

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 37

FRIDAY, 23 AUGUST 1985

- 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 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Sharp presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
232nd Report—Report of the Auditor-General—May 1983—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 3 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Price presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
233rd Report—Reports of the Auditor-General—1982-83 and September 1983—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 4 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Dr Theophanous presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
235th Report—Advance to the Minister for Finance (1981-82)—Response—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 5 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86—BUDGET DEBATE:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Peacock (Leader of the Opposition), viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because—*
 - (1) it is only half a Budget which fails to outline any approach to the urgent problems of tax reform and tax relief;
 - (2) it fails to remove the threat of new taxes on investment and jobs, such as a capital gains tax which will include death duties and gift taxes;
 - (3) it condemns 750 000 Australians to higher marginal tax brackets during the year;
 - (4) it fails to address the fundamental problems facing the Australian economy, particularly high inflation, the lack of international competitiveness and the need for further cuts in Government spending;
 - (5) it fails to provide clear direction on the Government’s approach to discounting wage indexation for the effects of depreciation of the dollar and so potentially destroys its employment benefits;
 - (6) it fails to move towards the deregulation of labour markets required to give all Australians the chance for a job, and
 - (7) it burdens Australia with the threat of continued high interest rates which hurt not only homebuyers but hit business investment and jobs”—

Debate resumed.

Mrs Mayer addressing the House—

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

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

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

Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act—Local Government Grants Commissions—Reports—
New South Wales (1984-85).
Western Australia (1984-85).

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

23 August 1985—Message No. 116—Building Industry 1985.

9 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Adermann, Mr Brumby, Mrs Child, Mr Dobie, Mr Fife, Mr Gorman, Mrs Kelly, Mr Langmore, Mr Mildren, Mr Millar, Mr Milton and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that 1989 be proposed as the International Year for Repairing the Earth and certain other action be taken in support of world peace.

Mr Everingham, Mr Gear, Mr Gorman, Mr Langmore and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Beddall, Mr Blunt, Mr Dobie, Mr Fife, Mr Lindsay, Ms McHugh, Mr Nehl, Mr Ruddock, Mr Simmons and Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that there be no taxation on illness and no special taxation on those who seek to insure themselves against the cost of private health care.

Mr Cadman, Mr Conquest, Mr Fife, Mr McArthur and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the rights of private enterprise be protected and any inequitable additional taxes be rejected.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in the same terms as the last preceding petition.

Mr Beale, Mr Brumby and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Drummond, Mr Fife and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in the same terms as the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt and Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that the Social Security and Repatriation Assets Test Abolition Bill be passed.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that sufficient funds be allocated to the Australia Council to ensure ongoing funding of State arts councils.

Mr Connolly and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.

Mr Conquest and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in the same terms as the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that all changes to benefits for veterans and conditions of service for military personnel announced in the May Economic Statement be withdrawn.

Mr Brumby—from certain citizens praying that no change be made to the funding of local government without the consent of representatives of local government.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that a referendum be held on strengthening Australia's defence relationship with the United States.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that legislation be enacted to allow full compensation to all Australians where the Government requires the use of private property.

Mr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that urgent talks be commenced at international level to formulate a new international sugar agreement and that certain other action be taken to assist the sugar industry.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre.

Mr Fife and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the Government support the stand taken by the NZ Government on nuclear vessels and that the policy of developing zones of peace and nuclear free zones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans be implemented.

Mr Miles—from certain citizens praying that the assets test legislation be repealed and that certain other action be taken in relation to retirement incomes policy.

Mr Millar—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Mr Nehl—from certain electors of the Division of Cowper praying that any attempt to introduce additional capital gains taxes, wealth taxes or death duties be opposed and existing taxes in these areas be repealed.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the European Parliament's resolution in respect of the Baltic States be supported.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that society be protected from taxation changes and the introduction of new taxes.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that Wollongong's northern suburbs be included within the Sydney television area.

Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying for the formation of one or more working parties committed to the development of an equitable and efficient taxation system.

Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the previous legislation relating to the entitlements of war veterans and their dependants be restored.

Petitions received.

- 10 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 10 September 1985, unless Mr Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.
Question—put and passed.

- 11 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMMUNITY HOUSING EXPANSION PROGRAM:** The Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Everingham had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The waste and misuse of public moneys by the Government through the Community Housing Expansion Program as revealed by the O'Donovan Report".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Everingham addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

12 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86—BUDGET DEBATE:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Peacock (Leader of the Opposition), viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because—*

- (1) it is only half a Budget which fails to outline any approach to the urgent problems of tax reform and tax relief;
- (2) it fails to remove the threat of new taxes on investment and jobs, such as a capital gains tax which will include death duties and gift taxes;
- (3) it condemns 750 000 Australians to higher marginal tax brackets during the year;
- (4) it fails to address the fundamental problems facing the Australian economy, particularly high inflation, the lack of international competitiveness and the need for further cuts in Government spending;
- (5) it fails to provide clear direction on the Government's approach to discounting wage indexation for the effects of depreciation of the dollar and so potentially destroys its employment benefits;
- (6) it fails to move towards the deregulation of labour markets required to give all Australians the chance for a job, and
- (7) it burdens Australia with the threat of continued high interest rates which hurt not only homebuyers but hit business investment and jobs”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Downer addressing the House—

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 3.45 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 4.30 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday, 10 September 1985, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 August 1985:

Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 196.

Radiocommunications (Frequency Reservation Certificate Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 202.

Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 201.

Radiocommunications Taxes Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 200.

Radiocommunications (Temporary Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 199.

Radiocommunications (Test Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 198.

Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985, No. 197.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1985—

No. 34—Trustee Companies (Amendment).

No. 35—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 4).

No. 37—Dog Control (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 38—Co-operative Societies (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 39—Credit (Amendment).

Regulations—1985—

No. 18 (Co-operative Societies Ordinance).

No. 19 (Court of Petty Sessions (Civil Jurisdiction) Ordinance).

No. 20 (Business Franchise (Tobacco and Petroleum Products) Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Aldred, Mr Beazley, Mr Bowen, Mr Campbell, Mrs Darling, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Hodges, Mr Hunt, Mr Jull, Mr Shack, Mr White and Mr Wilson.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives