out "Parliamentary officer" (wherever occurring), insert "Parliamentary office-holder".
- No. 6—Page 4, subclause 8 (2), lines 7 to 10, leave out the subclause.
- No. 7—Page 5, subclause 14 (2), lines 10 to 15, leave out "the amount (if any) by which:
 (a) in the case of a Senator—\$9,462; or
 (b) in the case of a member of the House of Representatives—\$30,982; exceeds the amount ", insert "the amount (if any) by which \$9,000 exceeds the amount".
- No. 8—Page 6, SCHEDULE 1, PART 1, item 3, leave out "amount of \$9,462 in the case of a Senator or \$30,982 in the case of a Member of the House of Representatives", insert "amount of \$9,000".
- No. 9—Page 7, SCHEDULE 1, PART 2, heading, leave out "PARLIAMENTARY OFFICERS", insert "PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE-HOLDERS".
- No. 10—Page 7, SCHEDULE 1, PART 2, leave out "Parliamentary officer" (wherever occurring), insert "Parliamentary office-holder".
- No. 11—Page 9, SCHEDULE 2, proposed amendment of subsection 3 (1), definition of "allowance", after "includes", insert ", but is not limited to,".
- No. 12—Page 9, SCHEDULE 2, proposed amendment of subsection 7 (4), leave out the proposed amendment.
- On the motion of Mr Beddall (Minister for Small Business and Customs), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.
 Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mrs Sullivan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Beddall, the House adopted the report.

- 29 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT AND STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Dubois (Chairman) presented the following report:

Committee of Members' Interests—Report on the operations of the committee, including the minutes of proceedings, for 1989.

Mr Dubois, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

- 30 **ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP:** The House was informed that the Government Whip had nominated Mr Gayler to

serve on the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs for the purpose of the inquiry into support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

- 31 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 21 August 1990, at 2 p.m., unless otherwise called together by Mr Speaker or, in the event of Mr Speaker being unavailable, by the Chairman of Committees.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 32 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 33 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after 12 midnight—

FRIDAY, 18 MAY 1990

Debate continued.

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

Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport—Letter, dated 2 June 1989, from Mr D. J. Faber, Director, T. W. Crow Associates, to Mr B. Armstrong, Federal Airports Corporation, concerning consultant selection for proposed third runway environmental impact statement.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.04 a.m. adjourned until Tuesday, 21 August 1990, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to at this sitting.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 May 1990:

Census and Statistics Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1990, No. 91.

Christmas Island Act—Christmas Island Casino Control Ordinance—Amendments to the Christmas Island Casino Agreements, dated 15 February 1990.

Fisheries Act—Copy of agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Australia Japan Tuna Pty Limited, dated 27 April 1990.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hulls, Mr Tuckey and Mr Wilson.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives