

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 150

MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 1987

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 being asked—

Member named and suspended: Madam Speaker named the honourable Member for O'Connor (Mr Tuckey) for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for O'Connor be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put.

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

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

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The honourable Member was, therefore, suspended at 2.43 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber. Questions without notice continued.

3 PAPER: The following paper was presented:

Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—34th Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

4 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL—TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Holding (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs) presented the following papers:

Australian War Memorial—Termination of appointment of Director—

Copies of letters from—

Air Vice-Marshal Flemming to Mr T. Uren, Acting Minister for Veterans' Affairs, dated 12 January 1987.

Mr T. Uren, Acting Minister for Veterans' Affairs, to Air Vice-Marshal Flemming, dated 6 January 1987.

News release by the Acting Minister for Veterans' Affairs, dated 19 January 1987.

Report by Mr A. C. C. Menzies on certain matters concerning the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Air Vice-Marshal J. H. Flemming, AO, DFC, AM (US), FADIM, dated December 1986.

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.

5 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PROPOSED COMPUTER ACQUISITIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER: Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the 254th report of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts on the proposed computer acquisitions by the Department of Defence, and presented the following paper:

Joint Committee of Public Accounts—254th Report on proposed computer acquisitions by the Department of Defence—Government response—Ministerial statement, 23 February 1987.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by leave, made a statement with reference to the matter.

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

Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

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 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 Blunt and Mr Hawker—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Wannon, respectively, praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr McGauran—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

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

- Mr Hawker and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Kent and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the United States Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.
- Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax and other taxes and administrative burdens on small businesses be repealed.
- 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 residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—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—from certain citizens praying that a bill providing for a national system for therapeutic goods for human use not be introduced and that therapeutic goods continue to be freely available through present outlets.
- Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that incentive and opportunity be restored to the Australian economy and certain restrictions on small business be abandoned.
- 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 the price of petrol be reduced by 3 cents per litre and that certain other action be taken in relation to petrol pricing.
- 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 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 McGauran—from certain citizens praying that uranium not be sold and that all uranium mining cease forthwith.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that funding be provided to improve the Pacific Highway between Port Macquarie and Woolgoolga, NSW.
- 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 Scott—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.
- Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that rescue and firefighting services be retained at Tamworth, NSW, airport.
- Mr Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that the taxation system cease to discriminate against families.
- Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to stop the mining and export of uranium.

Petitions received.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING:** The House was informed that Mr Beale had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Hawke-Keating Government, because of its high interest rate and high taxation policies, to address the critical housing situation facing millions of Australian families".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Beale addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 8 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Dr Klugman (Chairman) presented the following report from the Committee of Members' Interests:
Committee of Members' Interests—Report, including the minutes of proceedings, for 1986.
- 9 AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION BILL 1987:**
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.
Paper: Mr Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy), by leave, presented the following paper:
Corrigendum to the explanatory memorandum to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Bill 1987.
Debate continued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Jones, the Bill was read a third time.
- 10 AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1987:** 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 Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy), the Bill was read a third time.
- 11 ATOMIC ENERGY AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** 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 Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION (SAFEGUARDS) BILL 1987:** Message No. 406, dated 19 February 1987, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to make provision in relation to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to establish, in accordance with certain international treaties and agreements to which Australia is a party, a system for the imposition and maintenance of nuclear safeguards in Australia, and for related matters*".
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones (Minister representing the Minister for Resources and Energy) moved—
That the Bill be now read a second time.
Paper: Mr Jones presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.
Debate, by leave, ensued.

Mr Webster addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.08 p.m., the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 February 1987:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to the extension of specified period for presentation of periodic report—Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island—Report for period 18 November 1985 to 30 June 1986.

Census and Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Statement of disclosure of information—1987—No. 1—List of names and addresses of plastics manufacturing establishments for the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Public Service Act—Determinations—1987—Nos. 2, 7.

Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Declaration under sub-section 9(1) deeming to amend Schedule 6, Parts I and II, dated 29 January 1987.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Aldred, Mr Dawkins, Mr Everingham, Mr Hodgman, Mr Jacobi and Mr Kerin.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives