

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 52

THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 1984

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Dr H. A. Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
  - Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cross, Mr Hand, Mr Hawker and Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that chiropractic services be included in Medicare when it is introduced.
  - Mr Brumby, Mr Cross, Mr Hollis and Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the ban on the export of kangaroo products be re-applied.
  - Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hollis, Mrs Kelly and Mr Snow—from certain parents representing government schools in New South Wales praying that an adequate general recurrent resource base for government schools be created and a planned program of improvements in government schools throughout the coming decade be ensured.
  - Mr Brumby, Mrs Child and Mr Hand—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
  - Mr Brumby, Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Spender—from certain citizens praying that the nation's total dependence on God the Creator in accordance with the Constitution and the standing orders of the House of Representatives be reaffirmed.
  - Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Fife—from certain residents of the Divisions of Indi and Farrer, respectively, praying that biological control of Paterson's Curse be implemented.
  - Mr Fife—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
  - Mr Drummond and Mr Hand—from certain elected representatives and officers of local governments praying that the Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act be amended to provide a real term minimum guarantee to local government general revenue sharing arrangements.
  - Mr Kent and Mrs Mayer—from certain citizens praying that the Omega base in Victoria be closed.
  - Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that television sets with built in decoding equipment for the deaf and hearing impaired be exempted from sales tax.
  - Mr Gear—from certain citizens praying that laws be passed to outlaw discrimination in employment and in the provision of unemployment benefits, based upon race, ethnic origin, marital status and sex.
  - Mr Hall—from certain citizens praying that parent clubs in government schools be granted exemption from bank account debits tax.

Mr Hand—from certain citizens praying that a moratorium on uranium mining and treatment be declared, that certain other action be taken in relation to the mining, processing and export of Australia's uranium and that the Roxby Uranium Mine development be discontinued.

Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.

Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the Sex Discrimination Bill be delayed and a joint parliamentary committee be established to examine the Bill and related matters.

Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that an assurance be given that no abortion clinic will be established in the Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the Macedonian language be used in Government multi-lingual publications and be taught in secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the Government be urged to support negotiated solutions to the conflicts in El Salvador and Nicaragua, place pressure on the United States Government to withdraw its forces from Central America and take certain other action in respect of Central America.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that dental care be included in Medicare.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that no further action be taken in respect of territorial or local government in the Australian Capital Territory until the findings of the inquiry into ACT finances have been made public and a further referendum of electors has been held.

Mr Simmons—from certain citizens praying that the proposed closure of Telecom Australia's Manual Assistance Centre at Parkes, NSW, be halted, pending a full and open inquiry into the needs of affected subscribers and certain other matters.

Petitions received.

**3 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FOREIGN PROCEEDINGS (EXCESS OF JURISDICTION)**

**BILL 1984:** Message No. 177, dated 28 February 1984, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to make provision in relation to the evidence that may be given in certain foreign proceedings, to provide a right of action in Australia in respect of the enforcement outside Australia of certain foreign judgments, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

**4 CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1983:** 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 J. J. Brown (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce), the Bill was read a third time.

**5 CUSTOMS TARIFF (ANTI-DUMPING) MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS BILL 1983:** 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr J. J. Brown (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce), the Bill was read a third time.

6 **HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Maher be appointed a member of the House Committee to fill the vacancy now existing on the committee.

Question—put and passed.

7 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, as amended by sessional order, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

8 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

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

A maintenance agency for Australia—Report of the National Maintenance Inquiry, together with statement by Senator Evans, Attorney-General.

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of periodic reports of—

Australian Heritage Commission, report for year 1982-83.

Australian Honey Board, report for year 1982-83.

Curriculum Development Centre, report for year 1982-83 (statement by Minister only).

Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act—Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority—Report and interim financial statements for year 1982-83.

Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Australian Heritage Commission Act—Australian Heritage Commission—7th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Australian Research Grants Committee—Report on grants approved for 1984.

Australian Safeguards Office—Report for year 1982-83.

Australian Veterans Health Studies—Pilot study report, dated July 1983, together with statement by Senator Gietzelt, Minister for Veterans' Affairs—

Volume I—Report into the feasibility of an epidemiological investigation of morbidity in Vietnam veterans.

Volume II—An analysis of the medical findings and morbidity in the pilot study.

Volume III—Appendixes.

Volume IV—Questionnaires and instruments.

Barley Research Act—Barley Industry Research Council—Report for year 1982-83.

Capital Territory Health Commission—Interim report for year 1982-83.

Commonwealth Legal Aid Act—Commonwealth Legal Aid Council—Report for year 1982-83.

Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission Act—Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Recommendations for 1984—Supplementary reports, dated October 1983—

Participation and equity program.

Participation initiatives in higher education, together with a statement by Senator Ryan, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs.

Curriculum Development Centre Act—Curriculum Development Centre Council—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1981-82.

Defence Service Homes Act—Defence Service Homes Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—36th Annual Report, for year 1982-83, together with statement by Mr Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry.

Federal Court of Australia—Judges' handbook, dated 6 October 1983.

Health of former atomic test personnel—Report of Commonwealth Department of Health, dated November 1983.

Immigration (Education) Act—Child migrant education—Report for year 1982-83.

Independent Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—Statement of guarantees and payments for year 1982-83.

National Energy Advisory Committee—Report for period 1 July 1982 to 31 July 1983.

National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council—Report for year 1982-83, including the report by the Minister pursuant to the Coal Research Assistance Act.

Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Commissioner for Superannuation—Report for year 1982-83.

Participation and equity in Australian schools—The goal of full secondary education—Report of Commonwealth Schools Commission, dated 9 November 1983.

Repatriation Legislation Review—Report of Advisory Committee, dated 29 November 1983, together with statement by Senator Gietzelt, Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

Science and Industry Endowment Act—Report by Auditor-General on accounts of Science and Industry Endowment Fund, for year 1982-83.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Legal Aid Ordinance—Legal Aid Commission (ACT)—6th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the auditor's report, for year 1982-83.

Parole Ordinance—Parole Board of the Australian Capital Territory—Report for year 1982-83.

Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act—Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority—34th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1982-83.

States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act—Statement of financial assistance granted to each State in 1982.

War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves, Department of Veterans' Affairs—Report by Secretary of Department for year 1982-83.

Wheat Research Act—Report for year 1982-83, together with statement by Mr Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry.

**10 TAPE RECORDINGS OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Attorney-General) presented the following papers:

Tape recordings of telephone conversations as reported in *The Age*—

Opinions of—

Mr Ian Temby, Q.C., dated 15 February 1984.

Solicitor-General, in the matter of section 72 of the Constitution, dated 24 February 1984.

Statement by Senator Evans, Attorney-General, dated 28 February 1984.

Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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

**11 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON ABORIGINAL TOWN CAMPS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the report of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs

on strategies to help overcome the problems of Aboriginal town camps, and presented the following papers:

Aboriginal Affairs—Standing Committee—Report on strategies to help overcome the problems of Aboriginal town camps—Government response—

Aboriginal town camps—Schedule of present situation, November 1983.

Ministerial statement, 1 March 1984.

Recommendations of Standing Committee—Schedule of Government responses.

Mr Porter, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Scholes (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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

- 12 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PENSIONS—REVIEW OF PROPOSED ASSETS TEST:** The Deputy Speaker informed the House 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 alarm and confusion among Australia’s elderly created by the Government’s decision to yet again review the direction of its proposed assets test on pensions”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Peacock addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 13 **FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Morrison (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:

The provision of development assistance and humanitarian aid to the Horn of Africa—Report, dated December 1983.

Mr Morrison and Mr Coleman, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

- 14 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Cadman (Vice Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

217th Report—Finance Minute on Report 186—Advance to the Minister for Finance (Appropriation Acts 1979-80)—

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

- 15 **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Fry (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:

Parliamentary Zone draft development plan—Report, dated 28 February 1984, together with extracts from the minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Fry and Mr Ruddock, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

- 16 **CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 1 TO 4 (1984) AND EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 1 (1984):** Mr J. J. Brown (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry and Commerce) moved—

Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (1984), and

Excise Tariff Proposals No. 1 (1984).

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

- 17 **SEX DISCRIMINATION BILL 1983:** 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 Macphee who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst welcoming

the intention of the Bill to remove discrimination against the people on the basis of sex, marital status or pregnancy, the House is of the opinion that—

- (1) the Bill should not rely on the external affairs power as a head of power;
- (2) Australia's signature to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women should not be used to extend the powers of the Commonwealth;
- (3) the removal of discrimination against people on the basis of sex should be recognised as not obliging anyone to enter the paid workforce or alter their view of their responsibilities towards their spouses or children;
- (4) no decision or action by any educational or child care or other body established for the education of students or the care of children in accordance with the doctrines of a religion or creed or in accordance with stated principles should be affected where that decision or action has been taken in good faith to enable the body to conform with those doctrines or principles;
- (5) nothing in the Bill should be taken as approving those articles of the Convention which are not implemented by the Bill, and
- (6) the clauses of the Bill should be re-drafted accordingly".

Debate continued.

Mr Brumby addressing the House—

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 1 March 1984:

Navigation Act—Navigation (Orders) Regulations—1984—No. 2—Marine Orders, Part 30.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Jacobi.

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**D. M. BLAKE**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives