

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 157

FRIDAY, 20 MARCH 1987

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
19 March 1987—Message No. 413—Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Amendment 1986.
- 3 **DEFENCE POLICY—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 19 March 1987*), viz.:
Defence of Australia—A policy information paper, dated March 1987.
Defence of Australia—A policy information paper—Ministerial statement, 19 March 1987.
Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia) speaking for a period not exceeding 42 minutes.
Question—put and passed.
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.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Griffiths, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Keating (Treasurer)—
Mr Keating laid upon the Table the following paper:
Forward defensive: a survey of Australia—Copy of an article from *The Economist*, 7 March 1987.
Questions without notice continued.
- 5 **NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE—UPDATED BUDGET—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:**
Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the updated budget of the new Parliament House project.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the National Party of Australia), by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

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

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

Mr Fife, Mr Nehl, Mr Robinson and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Mr Staples—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 Bowen and Mr Carlton—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.

Mr Cadman and Mr Rocher—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 Kent and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the US Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.

Mr Kent and Mr Staples—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 Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Carlton and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that incentive and opportunity be restored to the Australian economy and certain restrictions on small business be abandoned.

Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.

Mr Griffiths—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Griffiths—from certain citizens praying that the wishes of the Hellenic people to be known as Hellenes be noted.

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 family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.

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

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

Mr O'Neil—from certain residents of Whyalla, SA, praying that multicultural television be implemented in Whyalla and other country areas.

Mr Staples—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 Staples—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the agreement with the US Government regarding the facilities at Pine Gap be renewed only if the US Government agrees to take up the phased nuclear disarmament plan put forward by the Soviet Union.

Mr Staples—from certain residents of the Division of Jagajaga praying that tertiary education remain free to all students.

Petitions received.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRICES: 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 farce and confusion surrounding the Government's publicity stunt on prices".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 DEFENCE POLICY—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 19 March 1987*), viz.:

Defence of Australia—A policy information paper, dated March 1987.

Defence of Australia—A policy information paper—Ministerial statement, 19 March 1987.

Debate having been resumed by Mr Kent—

9 ADJOURNMENT: It being 3.45 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 4.29 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 March 1987:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposals for collection of information—1987—

No. 1—Services industries surveys.

No. 2—Survey of wholesale trade, 1986-87.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. J. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Drummond, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Nehl, Mr Porter, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Tuckey and Mr White.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives