

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 147

WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 1987

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 79, general business, being called on forthwith.  
Question—put and passed.
- 3 **COMPANIES REGULATIONS (AMENDMENT)—MOTION FOR DISALLOWANCE:** Mr Spender, pursuant to notice, moved—That regulation 4 of the Companies Regulations (Amendment), contained in Statutory Rules 1986 No. 247, made under the *Companies Act 1981*, be disallowed.  
Debate ensued.  
The Deputy Speaker having put the question—That the motion be agreed to—stated that the 'Noes' had it.  
And a division having been called for—  
The House proceeded to divide.  
The attention of the House having been drawn to a failure in the division bells system, Opposition Members declared their dissent and the division was not proceeded with.  
And so the question was negatived.
- 4 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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 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) expresses its concern over the excessive delay in the introduction of the legislation, relating as it does to measures announced as long ago as 19 September 1985;  
(2) deplores the creation of uncertainty and confusion among taxpayers and in the business community due to the failure of the Government to present these and other measures to the Parliament within a reasonable time after their announcement, and  
(3) condemns the Government for imposing an excessive tax burden on business, thus inhibiting new investment in productive enterprises".  
Debate continued.  
*Paper:* Mr Cunningham, by leave, presented the following paper:  
Federal Government expenditure by age and social groups for 1986-87—Report.

Debate continued.

It being approximately 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.

5 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

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

Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statements for November and December 1986 and January 1987.

Australia-Japan Foundation Act—Australia-Japan Foundation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Bicentennial Road Development Trust Fund Act—Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program—Report for 1985-86.

Australian Capital Territory Electricity Supply Act—Australian Capital Territory Electricity Authority—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Act—Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86, including a summary of activities to 31 December 1986.

Australian National University Act—Council of the Australian National University—Report for 1985—Part 2—Financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report.

Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—39th Report and financial accounts, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Act—Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Commission—25th Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority—Report for 1985-86.

Housing Loans Insurance Act—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation—22nd Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Certain uncoated woodfree papers from South Africa (Anti-dumping), dated 15 December 1986 (No. 398).

National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council—Report for 1985-86, including a report on the operations of the Coal Research Assistance Act.

National Measurement Act—National Standards Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Parliamentary committee reports—Government response to list presented by Madam Speaker on 25 November 1986.

Phosphate Mining Company of Christmas Island Limited—Report for 1985-86.

Public Service Act—

Department of Health—Report for 1985-86.

Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—Report for 1985-86, including a report on the Adult Migrant Education Program pursuant to the Immigration (Education) Act.

Department of Local Government and Administrative Services—Report for 1985-86.

Department of the Special Minister of State—Report for 1985-86.

Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—16th Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Superannuation Act—Superannuation Fund Investment Trust—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86; a further Report by the Auditor-General pursuant to paragraph 161 (2) (d); and the Report of the Commissioner for Superannuation for 1985-86.

**7 INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY AND EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) presented the following paper:

Industrial Democracy and Employee Participation—Policy discussion paper, dated December 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 NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) presented the following paper:

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission Act—National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

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.

**9 COMMONWEALTH TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION—REPORT BY STEERING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SPECIAL RESEARCH CENTRES—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Willis (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) presented the following papers:

Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission Act—Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Report of the Steering Committee to review Commonwealth Special Research Centres and the future of the program—Report, dated November 1986.

Appendix—Assessment panel reports.

Mr Willis, by leave, moved—That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of the Steering Committee established by the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission to review Commonwealth Special Research Centres and the future of the program and the assessment panel reports.

Question—put and passed.

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.

**10 INTER-STATE COMMISSION—REPORT—TRANSPORT OF BULK PACKAGED SALT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport) presented the following paper:

Inter-State Commission Act—Inter-State Commission—Investigation of the transport of bulk packaged salt—Report, dated November 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.

- 11 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) presented the following paper:  
 Australian Institute of Sport Act—Australian Institute of Sport—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.  
 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.
- 12 **HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:  
 Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.  
 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.
- 13 **INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—CERTAIN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS—TAXATION MEASURES—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) presented the following paper:  
 Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Certain petroleum products: Taxation measures, dated 5 November 1986 (No. 397).  
 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 **COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Young (Minister representing the Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:  
 Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—Financial assistance for the Northern Territory—6th Report (1986).  
 Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) 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.
- 15 **REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Young (Minister representing the Special Minister of State) presented the following paper:  
 Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 1985-86.  
 Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) 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.
- 16 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:  
 Mr Aldred, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kent, Mr Milton 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 Baldwin, Mr Dubois, Ms McHugh and Mr Maher—from certain citizens praying that the sale of the Queen Elizabeth II Rehabilitation Centre, Camperdown, NSW, be rescinded.

- Mr Braithwaite, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr McVeigh and Mr White—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 I. M. D. Cameron, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
- Mr Hawker, Mr Milton, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Cadman, Mr Langmore and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.
- Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.
- Mr Beale and Dr H. R. Edwards—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.
- Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that incentive and opportunity be restored to the Australian economy and certain restrictions on small business be abandoned.
- Mr Kent and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the US Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.
- Mr Nehl and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the capital gains tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Braithwaite—from certain residents of the Division of Dawson praying that transmission anomalies be rectified to allow listeners in the Mackay region to receive ABC FM radio.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the right of employees to select their own superannuation scheme be guaranteed and certain other action be taken in relation to superannuation.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Cadman—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr Fife—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken within the Australian Taxation Office and other departments to counter tax evasion and fraudulent practices.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that continued assistance be provided to the footwear industry.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that funding for education centres be restored to 1986 levels.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain residents of the Division of Wannon praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.
- 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 McVeigh—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that funding be provided to improve the Pacific Highway between Port Macquarie and Woolgoolga, NSW.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the township of Bellbrook, NSW, be included on all maps issued by government authorities.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that funding be restored to the English as a second language and multicultural education programs.

Mr White—from certain citizens praying that the decision to alter the ACT Classification of Publications Ordinance be abandoned.

Petitions received.

**17 PAPER:** The following paper was presented:

War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves, Department of Veterans' Affairs—Report for 1985-86.

**18 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES:** 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 appalling prospect of continuing high interest rates and their damaging effect on Australian families and enterprises".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**19 AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE AND NATIONAL GUARANTEE FUND BILL 1987:**

Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend laws relating to companies and securities, 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.

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

**20 MINISTERS OF STATE AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Young (Minister representing the Special Minister of State), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Ministers of State Act 1952*.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Young 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.

**21 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian National Railways Commission Act 1983*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 22 CUSTOMS TARIFF (URANIUM CONCENTRATE EXPORT DUTY) AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 6 of the *Customs Tariff (Uranium Concentrate Export Duty) Act 1980*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

*Paper:* Mr Jones 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.

- 23 TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Carlton (see entry No. 4)*—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Tuckey), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 24 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS:** Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, and notice No. 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 25 AUSTRALIAN PROTECTIVE SERVICE 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 Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 26 ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 69

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

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

\* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 7.29 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 February 1987:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of periodic report—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Report for 1985-86.

Excise Act—Declarations pursuant to section 78B, dated—

12 December 1986.

13 January 1987.

10 February 1987.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cohen, Mr Dawkins and Mr Jacobi.

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