

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 118

MONDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1986

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- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 3 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented:
Australian Capital Territory Bush Fire Council—Report for 1984-85.
 - 4 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Blanchard, Mr Blunt, Mr Braithwaite, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Chynoweth, Mr Cowan, Mr Drummond, Mr Hand, Mr Hollis, Mr Hurford, Mr Kent, Mr Keogh, Mr Lee, Mr Miles, Mr Porter, Mr Rocher, Mr Snow, Mr Tickner, Mr Tuckey and Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
 - Mr Chynoweth, Mr Hawker, Mr Hurford and Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.
 - Mr Beale, Mr Drummond, Mr Maher, Mr Miles and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Kent, Mr Saunderson and 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 Blunt and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Maranoa, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.
 - Mr Campbell and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
 - Mr Grace 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 - Mr Rocher and Mr Sharp—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
 - Mr Ruddock and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that funding for English as a second language programs be restored to the 1985 level.
 - Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that the legislation to tax fringe benefits not proceed.
 - Mr Beddall—from certain electors of the Division of Rankin praying that funding for the Warwick Education Centre, Qld, be restored.

- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.
- Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that Australia Post be prevented from purchasing 196 Lutwyche Road, Windsor, Brisbane.
- 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 Drummond—from certain citizens praying that sub-section 16 (2) of the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended so that the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal shall consult the public when determining television standards and screening hours.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be cancelled.
- Mr Drummond—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the 20% sales tax on wine be cancelled.
- Mr Hand—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—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- 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 Hollis—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' Wollongong area office be kept operational and fully staffed.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Lalor/Thomastown, Vic.
- Mr Jenkins—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 in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the Government support the stand 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 that all prescribed medicines be provided to pensioners free of charge.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that announcers on the Albanian program on radio 3EA be replaced with community representatives.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.
- Mr Miles—from certain citizens praying that an occupational category for housewives be included in the Census and that the "Fair go for Women" survey be recognised as a costly exercise of dubious value.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the export of kangaroo products be banned and action be taken to prohibit the commercial killing of kangaroos.

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 certain action be taken to relieve housing-related poverty.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens; from certain residents of New South Wales; and from certain residents of Sutherland Shire, NSW, praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights or elsewhere within Australia.

Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down and no new reactors built.

Petitions received.

- 5 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RESTRICTIVE WORK PRACTICES:** 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 Government's belated and inadequate response to the need to remove restrictive work practices".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr N. A. Brown addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 6 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—WHARF AND SEAMANSHIP SCHOOL, HMAS CERBERUS, CRIB POINT, VIC.:** Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Construction of a new wharf and seamanship school at HMAS *Cerberus*, Crib Point, Vic.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 7 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—HMAS ALBATROSS, NOWRA, NSW—DEVELOPMENT—STAGE 1:** Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Development of HMAS *Albatross*, Nowra, NSW, stage 1.

Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 **SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) 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 P. S. Fisher), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 9 **PRIVILEGE—COMPLAINT OF BREACH:** Mr Coleman raised, as a matter of privilege, certain classified advertisements published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 20 September 1986 in which his electorate office telephone number had been listed without his permission. Mr Coleman stated that the volume of inquiries in response to the advertisements was obstructing the work of his electorate office. Mr Coleman produced copies of the advertisements.

The Deputy Speaker stated that the matter would be brought to the attention of Madam Speaker.

10 SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) 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 Beazley (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

11 SALES TAX LAWS 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 Beazley (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

12 SALES TAX ACTS 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 Beazley (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

13 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce), the Bill was read a third time.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—BUDGET DEBATE: 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, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the passage of this Bill, the House condemns the Government for—

(1) the failure of the Budget to tackle Australia’s fundamental economic problems, namely—

(a) the record and rising level of overseas debt;

(b) excessively high levels of government spending and taxation;

(c) an inflation rate 4 times the average of our major trading partners;

(d) interest rates once again approaching 20%;

(e) a wages policy that does not take account of the capacity of individual enterprises to pay, and

(f) the pernicious effects of the anti-business, anti-investment taxes such as the capital gains tax and the fringe benefits tax, and

(2) the loss of Australia’s AAA international credit rating following the failure of the Budget”—

Debate resumed.

Mr R. F. Edwards addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cleeland, Mr Dawkins, Mr Free, Mr Griffiths, Mr Halverson, Mr Hawker, Mr Hayden, Mr Humphreys, Mr Jacobi, Mr Katter, Mrs Kelly, Mr Punch, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton* and Mr Staples.

*On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives