

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 87

TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 1986

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **MILITARY ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST LIBYA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the military action taken by the United States of America against Libya earlier this day.  
Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
Nursing Homes and Hostels Review—Report by the Department of Community Services, dated 24 February 1986, together with a statement by the Minister for Community Services, dated 14 April 1986.
- 5 **ECONOMIC AND RURAL POLICY—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented the following paper:  
Economic and rural policy—Government policy statement, dated April 1986.  
Mr Kerin, by leave, made a ministerial statement on the Government's economic and rural policy and presented the following paper:  
Economic and rural policy—Ministerial statement, 15 April 1986.  
Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.  
*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Young, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia) speaking for a period not exceeding 61 minutes.  
Question—put and passed.  
Debate ensued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren—Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 6 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:  
Mr Beale, Mr Brumby, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hand, Mr Hawker, Mr McArthur, Mr McGauran, Mr Reith and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.  
Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Grace, Mr Hawker, Mr Hodgman, Mr Lee, Mr Robinson and Mr Sharp—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 Andrew, Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Hunt and Mr Reith— from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Andrew, Mr Shipton and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Mr Tickner—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 Andrew and Mr P. S. Fisher—from certain residents of South Australia and from certain residents of the Division of Mallee, respectively, praying that the proposed capital gains tax legislation be introduced without delay and that it be rejected.
- Mr Beddall and Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that the findings of the Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare on the export of live sheep from Australia be accepted.
- Mr Blunt and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond and Queensland, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.
- Mr Gorman and Mr Grace—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr Cadman—from certain residents of New South Wales in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hand and Mr Kent—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 Rocher and Mr Slipper—from certain citizens and from certain residents of the Division of Fisher, respectively, praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that debate on the Australian Bill of Rights Bill 1985 be deferred for 12 months and that the Bill be circulated for 12 months for the widest possible debate, scrutiny and discussion.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that means be sought for the protection of the people's interests to prevent Ayers Rock being handed over to an Aboriginal Land Council.
- 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 a bi-partisan commitment to world-wide nuclear disarmament be made.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the world oil 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 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 Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill not be passed.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that proclamation of the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be delayed until a referendum has been held.

- Mr Gorman—from certain citizens praying that Martin Tebbutt be released from jail and bankruptcy proceedings be dropped and that certain other action be taken in relation to egg farmers and the NSW Egg Board.
- Mr Hand—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 Hawker—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to increase the burden of capital gains and wealth taxes be rejected.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the Government uphold the Articles of the UN Convention on Women and request the Victorian Government to repeal the *Planning (Brothels) Act 1984*.
- 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 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 Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the rights of private enterprise be protected and any inequitable additional taxes be rejected.
- 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 Scott—from certain residents of South Australia praying for a delay in the new funding arrangements for subsidised child care centres planned for April 1986 and that certain other action be taken in relation to children's services.
- 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 citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their former level.
- 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 Somerset Dam, Qld, praying that an additional public telephone be made available at Somerset Dam or the present one be resited.
- 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 the 1985 tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.
- Mr Slipper—from 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 Tickner—from certain citizens praying that new initiatives be taken to encourage all member states of the United Nations to conclude a treaty banning all nuclear weapons tests and that certain other action be taken in relation to nuclear weapons tests.
- Mr Tickner—from certain residents of Sutherland Shire, NSW, praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights.

Petitions received.

- 7 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:
- 14 April 1986—Message No. 128—  
 Builders Labourers' Federation (Cancellation of Registration) 1986.  
 Builders Labourers' Federation (Cancellation of Registration—Consequential Provisions) 1986.
- 8 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:** Mr Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), by leave, moved—That Mr Sharp be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, and that, in his place, Mr Conquest be appointed a member of the committee.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 9 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT'S TAX PROPOSALS:** The House was informed that Mr Downer had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The effect on jobs, family living standards and Australian industries of the Government's tax proposals".  
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
 Mr Downer addressed the House.  
 Discussion ensued.  
 Discussion concluded.
- 10 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1985-86:** 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 Carlton 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—
- (1) draws attention to the failure of the Government to fulfil its promises—
    - (a) to reduce interest rates;
    - (b) to bring the rate of inflation down below 5%;
    - (c) to hold taxation down at least to the level of the 1984-85 financial year as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product;
    - (d) not to introduce a capital gains tax;
    - (e) not to raise the interest rate ceiling on housing loans, and
    - (f) to bring about sustained reductions in unemployment, particularly youth unemployment;
  - (2) notes the deterioration in the Australian economy as evidenced by the continuing balance of payments crisis, an inflation rate twice that of our trading partners, excessively high interest rates, rising unemployment, lagging private investment in new productive capacity and the severe downturn in the housing and motor industries, and
  - (3) calls on the Government to arrest the alarming deterioration in the balance of payments, the threat of a further fall in the value of the Australian dollar and severe hardship for Australian families by taking urgent steps to—
    - (a) introduce a mini-budget in May to reduce Government expenditures to take effect from the beginning of the 1986-87 financial year, and thereby reduce government borrowing;
    - (b) make an application to the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to defer the productivity wage case and to discount fully the indexation of wages for the effects of the devaluation of the Australian dollar;

- (c) withdraw the anti-business and anti-rural elements of the tax package of 19 September 1985 that have the effect of inhibiting investment and depressing economic activity, and
- (d) significantly relax foreign investment controls to encourage job-creating equity investment in Australia".

Debate continued.

*Papers:* Mr Wright, by leave, presented the following papers:

Jojoba plantations—Copies of documents (5).

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

11 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 April 1986:  
National Health Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 47.  
Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, Nos. 48, 49, 50.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cowan, Mrs Darling, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Jull, Mr Keating, Mr Milton, Mr Punch and Mr Wilson.

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**A. R. BROWNING**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives