

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 27

MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 1987

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
- 2 **ABSENCE OF MADAM SPEAKER:** The Clerk having informed the House that Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) was unavoidably absent due to illness, the Chairman of Committees (Mr McLeay) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 - Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.
 - Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—17th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.
- 5 **SIMULTANEOUS DISSOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 5 JUNE 1987—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services) presented the following paper:
 - Documents relating to the simultaneous dissolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives by His Excellency the Governor-General on 5 June 1987.
 - Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 6 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
 - 19 November 1987—Message No. 46—Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) 1987-88.
- 7 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Beale, Mr Halverson, Mr Jenkins, Mr Kent and Mr Milton—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 Beale, Mr Halverson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Tuckey and Dr Wooldridge—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.
 - Mr Cobb and Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens; and Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Cowan from certain residents of the Divisions of Maranoa

- and Lyne, respectively, praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.
- Mrs Darling and Mr Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the major recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985 be implemented without delay.
- Mrs Darling and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.
- Mr Fife and Dr Hewson—from certain citizens praying that the circulation of X-rated videos be prevented and laws regarding obscenity in the media be revived and enforced.
- Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that all bans on smoking in the workplace and on domestic air travel be lifted and discriminatory smoking legislation not proceed.
- Mr R. J. Brown—from certain citizens praying that sole parents receiving a supporting parents benefit or widows pension retain their benefit or pension until all their children have finished their high school education.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.
- Mr Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that an anti-poverty level of income for all young people be established, educational opportunities be increased and a long term job creation program be established.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that a time charge on local telephone calls not be introduced.
- Mr Fife—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the army reserve depot at Cootamundra, NSW, be reversed.
- Mr Katter—from certain citizens praying that the listing of wet tropical rainforests of north Queensland on the World Heritage List be prevented.
- Mr Kent—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 McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to prevent the implementation of the Australia Card legislation.
- Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.
- Mr Robinson—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Saunderson—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.
- Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that legislation for any type of national identity system be abandoned.
- Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken within the Australian Taxation Office and other departments to counter tax evasion and fraudulent practices.

Petitions received.

- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES:** The House was informed that Mr Connolly had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to provide efficient delivery of social services leading to the spread of poverty".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Connolly addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

9 MEMBERS' INTERESTS COMMITTEE—PAPERS: Dr Klugman (Chairman) presented the following papers:

Committee of Members' Interests—Register of Members' Interests for the 35th Parliament—

Register—

Volume 1—A-F.

Volume 2—G-Mac.

Volume 3—M-Z.

Notifications of alterations received during the period 17 to 20 November 1987.

10 COMMONWEALTH BANKS 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 Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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 (a) notes the undercapitalisation of the Commonwealth Bank and the subsequent constraints this imposes on its efficient administration, and (b) calls upon the Government to undertake a review to assess whether the sale of the Commonwealth Bank would be in the best interests of the Australian people”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 20, by leave, taken together.

Mr Peacock, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 14, page 6, lines 5 and 6, omit all words from and including “, in” to the end of proposed subsection 28 (1A), substitute “those services are directly related to the general banking business of the Commonwealth Bank”.

Clause 15, page 6, lines 26 and 27, omit all words after “otherwise)” to the end of proposed paragraph 29 (2) (g), substitute “those kinds of insurance, re-insurance, assurance, annuity guarantee and indemnity business related to the general banking business of the Commonwealth Bank”.

Clause 19, page 9, lines 12-14, omit all words from and including “, in” to the end of proposed subsection 41 (1A), substitute “those services are directly related to the general banking business of the Savings Bank”.

Clause 20, page 9, lines 32 and 33, omit all words after “otherwise)” to the end of proposed paragraph 42 (2) (g), substitute “those kinds of insurance, re-insurance, assurance, annuity guarantee and indemnity business related to the general banking business of the Savings Bank”.

Amendments negatived.

Clauses agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Holding (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), by leave, the following amendments were made together:

Clause 27—

Page 13, line 8, after “appointment”, insert “or be considered for”.

Page 13, line 11, omit “applicants”, substitute “persons considered for appointment, promotion or transfer, as the case may be”.

Page 13, line 16, omit “applicant”, substitute “person so considered”.

Remainder of Bill, as amended, agreed to.
 Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Mountford reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr Holding, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11 COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH 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—

Debate resumed by Mr Blunt 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 is of the opinion that the Hawke Labor Government’s autocratic approach to aged care is jeopardising the successful implementation of its policy in Australia, and has seriously threatened stability and future improvements in this most important area, especially:

- (a) its refusal to consult on this legislation with voluntary and private sector providers of aged care;
- (b) the removal of ministerial discretion in reviewing fees determinations decisions;
- (c) the unnecessary, costly and excessive reporting requirements imposed by the Bill;
- (d) the duplication of State Government regulations relating to standards; and
- (e) the exclusion of private investment from the provision of hostel accommodation”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 31, dated 5 November 1987, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Suspension of standing orders moved: Mr Blunt moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Member for Richmond from moving—That the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs, for inquiry and report as soon as possible, with particular reference to:

- (1) consideration of the Government’s exclusion of private sector investment from the provision of hostel accommodation;
- (2) examination of the effect of the Government’s refusal to consult with the aged care industry over the Bill;
- (3) consideration of the removal of ministerial discretion in the area of aged care;
- (4) examination of the proposed duplication of State Government regulations controlling the standard of care by the Federal Government; and
- (5) consideration of the impact of unnecessary, costly and excessive reporting requirements for nursing home proprietors.

Debate ensued on the motion to suspend standing orders.

Question—That the motion for the suspension of the standing orders be agreed to—put and negatived.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 28, by leave, taken together.

Mr Blunt, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 14, page 7, after proposed paragraph 9B (2) (f) insert the following paragraph:

“(fa) the potential for private sector investment;”.

Clause 19—

Page 9, omit proposed subsection 10C (3).

Page 10, after proposed paragraph 10F (2) (d) insert the following paragraph:

“(da) the potential for private sector investment;”.

Clause 25, page 19, line 2, omit “such information”, substitute “with respect to grants made by the Commonwealth, such information”.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Clauses agreed to.

Clauses 29 and 30, by leave, taken together, and agreed to, after debate.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Mountford reported accordingly.

On the motion of Dr Blewett (Minister for Community Services and Health), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

12 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 3 to 11, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

13 **FISHERIES 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 Cowan addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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 P. F. Morris, the Bill was read a third time.

14 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) moved—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 2 p.m.

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

Defence Act—Determinations—1987—

No. 77—Temporary Rental Allowance and other allowances.

No. 78—Settling In and Settling Out Allowance and other allowances.

No. 79—District Allowance and other allowances.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Order—1987—

No. 7—Export Meat as amended (Amendment).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Mr Campbell, Mrs Child, Mr Cohen, Mr Hand, Mr Hayden, Dr Hewson, Mr MacKellar, Mr Webster and Mr Willis.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives