

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 111

WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 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 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (REPEAL) BILL 1986: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry Act 1986*, and for related purposes.

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.

Mr Bowen asked leave for debate to ensue.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Mr Bowen, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the second reading being made an order of the day for a later hour.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mrs Child, in the Chair)—

AYES, 74

Mr Baldwin	Mr Dubois	Mr Jacobi	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Beazley	Mr Duffy	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr O'Neil
Mr Beddall	Mr Duncan	Mr Jenkins	Mr Price
Mr Bilney	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Jones	Mr Punch
Mr Blanchard	Ms Fatin	Mr Kent	Mr Saunderson
Dr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Keogh	Mr Scholes
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Dr Klugman	Mr Scott
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Mr Lamb	Mr Simmons
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Langmore	Mr Snow
Mr Brumby	Mr Gorman	Mr Lee	Mr Staples
Mr Campbell	Mr Grace	Mr Lindsay	Dr Theophanous
Mr Charles	Mr Griffiths	Ms McHugh	Mr Tickner
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Hand	Mr McLeay	Mr Uren
Mr Clelland	Mr Hayden	Mr Maher	Mr West
Mr Cohen	Mr Holding	Mr Martin	Mr Willis
Mr Cross	Mr Hollis	Mrs Mayer	Mr Wright
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Howe	Mr Mildren	Mr Young
Mr Darling	Mr Humphreys*	Mr Milton	
Mr Dawkins	Mr Hurford	Mr A. A. Morris	

NOES, 57

Mr Aldred	Mr Downer	Mr Katter	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McArthur	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Mr Everingham	Mr McGauran	Mr Sharp
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Smith
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr McVeigh	Mr Spender
Mr Burr	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Macphee	Mrs Sullivan
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Halverson	Mr Millar	Dr Watson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Moore	Mr Webster
Mr Coleman	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nehl	Mr White
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodges	Mr Peacock	Mr Wilson
Mr Conquest	Mr Hodgman	Mr Porter	
Mr Cowan	Mr Hunt	Mr Reith	
Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Robinson	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 3 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (REPEAL) 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

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

AYES, 76

Mr Baldwin	Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr A. A. Morris
Mr Beddall	Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Bilney	Mr Duncan	Mr Jones	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Blanchard	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Neil
Dr Blewett	Ms Fatin	Mr Kent	Mr Price
Mr Bowen	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Keogh	Mr Punch
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mr Kerin	Mr Saunderson
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Dr Klugman	Mr Scholes
Mr Brumby	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb	Mr Scott
Mr Campbell	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Simmons
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 Hayden	Mr McLeay	Mr Tickner
Mr Cohen	Mr Holding	Mr Maher	Mr Uren
Mr Cross	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Howe	Mrs Mayer	Mr Willis
Mrs Darling	Mr Humphreys*	Mr Mildren	Mr Wright
Mr Dawkins	Mr Hurford	Mr Milton	Mr Young

NOES, 59

Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr Hunt	Mr Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Downer	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher
Mr Andrew*	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Blunt	Mr Everingham	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fife	Mr McGauran	Mr Slipper
Mr Burr	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr MacKellar	Mr Smith
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr McVeigh	Mr Spender
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr Macphee	Mrs Sullivan
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Miles	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cobb	Mr Halverson	Mr Moore	Dr Watson
Mr Coleman	Mr Hawker	Mr Nehl	Mr Webster
Mr Connolly	Mr Hicks*	Mr Peacock	Mr White
Mr Conquest	Mr Hodges	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Cowan	Mr Hodgman	Mr Reith	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 175, dated 19 August 1986, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

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

- 4 PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PAPERS—PAPERS NOTED:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Young (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 19 August 1986*), viz.:

Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry—

Copies of letters, dated 6 August 1986, from Senator D. McClelland, President of the Senate, to—

Mr L. Bowen, Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General.

Mr J. Howard, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr I. Sinclair, Leader of the National Party of Australia.

Special report, dated 5 August 1986.

Statement by Presiding Officers, dated 4 August 1986—

Question—put and passed.

- 5 STATE MAIL CENTRE, PORT MELBOURNE—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 State Mail Centre, 501 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 6 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (SEA DUMPING) 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.

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 DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:** Madam Speaker informed the House that Senator the Hon. G. Charbonneau, Speaker of the Senate, and the Hon. J. Bosley, Speaker of the House of Commons, in the Parliament of Canada, were within the precincts. With the concurrence of Members, the distinguished visitors were provided with seats on the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker then informed the House that Senator Charbonneau and Mr Bosley were leading a Parliamentary delegation from Canada and that other members of the delegation were present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Madam Speaker extended to the visitors a warm welcome.

- 8 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

- 9 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Report dated May 1986—Towards a cashless society?

Commonwealth Schools Commission Act—Commonwealth Schools Commission—Report for 1985.

Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission Act—Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Reports—

Report for 1985.

Review of TAFE funding, dated May 1986.

Financial Management Improvement Program—Report by the Public Service Board and Department of Finance in co-operation with departments and authorities, dated June 1986.

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report No. 31—Recognition of Aboriginal customary laws—

Volume 1.

Volume 2.

Life Insurance Act—Life Insurance Commissioner—

Half yearly financial and statistical bulletin, June 1985.

Report for 1985.

National Water Resources (Financial Assistance) Act—Supplementary agreement relating to financial assistance to South Australia for the Adelaide and northern towns water filtration program and the country towns water supply improvement program, dated 29 May 1986.

Official Establishments Trust—Report for 1984-85.

River Murray Waters Act—River Murray Commission—Report for 1984-85.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Parole Ordinance—Parole Board of the Australian Capital Territory—Report for 1984-85.

Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act for 1985.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COUNCIL—REPORT—REVIEW OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DECISIONS: STAGE 4: CENSORSHIP—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:

Administrative Review Council—Report No. 24—Review of customs and excise decisions: Stage 4: Censorship.

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.

11 STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Willis (Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters) presented the following papers:

Statutory authorities and government business enterprises—Proposed policy guidelines, dated June 1986—

Overview—Statement by Senator Walsh (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Public Service Matters).

Policy discussion paper concerning efficiency and accountability.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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.

12 ELECTIONS 1984—ELECTION FUNDING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE—FINAL REPORT BY AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Young (Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:

Commonwealth Electoral Act—Australian Electoral Commission—Elections 1984—Election funding and financial disclosure—Final report, dated 30 June 1986.

Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) 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.

13 COMPENSATION ARISING FROM SOCIAL SECURITY CONSPIRACY PROSECUTIONS—COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security) presented the following paper:

Compensation arising from social security conspiracy prosecutions—Commission of Inquiry—Report—Volume 1, 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.

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

Mr Adermann, Mr Brumby, Mr Burr, Mr Coleman, Mr Conquest, Mr Dobie, Mr Downer, Mr Fife, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Hall, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Hicks, Mr Hollis, Mr Humphreys, Mr Lloyd, Mr McGauran, Mr Martin, Mr Mildren, Mr Millar, Mr Milton, Mr Reith, Mr Robinson, Mr Saunderson, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton, Mr Snow and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr Beale, Mr Brumby, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Milton, Mr Saunderson and Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.

Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Burr, Mr Coleman, Mr Halverson, Mr McGauran and Mr Shack—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blanchard, Mr Hollis, Mr Kent, Ms McHugh, Mr Milton, Mr Saunderson, Mr Scott and Mr Tickner—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 Blunt, Mr Humphreys, Mr Nehl and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.

Mr Conquest, Mr Halverson and Mr Shack—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt, Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond, Maranoa and Page, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

Mr Blanchard, Mr Downer and Mr Hall—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.

Mr Shack—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Blunt, Mr Halverson and Mr Hicks—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 J. J. Brown, Mr Cadman and Mr Hicks—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.

Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Baldwin and Ms McHugh—from certain citizens praying that funding for English as a second language programs be restored to the 1985 level.

Mr Blanchard and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to relieve housing-related poverty.

Mr Blunt and Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Page, respectively, praying that the superannuation claim of

- the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.
- Mr Duncan and Dr H. R. Edwards—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 Hawker and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Blunt—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that capital funding be provided for the Northern Rivers College of Advanced Education.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that a bi-partisan commitment to world-wide nuclear disarmament be made.
- Mr Brumby—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to close the South African Embassy in Canberra until apartheid in South Africa is dismantled.
- Mr Burr—from certain stud breeders praying that the stud stock tax be reconsidered and the stud breeding industry be deregulated.
- 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 Cadman—from certain citizens praying that proclamation of the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be delayed until a referendum has been held.
- Mr Carlton—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 Conquest—from certain citizens praying that prescription charges on drugs for epilepsy be revoked.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.
- Mr Halverson—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be withdrawn.
- 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 Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the proposed capital gains tax legislation be introduced without delay and that it be rejected.
- Mr Hicks—from certain Riverina residents praying that the introduction of a compulsory identification card be rejected.
- Mr Hicks—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that SBS television continue to be made available to citizens in rural areas by means of the Aussat satellite.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards 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 Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain residents of Nathalia and district, Vic., praying that financial support be given to women who choose to stay home.
- Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to reduce the cost of ski lift tickets within the Snowy Mountains.

- Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Illawarra planetarium project be given sufficient funding to proceed.
- Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that funds¹ for road maintenance and construction in Victoria be increased.
- Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that pony clubs be given tax exempt status.
- Mr Simmons—from certain citizens praying that the proposed gold tax not be introduced.
- Mr Smith—from certain citizens praying that fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights, NSW.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down and no new reactors built.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that no nuclear powered or armed warships be allowed access to Australian territorial waters.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that an Australian republic be created on or before 1 January 1988.
- 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.

Petitions received.

- 15 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYMENT GROWTH:**
The House was informed that Mr N. A. Brown (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to take adequate action to ensure employment growth".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr N. A. Brown addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 16 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Price presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
249th Report—Proposed computer acquisition for Repatriation General Hospitals by the Department of Veterans' Affairs—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 17 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES ALTERATION BILL 1986:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 322

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to certain remuneration and allowances*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

DAVID HAMER
Deputy-President

The Senate,
Canberra, 20 August 1986

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

- 18 **SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENT (RECIPROCITY WITH ITALY) BILL 1986:** Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to social security.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 19 **AUSTRALIAN LAND TRANSPORT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Land Transport (Financial Assistance) Act 1985*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr P. F. Morris moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr P. F. Morris presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 20 **ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (SEA DUMPING) 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 Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 **SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY 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.

Mr Downer addressing the House—

- 22 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 7.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 8 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 August 1986:

Australian National University Act—Statutes—

No. 186—Superannuation Funds (Investment and Management).

No. 187—Parking and Traffic Amendment No. 2.

No. 188—Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Mountford.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives
