

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 99

WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 1986

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

- 2 **TELEPHONE EXCHANGE BUILDING, DALLEY STREET, SYDNEY—CONSTRUCTION—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of new telephone exchange building for Telecom Australia at Dalley Street, Sydney.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

- 3 **TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 1) 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 Duffy (Minister for Communications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 4 **TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 2) 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 5 **TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 3) 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications), the Bill was read a third time.

6 **SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87:** 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—

- (a) draws attention to—
- (i) the growing realisation of severe economic difficulties facing Australia, revealed by the disastrous statistics on inflation, balance of payments and overseas borrowing;
 - (ii) the panic, chaos and confusion in the ranks of the Government following the release of such statistics, and
 - (iii) the failure of the Government to guarantee its promised tax cuts due on 1 September 1986, and
- (b) calls upon the Government to adopt as a matter of urgency the Opposition’s 5 point plan for economic recovery, namely—
- (1) a mini-budget to cut government spending;
 - (2) the postponement of the 3% productivity superannuation claims currently before the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission;
 - (3) the postponement of the current wage case to September and full discounting for the price effects of devaluation thereafter;
 - (4) the abandonment of the anti-investment elements of the tax package, and
 - (5) a substantial relaxation of foreign investment restrictions”.

Debate continued.

Mr Lamb 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.

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

Paper: Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, presented the following paper:

State of economy—Press release by the Treasurer, dated 16 May 1986, together with a proof transcript of a press conference held by Mr Keating, Treasurer, and Mr Willis, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, in Melbourne on 16 May 1986.

Questions without notice continued.

8 **PAPER:** Madam Speaker presented the following paper:

Committee reports—Schedule of Government responses to the reports of House of Representatives and joint committees, for period 22 November 1985 to 8 May 1986, and outstanding responses to reports presented from 1980.

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

Mr Cowan, Mr Downer, Mr Grace, Mr Jull, Mr Langmore and Mr McLeay—
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 Duncan—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Fife and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.

Mr Andrew and Mr P. S. Fisher—from certain residents of South Australia and 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 Drummond and Mr Hicks—from certain citizens praying that no cut backs be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.
- Mr Free 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.
- Mrs Jakobsen and Mr Kent—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 Nehl and Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the Divisions of Cowper and Richmond, respectively, praying that the superannuation claim of the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.
- Mr Robinson and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Page 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 Beale—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Bilney—from certain citizens praying that the tax threshold be raised to \$7500.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill not be passed.
- Mr Burr—from certain citizens praying that financial support be given to the Port Arthur Conservation and Development Project in co-operation with the Tasmanian Government.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that proclamation of the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be delayed until a referendum has been held.
- Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Cleland—from certain citizens praying that closed hospital wards be used for specialised after-care facilities.
- Mr Howard—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Australian Bill of Rights legislation be withdrawn.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the proposed adoption of a flat rate family allowance be reconsidered.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that a television translator be erected to improve the reception of the Brisbane SBS UHF television station.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.
- 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 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 Nehl—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 Nehl—from certain citizens, and 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 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 Queensland 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 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 means be sought for the protection of the people's interests to reverse the decision to hand Ayers Rock over to an Aboriginal Land Council.

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 existing national flag remain sacrosanct.

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

Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the West Footscray Post Office, Vic., be reversed.

Petitions received.

10 PAPER: The following paper was presented:

Central Trades Committees—Report for 1984-85.

11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FRINGE BENEFITS TAX AND INCOME TAX CUTS: The House was informed that Mr Carlton had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The severe impact on individuals, families, farmers and business due to the combined effects of the fringe benefits tax and the proposed deferral by the Government of the promised income tax cuts".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

12 PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH: Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) raised, as a matter of privilege, a response he had received from the Department of Foreign Affairs concerning a request for material under the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr N. A. Brown produced a copy of a letter from T. Shand, Assistant Secretary, Peace and Disarmament Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs, to Mr N. A. Brown, QC, MP, dated 20 May 1986.

The Deputy Speaker stated that he would bring the matter to the attention of Madam Speaker.

13 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 5 and 6, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

14 **COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to copyright.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Bowen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

15 **SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87:** 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 6)*—

Debate resumed.

Mr Rocher rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Humphreys moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr McLeay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 67

Mr Baldwin	Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris
Mr Beddall	Mr Duncan	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Bilney	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Keating	Mr Mountford
Mr Blanchard	Ms Fatin	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Keefe
Dr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kent	Mr O'Neil
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Mr Keogh	Mr Price
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Dr Klugman	Mr Punch
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb	Mr Saunderson
Mr Brumby	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Scholes
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr Lee	Mr Snow
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hand	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Cleeland	Mr Hollis	Mr Maher	Mr Tickner
Mr Cross	Mr Howe	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Humphreys*	Mrs Mayer	Mr Wright
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Mildren	Mr Young
Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Milton	

NOES, 51

Mr Adermann	Mr Conquest	Mr Hicks*	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Hodges	Mr Rocher
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr Blunt	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Sharp
Mr N. A. Brown	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr Burr	Mr Everingham	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Cadman	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Slipper
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Coleman	Mr Halverson	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hawker	Mr Reith	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr McLeay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 67

Mr Baldwin	Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr A. A. Morris
Mr Beddall	Mr Duncan	Mr Jones	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Bilney	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Keating	Mr Mountford
Mr Blanchard	Ms Fatin	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Keefe
Dr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kent	Mr O'Neil
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Mr Keogh	Mr Price
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Dr Klugman	Mr Punch
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb	Mr Saunderson
Mr Brumby	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Scholes
Mr Charles	Mr Grace	Mr Lee	Mr Snow
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hand	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Cleeland	Mr Hollis	Mr Maher	Mr Tickner
Mr Cross	Mr Howe	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Humphreys*	Mrs Mayer	Mr Wright
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Mildren	Mr Young
Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Milton	

NOES, 51

Mr Adermann	Mr Conquest	Mr Hicks*	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Hodges	Mr Rocher
Mr Beale	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock
Mr Blunt	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Sharp
Mr N. A. Brown	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Shipton
Mr Burr	Mr Everingham	Mr McGauran	Mr Sinclair
Mr Cadman	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Slipper
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hall	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Coleman	Mr Halverson	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hawker	Mr Reith	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and debated.

It being 7.15 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

16 ADJOURNMENT: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 7.16 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 May 1986:

Public Service Act—Determinations—1986—Nos. 20, 23, 25, 28, 29.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 66.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Cobb, Mr Cohen, Mr Cowan, Mrs Darling, Mr Hawke, Mr Hayden, Mr Hurford, Mr Kerin, Mr Lloyd, Mr Scott, Mr Shack, Mr Simmons, Mr Smith, Mr Tuckey and Mr White.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives