

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 90

TUESDAY, 29 APRIL 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—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) raised, as a matter of privilege, the content of an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 25 April 1986 which alleged that the Australian Trade Commission had attempted to inhibit the Opposition's actions in connection with the Minister for Trade.

Mr Sinclair produced a copy of the article.

Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) addressed himself to the matter raised.

*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented the following paper:

Mr T. E. Walton—Copy of letter from Dawson Waldron, Solicitors, to the Managing Director, Australian Trade Commission, dated 28 April 1986.

Madam Speaker stated that she would consider the matter and advise the House in due course.

3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Hurford (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) was acting as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, and Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) was acting as Minister Assisting the Treasurer.

4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

*Papers:* Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) presented the following papers:

Mr T. E. Walton—

Copies of—

Extract from Senate *Hansard*, Estimates Committee A, for 17 April 1986.

Memorandum from T. E. Walton, Senior Trade Commissioner, to Acting Director, TC Service, Management Division, dated 27 August 1985.

Notes by—

A. L. Paltridge, dated 6 December 1979.

T. E. Walton, dated 30 August 1981.

Letter from L. T. MacAlister, Managing Director, Australian Trade Commission, to Mr Dawkins, Minister for Trade, dated 28 April 1986.

Report on events relating to Mr T. E. Walton, Senior Trade Commissioner, Milan, from M. D. Lightowler, Deputy Secretary, Department of Trade, to the Minister for Trade, dated 28 April 1986.

Questions without notice continued.

5 **PRIVILEGE:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) referred to the matter raised earlier by Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) (*see* entry No. 2) and presented the following paper:

Mr T. E. Walton—Copy of note for file by F. Anderson, Special Adviser, dated 29 April 1986.

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

Airlines Agreement Act—

Ansett Transport Industries Limited—Financial statements, together with the auditor's report, for 1984-85.

Australian National Airlines Commission (TAA)—Financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1984-85.

Joint reports by the Australian National Airlines Commission (TAA) and Ansett Transport Industries Limited on the scope and effectiveness of consultations held during 1985 on—

Airfares.

Passenger revenue load factors and aircraft utilisation.

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—Cocos (Keeling) Islands Inquiry—1st Report (1986).

Department of Community Services—Policy Co-ordination Unit—Report for 1984-85.

7 **FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR COMMERCIAL RADIO—INTERIM REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications) presented the following paper:

Future directions for commercial radio—AM/FM conversion—Interim report by Department of Communications, dated 31 March 1986.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr N. A. Brown—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 **EXPORT CONTROL (ORDERS) REGULATIONS—PAPERS AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented the following papers:

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1986—No. 7—Prescribed Goods (General) as amended (Amendment), together with explanatory statement.

Mr Kerin, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the papers, and presented the following paper:

Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Ministerial statement, 29 April 1986.

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

Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia) moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "Orders 100C, 100D and 111A of the Prescribed Goods (General) Orders, as contained in Prescribed Goods (General) Orders as amended (Amendment), being Export Control Orders No. 7 of 1986, made under the *Export Control Act 1982*, be disallowed".

Debate continued.

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

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

Mr Baldwin, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Hawker, Mr Hodgman, Mr Kerin, Mr Lee, Mr Robinson, Mr Snow and Mr West—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 Braithwaite, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Fife, Mr Hawker, Mr Hodges and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr T. A. Fischer and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Divisions of Farrer and Fisher, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Blunt, Mr Hunt, Mr Nehl and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond, Gwydir and Cowper and certain residents of Queensland, respectively, 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, Mr Hodgman 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.
- Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr McArthur—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 and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that no cutbacks be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.
- Mr Blunt and Mr Slipper—from certain electors of the Division of Richmond and certain residents of Queensland, respectively, praying that the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.
- Mr Free and Mr Price—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- 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 Ruddock 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 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 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 N. A. Brown—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 Burr—from certain residents of Tasmania praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill lie before the House to allow reasoned debate and that certain other action be taken in regard to the Bill.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission Bill not be enacted until a referendum has been held.
- Mr T. A. Fischer—from certain residents of the Division of Farrer praying that the proposed fringe benefits tax on company cars be opposed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be opposed and certain other action be taken in relation to the Bill.
- Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that the further means testing of veterans' disability pensions not proceed.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that all federal funding to children's services be restored.
- Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying that the proposed capital gains tax legislation be introduced without delay and that it be rejected.
- Mr Andrew, Mr P. S. Fisher and Mr Hawker—from certain residents of South Australia, the Division of Mallee and Victoria, respectively, in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the tax threshold be raised to \$7500.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens 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 Hunt—from certain electors of the Division of Gwydir in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Ms McHugh—from certain citizens praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights, NSW, or elsewhere within Australia.
- Mr Tickner—from certain residents of Sutherland Shire, NSW, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 Scott—from certain citizens praying that importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.
- Mr Scott—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 Scott—from certain citizens praying that national Aboriginal land rights legislation be established.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that First Home Owners' Scheme payments be restored to their former level.
- 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 the Shire of Caboolture, Qld, praying that the funding of child care in the shire be given special consideration and certain other action be taken in relation to child care funding.
- 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 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 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 1985 tax proposals outlined in the Government's White Paper be rejected.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that depreciation be allowed on all buildings used to produce rental income.
- 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 right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the introduction of a compulsory identification card be rejected.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.
- 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 citizens praying that anti-monopolisation measures and certain other action be taken to assist price control.

Petitions received.

- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY TRADE:** The House was informed that Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The concern for all Australians and their families in the failure of the Prime Minister and his Ministers to prevent the continuing decline in our international commodity trade".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sinclair addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mrs Kelly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:

Report on the 87th series of proposed variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs, together with a copy of the minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

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

12 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—JOINT COMMITTEE:** The House was informed that Senator Archer had been appointed a member of the Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority in place of the late Senator Missen.

13 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIA CARD—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 240

Madam Speaker,

The Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolution which was agreed to by the Senate this day:

That the following amendment be made to the Resolution of appointment of the Joint Select Committee on an Australia Card, viz.:

Paragraph (12), leave out the paragraph, insert the following paragraph: “(12) That the committee report by 8 May 1986.”

The Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives in this Resolution.

D. MCCLELLAND  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 29 April 1986

Ordered—That the message be taken into consideration forthwith.

Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved—

(1) That the House concurs in the resolution transmitted in message No. 240 of the Senate relating to the resolution of appointment of the Joint Select Committee on an Australia Card, and

(2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution.

Question—put and passed.

14 **FUTURES INDUSTRY 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

15 **FUTURES INDUSTRY (FEES) 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

16 **COMPANIES AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (FUTURES INDUSTRY) 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

17 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 4 to 14, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

18 **COMPANIES AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION 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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
 On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

- 19 **CUSTOMS AND EXCISE LEGISLATION 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.  
 Dr Theophanous addressing the House—

- 20 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

*Privilege—Statement by Madam Speaker:* Madam Speaker referred to the matter raised earlier this day by Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) (see entry No. 2) and stated that she was not satisfied that the actions referred to constituted an attempt by improper means to influence Members in their parliamentary conduct. Madam Speaker further stated that she had not found that a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege had been made out.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

- PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 29 April 1986:
- Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 60.
  - Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 58.
  - Builders Labourers' Federation (Cancellation of Registration—Consequential Provisions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 59.
  - Child Care Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 52.
  - Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 80.
  - Criminology Research Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 51.
  - Currency Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 83.
  - Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, Nos. 76, 77.
  - Defence Act—Determinations—1986—
    - No. 15—District Allowance and Vehicle Allowance.
    - No. 17—Intermediate Term Duty Living Allowance and other allowances.
  - Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 78.
  - Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 79.
  - Federal Court of Australia Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 61.
  - International Organizations (Privileges and Immunities) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, Nos. 55, 56, 57, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75.
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Statements (2) of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).
  - National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 53.
  - Nursing Homes Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 54.
  - Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the date on which sections of the following Act shall come into operation—*Customs and Excise Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1985*—Sections 4, 7, 12, 18 and 21—1 May 1986.
  - Public Service Act—Determinations—1986—Nos. 11, 18, 21, 22.
  - Public Works Committee Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 82.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1986/3—  
Secretary to the Department of Territories and part-time holders of public  
offices.

Seamen's Compensation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 81.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1986—

No. 4—Seat of Government (Administration) (Amendment).

No. 5—New South Wales Acts Application (Amendment).

No. 6—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2).

Telecommunications Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1986, No. 62.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting)  
except Mrs Darling, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Gorman, Mr Hurford and Mr Keating.

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**A. R. BROWNING**

Clerk of the House of Representatives