

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 79

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 1986

-
- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **PRIVILEGE:** Mr Humphreys raised, as a matter of privilege, the alteration of *Hansard* transcripts by a Member.
Mr Slipper and Mr Tuckey addressed themselves to the matter.
Madam Speaker stated that the matter should not be pursued as a matter of privilege and that she would examine it and advise the House.
 - 3 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) raised, as a matter of privilege, the use of excerpts of proceedings of the House by the ABC radio program "P.M." and the ATN7 news which included remarks which were later withdrawn.
Mr Sinclair produced transcripts from both programs.
Mr Young (Special Minister of State) addressed himself to the matter.
Madam Speaker stated that she would examine the matter and advise the House of her decision as soon as possible.
 - 4 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Dr Blewett (Minister for Health), Senator Ryan (Minister for Education) was acting as Minister for Health and would be represented in this House by Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade).
 - 5 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Beale, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction)—
Mr West laid upon the Table the following paper: Vacancy rates—Table for each of the capital cities surveyed by the Real Estate Institute of Australia per quarter from 1981.
Questions without notice continued.
 - 6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
Canberra Theatre Trust—Report for 1984-85.
Fishing Industry Act—Report on the operation of the Act for 1984-85.
 - 7 **ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning Aboriginal land rights and related matters and presented the following paper:
Aboriginal land rights—Ministerial statement, 18 March 1986.
Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Beazley, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Connolly speaking for a period not exceeding 20 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

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

Mrs Darling, Mr Grace, Mr Hollis, Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Mr Staples—
from certain citizens praying that the Government of Sri Lanka be persuaded to pursue a political solution to allow the Tamils to live in peace and dignity and certain other action be taken to aid the Tamils.

Mr Cobb, Mr Fife, Mr Hunt, Mr Ruddock and Mr White—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.

Mr Blunt and Mr Rocher—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 Conquest and Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the importation and sale of hard core pornography and grossly obscene publications be prevented and that certain other action be taken in relation to censorship.

Mr Kent and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the Government support the stand taken by the New Zealand 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 Milton and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

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

Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the standard pension be raised to 25% of average weekly earnings and certain other action be taken to assist pensioners and low income earners.

Mr Blunt—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 Blunt—from certain citizens praying that those laws which automatically increase the price of petrol following an increase in the CPI be repealed.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

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

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the superannuation claim of the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the oil world parity pricing policy be adhered to and the full flow on of the drop in world oil prices be given to the Australian public and business sector.

Mr N. A. Brown—from certain citizens praying that reference to God be included in the national anthem by 1988.

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

Mr Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the South Dubbo Post Office, NSW, be prevented.

- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying for the continuation of the public inquiry into the legislation relating to video classification.
- Mr Free—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Enterprise Migrant Hostel, Vic., be reversed.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying for official recognition of the African National Congress and the South West Africa Peoples Organisation and that certain other financial and humanitarian support be given to the South African and Namibian people.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr Nehl—from certain electors of the Division of Cowper praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill and associated bills be rejected, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission be abolished and ratification of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights be withdrawn.
- Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the north coast of New South Wales praying that the ABC radio studio in Grafton be retained and that the Grafton City Council's submission on the second regional radio network be heeded.
- Mr Ruddock—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 Saunderson—from certain citizens praying that an office of the South West Africa Peoples Organisation be funded in Australia and certain other action be taken to support the Namibian people.
- Mr Simmons—from certain citizens praying for cessation of all investigations, studies and proposals for the relocation of the Army training facilities to the Central Tablelands area, NSW, including the Macquarie River.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that measures be taken to reduce the burden of imposed costs and regulation on Australian horticultural growers.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland and certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the total ban on entertainment expenses be abandoned and tax deductibility be allowed for legitimate and necessary expenses.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that home loan interest rates be tax deductible.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that means be sought for the protection of the people's interest to prevent Ayers Rock being handed over to an Aboriginal Land Council.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the 1985 tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the export of koalas be discontinued, their habitats be revegetated and funding be made available for research into koala diseases.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the introduction of a compulsory identification card be rejected.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that there be no increase in State aid to private schools and that the primary obligation to government schools be reaffirmed.

Dr Watson—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

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

Petitions received.

- 9 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING INDUSTRY:** The House was informed that Mr Beale had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The distress caused to Australian families by the impact of the Hawke Government's high interest rate and tax policies on the housing industry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beale addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 10 **FOREIGN TAKEOVERS AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** 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.

Smallwares for the new Parliament House—Statement by Madam Speaker:

Madam Speaker referred to articles in the Press about the provision of smallwares for the new Parliament House and informed the House of recent decisions on this matter by the Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House.

Mrs Sullivan and Mr McLeay, by leave, also made statements in connection with the matter.

Privilege—Statements by Madam Speaker: Madam Speaker referred to the matters of privilege raised earlier this day by Mr Humphreys and Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) (*see* entries Nos. 2 and 3, respectively). In regard to the first matter, relating to the alteration of *Hansard* transcripts by a Member, Madam Speaker repeated that no question of privilege was involved.

Mr Slipper addressed himself to the matter.

In relation to the second matter, concerning the use of an excerpt of proceedings of the House in radio and television reports, Madam Speaker stated that this was a matter for consideration by the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings and that she had arranged for this to occur. Madam Speaker further stated that she was not prepared to accord precedence to a motion on the matter.

Debate continued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 **AIR NAVIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** 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 Smith), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by indulgence of the Chair, referred to the statement made earlier this day by Madam Speaker on the matter of privilege he had raised (*see* entry No. 10).

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by indulgence of the Chair, addressing the House—

Adjournment negated: It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Young requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—
Question—put and negated.

Mr Young concluded his speech.

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.01 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 March 1986:

Australian National University Act—Statute—No. 185—Termination of Academic Appointment.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1986/2—
Holders of public office on the Australian Trade Commission and other bodies.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Determination listing fees and charges for the purposes of the Health Services Ordinance, dated 10 March 1986.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Blewett, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Everingham, Mr Gorman, Mr Halverson, Mr Millar and Mr Moore.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives