

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 43

THURSDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 1991

1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Leo McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Dr Blewett, Mr Duncan, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mrs Gallus, Mr O'Neil, Mr Sawford, Mr Sciacca and Mr Wilson, from 45, 149, 75, 77, 143, 55, 287 and 83 petitioners, respectively, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child not be ratified.

Mr Andrew, Mr Bilney, Dr Catley, Mr Downer, Mrs Gallus, Mr Sawford and Mr Wilson, from 44, 68, 64, 88, 75, 38 and 67 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposed admission charge for the Australian War Memorial be opposed.

Mr Courtice, from 131 residents of Queensland, in similar terms.

Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Ferguson and Mr Fitzgibbon, from 34, 35 and 24 petitioners, respectively, praying that certain action be taken before 1 January 2001 to reaffirm that Australia is a Christian Commonwealth according to law and its heritage, traditions and customs.

Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Fitzgibbon and Mr West, from 307, 114 and 16 petitioners, respectively, praying that progressive advancement of the Joint Coal Board be continued.

Mr Downer and Mr Wilson, from 334 and 12 residents of South Australia, respectively, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be amended to give adequate recognition to the rights of parents with respect to the education and physical, social and moral development of their children.

Mr Howard and Mr Mack, from 56 and 211 petitioners, respectively, praying for a full public inquiry into the proposal to construct a third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport.

Mr Lloyd and Mr Reith, from 18 and 41 petitioners, respectively, praying that reservations be made to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child prior to its ratification to protect the rights of parents in relation to their children.

Mr Andrew, from 146 petitioners, praying that the original criteria for assessing eligibility for family allowance and assets test levels in relation to Austudy be retained.

Mr Beale, from 47 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 Shack, from 29 petitioners, in similar terms.

Mr Cameron, from 468 petitioners, praying that a guaranteed minimum price for wheat be reintroduced, low interest loans be made available for planting wheat and Australian grain growers be compensated for disruption caused by the Gulf crisis.

Mr Campbell, from 192 residents of Western Australia, praying that wool quotas not be introduced or that if they are then the pastoral areas of Western Australia be exempt.

Mr Campbell, from 90 petitioners, praying that no additional tax be levied on tobacco products as a source of funding sport and that the right of tobacco companies to sponsor sport and cultural events and the right of sporting and cultural groups to choose their own sponsor be supported.

Mr Courtice, from 69 petitioners, praying that the emphasis on monetary policy be changed to a more balanced economic approach.

Mr Dawkins, from 4022 petitioners, praying that the policies and administration of student assistance, including Austudy, Abstudy and postgraduate awards, be reviewed.

Mr Duffy, from 3389 petitioners, praying that legislation banning the importation, production and distribution of pornographic video material in Australia be introduced, that guidelines for the classification of this material be revised and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography in the ACT.

Mr Filing, from 599 petitioners, praying for action towards a democratic and peaceful solution to the political crisis in Yugoslavia and that the safety and well-being of Australian citizens travelling within Croatia be ensured.

Mr P. S. Fisher, from 284 petitioners, praying that funding of abortions through Medicare cease and that the right to life of the unborn be protected.

Mrs Gallus, from 358 petitioners, praying that the proposal to reduce certain staffing hours in nursing homes be withdrawn and that measures affecting nursing homes be substantiated on a care need basis.

Mr Gorman, from 272 petitioners, praying that tariffs and quotas not be lowered for a period of five years or as long as the recession retards development in Australia.

Dr Hewson, from 26 petitioners, praying that sales, fuel and income taxes be replaced by a flat rate of duty on all imports, Government agencies be abolished when superfluous and the Australian Customs Service and Armed Forces be strengthened.

Mr Hollis, from 174 electors of the Division of Throsby, praying for an increase in Government funding to Catholic schools.

Mr Jones, from 248 petitioners, praying for an inquiry into the distribution of wealth, the effectiveness of the taxation system and the measures which should be taken to achieve a more just society.

Mr Lavarch, from 320 petitioners, praying that the proposal to impose a tax on motor vehicles at least ten years old and to refuse to register vehicles at least twenty years old be opposed.

