

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 92

WEDNESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 1984

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- 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 Beddall, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cross, Mr Keogh, Mr Millar and Mr Moore—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
 - Mr Cadman, Mr Dobie, Mr Howard, Mr Lusher and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
 - Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Fife and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Blunt and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
 - Mr Cadman and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that chiropractic services be included in Medicare when it is introduced.
 - Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the decision to alter the ACT Classification of Publications Ordinance be abandoned.
 - Mr Braithwaite and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that proposed assets test legislation be abandoned and that action be taken to institute a retirement income policy which is fair and equitable.
 - Mr Shipton—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that regulations amending the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations and Customs (Cinematograph Films) Regulations and the ordinance superseding the ACT Objectionable Publications Ordinance be disallowed and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship matters.
 - Mr Lusher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that recurrent expenditure for technical and further education be increased.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that moves to change the Australian flag be resisted and any contemplated change be put to the Australian people by referendum.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken against the importation and distribution of pornographic and obscene materials, and

entitlements of de facto spouses of Parliamentarians and homosexual partners of ABC employees.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that anomalies in ABC radio transmission in North Queensland be rectified.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Government refrain from ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the findings of the Major Airport Needs of Sydney Committee be endorsed and proposals for an airport at Scheyville, NSW, be rejected.

Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain elected representatives and officers of local governments praying that funds raised through indexation of the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program levy be used for road construction work.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that funding be restored to a sufficient level to enable the continuation of educational projects under the priority country area program in south-west Queensland.

Mr Cowan—from certain citizens praying that the Army be directed to re-classify the Taree Open Cadet Unit as an open, community-based, regional cadet unit.

Mr Hand—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to assist self-determination in East Timor.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the railway line between Victor Harbor and Adelaide remain open.

Petitions received.

3 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

11 September 1984—Message No. 271—Loan 1984.

4 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1984-85: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Communications, \$426,386,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Administrative Services, \$461,566,000—

Department of Housing and Construction, \$356,605,000—

together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Primary Industry, \$175,886,000—debated.

Mr Andrew addressing the committee—

It being 12.45 p.m., in accordance with sessional order 101A—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mrs Child reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said committee.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) presented the following paper:

Federated Ship Painters and Dockers' Union—Royal Commission—Transition to National Crime Authority—Copy of letter from Mr F. X. Costigan, QC, Commissioner, Royal Commission on the Activities of the Federated Ship Painters and Dockers' Union, to the Hon. R. J. Hawke, Prime Minister, dated 12 September 1984.

Questions without notice continued.

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

Hon. Paul J. Keating—Copy of text of telex from F. J. Nugan to Les Collings, dated 25 August 1978.

Questions without notice continued.

Papers: Mr Cohen (Minister for Home Affairs and Environment) presented the following papers:

Rainforest conservation—North-east Queensland—

Wet tropics of North-east Queensland—A study of the conservation significance—Report to Australian Heritage Commission by the Rainforest Conservation Society of Queensland, dated June 1984—

Report.

Companion volume containing contents, summary and conclusions of report, together with referees' comments.

World Heritage Properties Conservation Act—Applicability—Letter from Senator Evans, Attorney-General, to Hon. B. Cohen, Minister for Home Affairs and Environment, dated 10 September 1984.

Questions without notice continued.

Paper: Mr Tuckey, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Scholes (Minister for Defence)—

Mr Scholes laid upon the Table the following paper:

RAAF Base Tindal, NT—Development—Document headed "Question without notice/John Reeves".

Questions without notice concluded.

6 **PAPER:** Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Public Service Act—Department of the Parliamentary Library—Report for year 1983-84.

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

National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—61st Annual Report, for year 1983-84.

Water policy and programs—

Commonwealth Government policy document.

Government response to report entitled "Water 2000—A perspective on Australia's water resources to the year 2000" presented on 9 November 1983.

Statement by Senator Walsh, Minister for Resources and Energy.

8 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAX AVOIDANCE:** Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Howard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's handling of the tax avoidance issue".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1984-85:** The House, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Primary Industry, \$175,886,000—further debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Industry and Commerce, \$203,692,000—

Department of Science and Technology, \$554,514,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—
Department of Social Security, \$760,043,000—
Department of Health, \$666,915,000—
Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$837,017,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Attorney-General's Department, \$242,880,000—debated and
agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—
Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, \$157,746,000—
Department of Aboriginal Affairs, \$216,817,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mrs Child reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance), the House adopted the report.
Mr Dawkins, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

10 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 1984-85:** 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 Dawkins (Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third time.

11 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL 1984-85:** 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.
Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

12 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Finance) moved—That the House do now
adjourn.
Mr I. M. D. Cameron rising to address the House—
Closure: Mr Dawkins moved—That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.
And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.
And then the House, at 11.06 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 12 September 1984:
Audit Act—Report of the Auditor-General upon audits, examinations and
inspections under the Audit and other Acts, dated 3 September 1984—
Corrigendum to paper presented on 4 September 1984.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Dobie, Mr Fife, Mr Fry, Mr Hayden, Mr Katter, Mr Lusher, Mr Newman, Mr Robinson and Mr Sanderson.

D. M. BLAKE
Clerk of the House of Representatives