

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 83

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 1991

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- 1 The House met, at 9.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The 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.:
 - Dr Catley, Mr Downer, Mrs Gallus, Mr Hall, Mr Sawford and Mr Shack, from 79, 49, 79, 55, 38 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill 1990 be passed and that pregnant women with problems be helped to continue their pregnancies.
 - Mr Beale, Dr Charlesworth, Ms Fatin, Mr Griffiths and Mr Martin, from 612, 329, 128, 821 and 89 petitioners, respectively, praying that diplomatic and trade relations be established with the Croatian and Slovenian Republics.
 - Mr Bilney, Mr Griffiths, Mrs Kelly and Dr Theophanous, from 20, 20, 79 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that the AIDEX exhibition be replaced with an exhibition which highlights hazards to the environment.
 - Mr Burr, Mr Kerr and Mr Miles, from 13, 46 and 97 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill 1990 be passed and other action be taken to protect the right to life of the unborn.
 - Dr Catley and Mr Sawford, from 166 and 24 petitioners, respectively, in similar terms.
 - Mr Cobb, Mrs Kelly and Mr A. A. Morris, from 42, 8 and 26 petitioners, respectively, praying that the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child be amended to recognise the importance of the family unit and the rights and responsibilities of parents and that certain international treaties be debated in Parliament.
 - Mrs Crosio and Mr Martin, from 19 and 273 residents of New South Wales, respectively, and Mrs Sullivan, from 52 residents of Queensland, praying that immediate recognition be given to Croatia as a sovereign nation.
 - Mr Charles and Mr Peacock, from 503 and 17 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to reduce broadcasting time in Dutch on SBS radio be reviewed and that proper regard be given to demographic realities in allocating broadcasting time on Radio 3EA.
 - Mr T. A. Fischer and Mr West, from 21 and 271 residents of New South Wales, respectively, praying that certain action be taken in the 1991-92 Budget to redress falls in the real value of the pension relative to wages and alleviate poverty among low-income Australians.

- Mr Gibson and Mr Jull, from 1819 and 20 petitioners, respectively, praying that an extended cross runway be funded for the Brisbane Airport and that flight paths over certain Brisbane suburbs be changed.
- Mr Grace and Mrs Sullivan, from 2108 and 1014 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Republic of Slovenia be recognised as an independent and sovereign state and that any action or force against the Republic and its people be condemned.
- Mr Langmore and Mr Webster, from 22 and 100 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 Webster, from 60 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr Reith and Mr Somlyay, from 17 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise electoral material on radio and television be rejected.
- Mr Bilney, from 35 petitioners, praying that the Commonwealth Government retain responsibility for the Repatriation Hospital system.
- Mr Somlyay, from 3 petitioners, in similar terms.
- Mr Cadman, from 309 petitioners, 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.
- Mr Chaney, from 76 petitioners, praying that the Northam, WA, branch of the Commonwealth Employment Service be forced to perform its stated objectives.
- Mr Cobb, from 673 petitioners, praying that burning the national flag be made illegal and punishable by law.
- Mr Courtice, from 15 petitioners, 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 Fife, from 103 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr P. S. Fisher, from 216 petitioners, praying that offensive and sexually explicit recorded messages be removed from Telecom's 0055 recorded information service.
- Mr Gibson, from 92 petitioners, praying that the Brisbane Airport Task Force recommendations regarding the building of a parallel runway be reviewed and rejected.
- Mr Gorman, from 523 petitioners, praying that any proposal for the functions of HMAS *Nirimba* and HMAS *Cerberus* to be consolidated at HMAS *Cerberus* be rejected.
- Mr Hand, from 16 petitioners, praying that the Republic of Slovenia be recognised as an independent and sovereign state and that aggression or the use of force against Slovenia be condemned.
- Mr Hicks, from 18 petitioners, praying that AIDEX 1991 be closed down and certain other action be taken to minimise the arms trade.
- Mr Hulls, from 62 petitioners, praying for an immediate ban on the export of merino rams and related genetic breeding material.
- Mr Kelly, from 3109 petitioners, praying for the establishment of a Jervis Bay marine reserve and national park protecting the waters and total catchment of Jervis Bay.
- Mrs Kelly, from 414 petitioners, praying that the House conduct a public inquiry into the proposal to relocate naval facilities to Jervis Bay.
- Mr Lloyd, from 294 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to enable the ABC to continue to provide a comprehensive range of services.

- Mr Lloyd, from 29 petitioners, praying that the Abortion Funding Abolition Bill be supported.
- Ms McHugh, from 246 petitioners, praying that any attempt to restrict access to abortion under Medicare be opposed.
- Mr McLachlan, from 425 petitioners, praying that consideration be given to rural families who are in financial difficulty.
- Mr O'Keefe, from 59 petitioners, praying that a northern by-pass route be provided around the township of Bulla, Vic.
- Mr Reith, from 18 petitioners, praying that legislation preventing the right to advertise political material on radio and television be rejected.
- Mr Shack, from 16 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to ban international sales of armaments and arms-related technology.
- Mr Snow, from 16 petitioners, praying that certain action be taken to make the Kings Highway, NSW, a federal funding responsibility.
- Dr Theophanous, from 167 petitioners, praying that grievances of Hungarian listeners of SBS Radio 3EA be addressed.
- Dr R. L. Woods, from 48 petitioners, praying that the SBS board be instructed to prepare a new schedule for Radio 2EA that gives regular air time to the Tamil program.

Petitions received.

3 MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Dr Theophanous (Chairman) presented the following report:

Migration Regulations—Joint Standing Committee—Special report No. 1, incorporating a dissenting report, September 1991—Recommendations to the Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs.

Ordered to be printed.

Dr Theophanous and Mr Ruddock made statements in connection with the report.

4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the following report (*presented on 21 June 1991*), viz.:

Public Accounts—Joint Committee—Report 310—Business migration program—

Mr Nehl moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

5 NEWSTART ACTIVITY AGREEMENTS: Mr Miles, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Government give greater recognition to the worth of the unemployed by giving greater choice of Newstart activity agreements including the option of two days community work for Newstart payment.

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.

6 SPORTS AND RECREATION FUNDING: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Gibson—That this House:

- (1) notes the major contribution to enhancing local facilities made by the Commonwealth Government's Community Recreation and Sporting Facilities program through provision of financial assistance to sporting and recreational organisations;

- (2) notes that the purpose of this program is to encourage the development of high quality sport and recreational facilities across Australia to enable greater community participation in sport and improved development of skills to enhance Australia's national and international sporting performances, as recommended by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration reports of May and December 1989 entitled "Going for Gold" and "Can Sport be Bought", respectively;
- (3) seeks a continuation of this program in the 1991-92 Commonwealth Budget to enable additional support to be provided throughout Australia for development of further community facilities; and
- (4) calls upon the Government to allocate:
 - (a) a sum of not less than \$20 million over a three year period for the Recreation and Sporting Facilities program; and
 - (b) a similar sum for the establishment of a National Sports Facilities program to provide substantial financial support for the construction of sporting facilities of national significance, particularly in regional centres, in accordance with recommendations contained in the above-mentioned reports—

Debate resumed.

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

7 BALTIC STATES—FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE: Mr Ruddock, having amended, by leave, notice No. 2, private Members' business, moved—That the House:

- (1) congratulates Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on finally regaining their independence from the Soviet Union;
- (2) welcomes President Gorbachev's acknowledgment that the Baltic States have a right to independence;
- (3) calls upon the Soviet Government to expedite its formal recognition of the independence of the Baltic States and rapidly withdraw its remaining troops and paramilitary personnel from the Republics; and
- (4) urges the Australian Government to examine ways of supporting the reconstruction of the economies of the Republics.

Debate ensued.

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

8 FLAGS AMENDMENT BILL 1991: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—

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

Debate ensued.

Mr Bradford, who had already spoken, again addressing the House, by leave—

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

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.

Papers: Mr Aldred, by leave, presented the following papers:

Taxation policy and administration—Arnold Bloch Leibler and Company—

Copies of—

Administrative Appeals Tribunal—Case extracts (3).

Numinous No. 3 Limited, Numinous No. 4 Limited and Numinous No. 5 Limited—Circular letters (3) from M. M. Leibler, Chairman, to shareholders, dated 14 November 1988.

Debate continued.

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 were asked.

12 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Employment, Education and Training Act—National Board of Employment, Education and Training—Report by Higher Education Council, including the Board's comments—Postgraduate course fee guidelines, September 1991.
Governor-General Act—Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General—Report for 1990-91.

National Crime Authority—Parliamentary Joint Committee—Report—Operation Ark, October 1990—Government response.

Nursing home and hostel standards—Lists of monitoring reports published between 1 May and 31 July 1991.

Official Establishments Trust—

Government House, Canberra—Strategic plan.

Report for 1990-91.

Transport, Communications and Infrastructure—Standing Committee—Report—Telecom's handling of customer complaints—Government response.

United Nations General Assembly—45th session, 1990—Report of the Australian Delegation.

13 NURSING HOME STANDARDS AND HOSTEL STANDARDS—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Nursing home and hostel standards—Lists of monitoring reports published between 1 May and 31 July 1991.

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

14 GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA—STRATEGIC PLAN—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Official Establishments Trust—Government House, Canberra—Strategic plan.

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

15 SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER: Mr Howe (Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the Government's social justice strategy in relation to people with disabilities, and presented the following paper:

Social justice for people with disabilities—Tabling statement by the Minister for Health, Housing and Community Services.

Mr Braithwaite, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—MIGRATION REGULATIONS—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT: Message No. 292, dated 5 September 1991, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House that the Senate did not insist

on the modification to the amended resolution of appointment of the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Regulations not concurred with by the House.

17 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC POLICY:

The House was informed that Mr Reith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The unravelling of the Government's economic policy in the face of the worst recession for 60 years and soaring unemployment".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Reith addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

18 AUSSAT REPEAL BILL 1991: Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for some matters connected with the sale of AUSSAT Pty Ltd, to repeal the *AUSSAT Act 1984* and amend other Acts following that sale, and to amend other Acts relating to telecommunications.

Bill read a first time.

Mr R. J. Brown moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr R. J. Brown presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

19 OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1991: Mr R. J. Brown (Minister for Land Transport) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Overseas Students Charge Act 1979*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr R. J. Brown moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr R. J. Brown presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

20 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1991-92—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.

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 SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Halverson (Acting Chairman) presented the following report:

Selection Committee—Report relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 12 September 1991.

22 SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL 1991:

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 Braithwaite 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 condemns the Government for its ramshackle and inefficient wholesale sales tax system, and its failure to replace it with a fairer, broad-based goods and services tax".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Free (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) moved the following amendment:
Clause 4, page 2, lines 21-23, omit paragraph (b).

Paper: Mr Free presented a supplementary explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mrs Sullivan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Free, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 23 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1991-92—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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- 24 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being approximately 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.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 5 September 1991:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 256.

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 251, 252.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 255.

Australian Wool Realisation Commission Act and Australian Wool Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 250.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 278, 279.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1991—No. 4—Local Government (Amendment) (No. 2).

Crimes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 258.

Defence Act—Determinations under section 58B—1991—

No. 86—Language Proficiency Allowance (Amendment).

No. 90—Charge for excess water.

Federal Proceedings (Costs) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 267.

- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 257.
- International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 259, 260, 261.
- Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 264.
- National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 262, 263.
- Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 266.
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 275.
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act and Horticultural Export Charge Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 277.
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act and Horticultural Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 276.
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Act and Sugar Cane Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 274.
- Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 1 September 1991 as the date on which Part 5 of the Schedule to the *Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1991* commences.
- Superannuation Act 1990*—Declarations—Statutory Rules 1991, Nos. 253, 254.
- Trade Union Training Authority Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 265.
- Veterans' Entitlements Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 280.
- Wheat Industry Fund Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1991, No. 268.

ATTENDANCE: All Members attended (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. N. Andrew, Dr Blewett, Mrs Darling, Mr Duncan, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Gear, Mr Grace, Mr McArthur, Mr Martin, Mr Scholes, Mr Shack, Mr Sinclair and Mr Wilson.

L. M. BARLIN
Clerk of the House of Representatives