Mr Lavarch, from 105 pensioners, praying that the threshold above which pensioners' savings are deemed to be earning 10 per cent interest be increased from \$2000 to \$5000.

Mr McArthur, from 52 petitioners, praying that the Otway Forests, Vic., be managed in the best interests of the Australian people and that the export woodchip licence granted to Midway Wood Products be rescinded.

Mr McArthur, from 23 petitioners, praying that ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be delayed pending

- community consideration and that reservations be submitted concerning the rights and responsibilities of parents.
- Mr Mack, from 3143 petitioners, praying that a charge on pensioners' prescriptions not be introduced.
- Mr Mack, from 311 petitioners, praying for the development of an airport at Badgery's Creek, NSW, and that a third runway at Sydney (Kingsford-Smith) Airport not be constructed.
- Mr Mack, from 35 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr Mack, from 181 petitioners, praying for negotiations to stop the Gulf war and obtain a peaceful solution to the conflict.
- Mr MacKellar, from 471 petitioners, praying that regulations empowering the Australian War Memorial Council to charge an admission fee to any section of the Memorial be disallowed.
- Mr MacKellar, from 209 residents of the Australian Capital Territory, praying that the decision to charge for entry into the Australian War Memorial be reversed.
- Mr MacKellar, from 12 petitioners, praying that Australian military vessels and personnel be recalled from the Gulf war zone and that Australia be neutral.
- Mr A. A. Morris, from 37 electors of the Division of Newcastle, praying that the Medicare office in Market Street, Newcastle, be re-opened and an office opened near Wallsend.
- Mr Nehl, from 58 petitioners, praying that funds be provided to enable the Pacific Highway to be made into a four-lane, divided dual carriageway from Hexham, NSW, to the Queensland border.
- Mr Reith, from 29 residents of Victoria, praying that the rights and responsibilities of parents be considered before legislation on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is passed.
- Mr B. C. Scott, from 3676 electors of the Division of Maranoa, praying that remote communities in Queensland be given access to all commercial television networks.
- Mr Snow, from 33 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to produce new education programs and to broadcast new and existing education programs on ABC radio and television during school hours.
- Mr Snowdon, from 360 residents of Alice Springs, praying that certain action be taken to avoid war in the Persian Gulf and to bring about a peaceful resolution to territorial disputes in the Middle East.
- Mrs Sullivan, from 31 petitioners, praying that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be ratified in a form which protects children from abuse and exploitation and pays the highest regard to the family unit and responsibilities of parents.
- Mr H. F. Woods, from 13 members of the Tabulam Baptist Independent Church, NSW, praying for the release of more details and for more public discussion on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Dr R. L. Woods, from 392 residents of western Sydney, praying that Medicare benefits continue to apply to X-ray services performed at qualifying medical centres.
- Dr R. L. Woods, from 13 petitioners, 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.

Petitions received.

The Clerk announced that the following Ministers' responses to petitions previously presented to the House had been received, viz.:

From the Minister for Resources relating to petitions lodged by:

Mr Andrew, on 6 December 1990, praying that fuel prices be reduced to a reasonable level and that fuel and freight be subsidised for country people.

Mr Beazley, on 6 December 1990, praying that stricter control be exercised over petrol companies and that certain action be taken to stabilise the price of petrol.

Mrs Gallus, on 8 November 1990, praying that steps be taken to reduce the high level of petrol prices and excise.

From the Minister for Community Services and Health and the Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs to a petition lodged by Mrs Jakobsen on 13 September 1990, praying that the WHO International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes be implemented, that violations of the Code be penalised and that the establishment and maintenance of successful lactation be encouraged.

**3 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mrs Jakobsen presented the following report:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark, October-November 1990—Report.

Mrs Jakobsen and Mr Miles made statements in connection with the report.

**4 PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 399:** Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, moved—That for the remainder of this Parliament standing order 399 shall be suspended on each sitting Thursday unless such motion is moved by a Minister.

Debate ensued.

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

**5 CITRUS INDUSTRY:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr P. S. Fisher—That this House:

- (1) recognises the importance of the citrus industry to the social and economic life of regional Australia; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
  - (a) remove developing country status and tariff concessions from Brazil, the world's major citrus producer;
  - (b) immediately introduce anti-dumping and countervailing legislation which is fast and reliable;
  - (c) remove sales tax from all fruit juice products;
  - (d) stop the abuses of labelling, packaging and quality regulations which are confusing the consumer and harming the consumer; and
  - (e) streamline and make applicable to the operation of the Food Standards Committee, commercial practicalities and technological development—

Debate resumed.

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

**6 GREEN ARMY:** Mr Johns, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) supports the concept of a Green Army to fight environmental degradation;
- (2) believes that programs such as Landcare, Greening Australia and the Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers now have sufficient

- experience to provide leaders in the field of practical conservation who could lead the Green Army;
- (3) encourages the federal Government, in conjunction with State and local governments, to establish a fund to promote and manage the Green Army;
  - (4) calls on groups such as the Australian Conservation Foundation, World Wide Fund for Nature, Greenpeace, the Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth and the various Conservation Councils to encourage their members to join the Green Army; and
  - (5) proposes that:
    - (a) environmental repair be undertaken by members of the Green Army which shall be raised through volunteers whose expenses, including travel, accommodation and meals will be covered by the landowner;
    - (b) individuals receiving social security benefits be allowed and indeed encouraged to participate; and
    - (c) projects be selected so as to reinforce the current Government's environment priorities.

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

**7 END OF WAR LIST BILL 1990:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

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

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

**8 DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Kerr—That:

- (1) noting the scarcity of information on the distribution of wealth in Australia;
- (2) recognising that concern regarding inequality is shared by all major political parties in Australia;
- (3) noting that the most recently published survey on the distribution and composition of personal wealth in Australia, Dilnot Australia Economic Review—1st quarter 1990, has concluded that over half the total personal wealth in Australia is held by the wealthiest 10 per cent of the population and the effective tax rate on income from savings falls as wealth rises; and
- (4) sharing the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister in his maiden speech to the House—

this House calls on the Government to:

- (a) collect and publish national statistical information regarding the distribution of wealth in Australia; and
- (b) commission a study to give detailed consideration to, and to report upon, measures available to reduce the inequality of wealth distribution in Australia—

Debate resumed.

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.

- 9 **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.
- 10 **MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.
- 11 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—  
*Paper:* Mr Beazley (Minister for Transport and Communications) presented the following paper:  
 Airline seats—Comparison of annual seats available with origin/destination traffic: Year ended June 1990—Graph.  
 Questions without notice continued.
- 12 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
 Aboriginal deaths in custody—Royal Commission—Report of inquiry into the death of—  
 Kwementyaye Price.  
 The Aboriginal man who died in the Darwin Prison on 5 July 1985.  
 Advance to the Minister for Finance—  
 Statements for December 1990 and January 1991.  
 Supporting applications of issues from the Advance during December 1990 and January 1991.  
 Australian Defence Industries Ltd (ADI)—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for period 3 May 1989 to 30 June 1990.
- 13 **ABORIGINAL DEATHS IN CUSTODY—ROYAL COMMISSION—REPORTS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the reports of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody of the inquiries into the deaths of—  
 Kwementyaye Price.  
 The Aboriginal man who died in the Darwin Prison on 5 July 1985.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 14 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ENTERPRISE BARGAINING:** The House was informed that Mr Howard had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The critical need for more enterprise bargaining as the employment situation worsens".  
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
 Mr Howard addressed the House.  
 Discussion ensued.  
 Discussion concluded.
- 15 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr Dubois (Chairman) presented the following report:  
 Committee of Members' Interests—Report on the operations of the committee, including the minutes of proceedings, for 1990.
- 16 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr R. F. Edwards (Chairman) presented the following report:  
 Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 21 February 1991.

**17 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR 1990-91—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO.3) 1990-91:** Message No. 94, dated 12 February 1991, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced:

- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1991; 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) 1990-91*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1991, and for related purposes.

Mr Willis (Minister for Finance) 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) 1990-91*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1991, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

**18 ARTS, SPORT, ENVIRONMENT, TOURISM AND TERRITORIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** Mrs Kelly (Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend and repeal various Acts relating to matters dealt with by the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mrs Kelly moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mrs Kelly presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

**19 THERAPEUTIC GOODS ACT—REGULATIONS—SENATE'S MESSAGE NO. 145:**

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of Message No. 145 from the Senate (*reported 21 December 1990, see page 478*)—

Mr Staples (Minister for Aged, Family and Health Services) moved—That the House, having considered Senate Message No. 145 of 20 December 1990, approves, in accordance with section 2 of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, the Therapeutic Goods Regulations contained in Statutory Rules 1990, No. 394, as approved by the Senate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr L. J. Scott, in the Chair)—

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Mr Baldwin	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Jenkins	Mr Price
Mr Beazley	Mr Elliott	Mr Johns	Mr Punch
Mr Bevis	Ms Fatin	Mr Jones	Mr Sawford
Mr Bilney	Mr Ferguson	Mr Keating	Mr Scholes
Dr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mrs Kelly	Mr Sciacca
Mr Brereton	Mr Free	Mr Kerr	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gear*	Mr Langmore	Mr Snowdon
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Lavarch	Mr Staples
Dr Catley	Mr Grace*	Mr Lee	Mr Tickner
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lindsay	Mr Walker
Mr Courtice	Mr Hand	Ms McHugh	Mr West
Ms Crawford	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr Willis
Mr Crean	Mr Hollis	Mr Melham	Mr H. F. Woods
Mrs Darling	Mr Howe	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wright
Mr Dubois	Mr Hulls	Mr Newell	
Mr Duffy	Mr Humphreys	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr Duncan	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr O'Neil	

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Mr Aldred	Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr. Anderson	Mr Cowan	Dr Kemp	Mr B. C. Scott
Mr Atkinson	Mr Dobie	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mrs Bailey	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bradford	Mr Fife	Mr Mack	Mr Somlyay
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Filing	Mr MacKellar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Broadbent	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr McLachlan	Mr Taylor
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr P. S. Fisher*	Mr Miles	Mr Truss
Mr Burr	Mr Ford	Mr Nugent	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mrs Gallus	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Prosser	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Reid	Dr R. L. Woods
Mr Chaney	Mr Halverson*	Mr Reith	Dr Wooldridge
Mr Charles	Mr Hawker	Mr Rocher	
Mr Cobb	Mr Howard	Mr Ronaldson	

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 20 **INDUSTRY COMMISSION—REPORT NO. 1—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** 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 21 August 1990*), viz.:

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 1—Pulp and paper: bleaching and the environment, dated 21 May 1990—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Tickner—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 21 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 4 and 5, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 22 **WOOL MARKETING (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1991:** Mr Griffiths (Minister for Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Marketing Act 1987* to provide for a Wool Industry Supplementary Payments Scheme and to suspend the reserve price scheme, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Griffiths presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Lloyd—Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 23 **INDUSTRY COMMISSION—REPORT NO. 1—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 21 August 1990*), viz.:

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 1—Pulp and paper: bleaching and the environment, dated 21 May 1990—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 24 **INDUSTRY COMMISSION—REPORT NO. 2—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 21 August 1990*), viz.:

Industry Commission Act—Industry Commission—Report No. 2—Paper recycling—Interim report, dated 21 May 1990—  
Question—put and passed.

25 **AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AUTHORITY—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 9 May 1990*), viz.:

Automotive Industry Authority Act—Automotive Industry Authority—Report for 1989—  
Question—put and passed.

26 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Crean (Minister for Science and Technology) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.47 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 14 February 1991:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Orders—Part 95—Amendment, dated 12 February 1991.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under subsection 40(1).

National Health Act—Determination—1991—No. PB 1.

Telecommunications Act—Determination of price control arrangements and price-cap arrangements—No. 2, dated 23 January 1991.

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**ATTENDANCE:** All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Costello, Mr Gayler, Mr Gibson, Mr Hicks, Mr Kerin, Mr A. A. Morris, Mr Nehl, Mr Riggall, Mr Simmons, Mr Smith, Mr Snow and Dr Theophanous.

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