

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 166

TUESDAY, 28 APRIL 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 **MEMBER FOR NORTH SYDNEY (MR SPENDER)—PRIVATE PAPER—STATEMENT BY MADAM SPEAKER:** Madam Speaker referred to a private paper distributed by Mr Spender since the House last met for the purpose of discussion by the Strategy Committee of the Coalition parties and subsequently leaked to the press. She said every Member must be able to communicate freely with his or her colleagues through private papers or private discussions and it would be ludicrous to ask an honourable Member to reject his or her own writings. Madam Speaker stated that she had raised the matter only because the paper had invoked wide media speculation and that she rejected the criticism contained in the paper.
- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House of the following ministerial arrangements during the respective absences abroad of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), Mr Hurford (Minister for Community Services) and Mr Uren (Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services):
Senator Evans (Minister for Resources and Energy) was acting as Attorney-General and would be represented in this House by Mr Duffy (Minister for Communications);
Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security) was acting as Minister for Community Services, and
Senator Gietzelt (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) was acting as Minister for Local Government and Administrative Services and would be represented in this House by Mr Scholes (Minister for Territories).
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for March 1987.
Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—125th meeting, Queenstown, New Zealand, 6 February 1987.
Australian Soil Conservation Council—Resolutions—2nd meeting, Queenstown, New Zealand, 6 February 1987.
Fishing Industry Research Act—Fishing Industry Research Committee—Report for 1985-86.
Government high technology purchasing arrangements—Report of the Committee of Review, dated February 1987.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Pulp, paper, paper products and printing industries, dated 25 February 1987 (No. 401).

Services Trust Funds Act—Services Canteens Trust Fund—39th and Final Report by the Trustees, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986.

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

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

Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Fife, Mr Fisher, Mr Jull and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that any act which would desecrate the Australian War Memorial be prevented.

Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, 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 McLeay, Mr Millar, Mr Sharp, Mr West and Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.

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.

Mrs Kelly, Mr Langmore and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that landscaping for the new Parliament House be reinstated according to the original plans and certain other action be taken to ensure this can be achieved.

Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Charles—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

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

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

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 Langmore and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the pension discounting effect of the Superannuation and Other Benefits Legislation Amendment Act be limited to restore the base level for pension adjustment and certain other action be taken in relation to the Commonwealth Occupational Superannuation Schemes.

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

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

Mr Baldwin—from certain citizens praying that the legislation providing for the annual administrative charge for higher education students be repealed.

Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their 1976 real money value and certain other action be taken in relation to family allowance payments.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that a wealth tax not be introduced.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the capital gains tax be repealed.

Mr Conquest—from certain residents of the Division of Hinkler praying that legislation be enacted to ensure that 1987 pension increases are based on the rate of pension applicable between June 1986 and 9 October 1986.

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

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

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 citizens praying that all education funding be restored to levels that existed prior to the 1986 Budget.

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 "Star Wars" plans be condemned and Australia not be associated with these plans.

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

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

Petitions received.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

3 April 1987—Message No. 416—Lemonthyme and Southern Forests (Commission of Inquiry) 1987.

8 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

3 April 1987—Message No. 235—Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Amendment 1987.

16 April 1987—Message No. 236—Lemonthyme and Southern Forests (Commission of Inquiry) 1987.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FAMILY LIVING STANDARDS:

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 urgent necessity to take measures in addition to a tough mini-Budget to prevent a further decline in the living standards of the Australian family".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Carlton addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mrs Mayer presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

263rd Report—Aspects of defence equipment support—Volume 2—Technical documentation.

Ordered to be printed.

Mrs Mayer, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

11 FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 237, dated 18 March 1987, 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.

Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

12 FISHING INDUSTRY RESEARCH 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 Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

13 FISHING LEGISLATION 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 Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

14 DEFENCE HOUSING AUTHORITY 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 by Mr Fife who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the passage of the Bill, this House—

- (1) expresses concern that the establishment of this statutory authority may not best address the housing needs of service men and women;
- (2) regrets the failure of the Government to allow adequately for private home ownership requirements of the Australian Defence Force, and
- (3) urges greater delegation of financial responsibility to base and area commanders for the acquisition, repair and maintenance of defence housing, with appropriate audit controls”.

Debate continued.

Mr Blanchard 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.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 April 1987: Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to failure to furnish periodic report within specified period—

Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board—Report for 1985-86.

Christmas Island Services Corporation—Report for 1985-86.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 49. Banking Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 52.

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1987, Nos. 51, 54.

Bounty (Ship Repair) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 53.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 45.

Defence Act—

- Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations—1987—Nos. 3, 4.
- Determinations—1987—
 - No. 23—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.
 - No. 24—Temporary Rental Allowance.
 - No. 25—Recreation Leave.
 - No. 26—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.
 - No. 27—Temporary Rental Allowance and Temporary Accommodation Allowance.
 - No. 28—Allowances for Applicants for Entry Into the Defence Force.
 - No. 29—Gratuities.
 - No. 30—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.
 - No. 31—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.
 - No. 32—Post Allowance.
 - No. 33—District Allowance.
 - No. 34—Temporary Accommodation Allowance.

Fisheries Act—Notices—Nos. 177, 178, 179, 180.

Health Insurance Act—Statement of particulars of Ministerial determination made pursuant to section 106AA, dated 26 March 1987.

Judiciary Act—Rule of Court—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 46.

Lands Acquisition Act—

- Land acquired for Defence purposes, SA.
- Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under subsection 7 (1).

National Health Act—

- Declaration pursuant to subsection 85 (2), dated 18 March 1987.
- Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, Nos. 47, 50.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act—Declaration pursuant to subsection 4 (1), dated 31 March 1987.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—1987—Postal—Amendment No. 1.

Proclamations by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing the dates on which the following Acts and sections of Acts shall come into operation—

- Australian Citizenship Amendment Act 1984*—Section 3, subsection 4 (2), sections 7, 22, 33, 34 and 37—1 May 1987.
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act 1987*—27 April 1987.
- Copyright Amendment Act 1986*—Provisions, other than sections 14 to 19 (inclusive)—30 April 1987.
- Nursing Homes and Hostels Legislation Amendment Act 1986*—Sections 16, 17, 21, 34, 35 and 37—1 May 1987.
- Superannuation Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1986*—Sections 20, 22 and 32, subsection 33 (3), section 35 and subsections 67 (2) and 75 (3)—1 May 1987.
- Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Amendment Act 1986*—30 April 1987.

Public Service Act—

- Determinations—1987—Nos. 10, 13, 14, 16, 17.
- Parliamentary Presiding Officers' Determination—1987—No. 1.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1987/5—Stevedoring Industry Review Committee and holders of public offices on other bodies.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

- Ordinances—1987—
 - No. 7—Co-operative Societies (Amendment).

No. 8—Co-operative Societies (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 9—Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) (Amendment).

No. 10—Workmen's Compensation (Amendment).

No. 11—Sale of Goods (Vienna Convention).

No. 12—Dangerous Goods (Amendment).

Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 28 April 1987.

Securities Industry Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 48.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 2 April 1987.

States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1984—Directions—1987—Nos. 19, 20, 21.

Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 44.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 76.

Telecommunications (Community Calls)—Amendment No. 47.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bowen, Mr Everingham, Mr Hurford, Mr Jull, Mr Kent, Mr Uren and Mr Wilson.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives