

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 178

TUESDAY, 26 MAY 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 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade), Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) was acting as Minister for Trade.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 - Advance to the Minister for Finance—Statement for April 1987.
 - Audit Act—Australian Capital Territory Health Authority—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.
 - Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce—Recombinant DNA Monitoring Committee—Report for 1985-86.
 - Housing Assistance Act—Report on operation of Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement for 1985-86.
- 5 **MERINO EXPORT REVIEW—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Kerin (Minister for Primary Industry) presented the following paper:
 - Merino Export Review—Merino Export Review Committee—Report, dated May 1987.
 - Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Shack), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 6 **ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PROTECTION OF BUNGLE BUNGLE—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) presented the following paper:
 - Environment and Conservation—Standing Committee—Report on protection of Bungle Bungle—Government response.
 - Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Shack), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 7 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Beale, Mr Blunt, Mr J. J. Brown, Mrs Darling, Mr Dubois, Mr Fife, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Grace, Mr Jones, Mrs Kelly, Mr Keogh, Mr Millar, Mr Nehl, Mr Punch, Mr Sharp, Mr Sinclair and Mr Webster—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 Beale, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kent, Mr Milton, Mr Saunderson, 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 I. M. D. Cameron, Mrs Darling, Mr Hodges, Mr Humphreys, Mr Langmore, Mr Lindsay and Mrs Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that pension adjustments related to November and May CPI increases not be deferred but paid immediately.
- Mr Fife, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Nehl and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.
- Mr Fife and Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that any act which would desecrate the Australian War Memorial be prevented.
- 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 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 Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the decision not to renew the grant-in-aid for the Australian-German Welfare Society be reviewed.
- Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the proposed introduction of a \$2 coin not proceed.
- Mr Duncan—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.
- 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 Howard—from certain residents of the Division of Bennelong praying that the decision to close the postal agency in North Epping, NSW, be reversed.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens 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 Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that home loan interest rates be tax deductible.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.
- 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 those plans.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that protests be made to the French Government against nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific and proposed testing in French possessions to the south and west of Australia.
- Mr Staples—from certain residents of the Division of Jagajaga praying that tertiary education remain free to all students.
- Mrs Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that delays in processing applications for the Austudy allowance be minimised.

Petitions received.

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:

18 May 1987—Message—

No. 250—Television Licence Fees Amendment 1987.

No. 251—

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment 1987.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Amendment (No. 2) 1987.

Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Amendment 1987.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment (No. 2) 1987.

Lands Acquisition Amendment 1987.

No. 252—Equal Employment Opportunity (Commonwealth Authorities) 1987.

20 May 1987—Message No. 253—Parliamentary Privileges 1987.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE PRACTICES ACT AND TRADE UNION POWER: The House was informed that Mr Shack had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The absolute necessity for the Hawke Labor Government to retain and fully support sections 45D and 45E of the Trade Practices Act to ensure legal protection against unacceptable abuses of trade union power and equality before the law for all Australians".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Shack addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Tickner (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

274th Report—Response, including Finance Minute, to 233rd Report—Reports of the Auditor-General—1982-83 and September 1983.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Tickner, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1987: Message No. 432, dated 14 May 1987, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the Family Law Act 1975 with respect to maintenance and the enforcement of decrees*".

Bill read a first time.

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

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

12 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 1 and 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

13 SALES TAX LAWS 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—

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 wishes to draw attention to—

- (1) the adverse impact on ordinary families and on business and farm costs of increases in telephone and postal charges which will flow from the withdrawal of the sales tax exemption from Telecom and Australia Post, and

- (2) the fact that the Government's decision to impose further restrictions on duty free passenger concessions:
- (a) is contrary to the Industry Assistance Commission's recommendations contained in report No. 374 of 1985, and
- (b) will result in further inconvenience to international travellers, divert the attention of customs officers away from essential narcotics surveillance activities, impact adversely on the duty free industry in Australia and will damage the tourism industry generally".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 74

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

NOES, 53

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

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hurford (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

14 SOCIAL SECURITY AND VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS 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—

Debate resumed.

Mr Blunt 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 is of the opinion that the Government has failed—

- (1) to undertake necessary and major reform of the unemployment benefit and welfare system in Australia to limit fraud and overpayment and to implement a work for unemployment benefit scheme, and
- (2) to integrate effectively the social security and taxation systems to overcome poverty traps, restore incentive and break the cycle of dependency".

Debate continued.

Mr Wilson addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 May 1987:

Family Law Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 74.

Foreign States Immunities Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 77.

Health Insurance Act—Statement of particulars of Ministerial determination made pursuant to section 106AA, dated 20 April 1987.

National Health Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 76.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 79.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 75.

Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 78.

Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 7 July 1987 as the date on which the *Patents Amendment Act 1984* shall come into operation.

Public Service Act—Determination—1987—No. 24.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1987/8—Executive Director, Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation and holders of public offices on other bodies.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1987—

No. 17—Parole Orders (Transfer) (Amendment).

No. 18—Dangerous Goods (Amendment) (No. 2).

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 77.

Telecommunications (Community Calls)—Amendment No. 48.

Telecommunications (Digital Data Charging)—Amendment No. 40.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Dawkins, Mr Everingham, Mr Gorman, Mr Jacobi, Mr Staples and Mr Webster.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives