

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 31

MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 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 were asked.

3 **EFFICIENCY AUDITS—REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE:**  
Madam Speaker presented the following papers:

Efficiency audits—Reports of the—

Auditor-General, dated 4 December 1987—

Australian Taxation Office: taxpayers in unincorporated businesses.

Department of Defence: RAAF explosive ordnance.

Independent Auditor, dated 24 November 1987—Auditor-General's Office.

Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the reports of the Auditor-General, dated 4 December 1987, upon efficiency audits of the Australian Taxation Office: taxpayers in unincorporated businesses, and the Department of Defence: RAAF explosive ordnance, and the report of the Independent Auditor, dated 24 November 1987, upon an efficiency audit of the Auditor-General's Office; and

(2) That the report upon an efficiency audit of the Australian Taxation Office: taxpayers in unincorporated businesses, be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration.

Question—put and passed.

4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Australian Sports Commission Act—Australian Sports Commission—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

Australian War Memorial Act—Australian War Memorial—Report and financial statements, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

National Capital Development Commission Act—National Capital Development Commission—30th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Pipeline Authority Act—Pipeline Authority—14th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

Public Service Act—

Department of Community Services—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Department of Health—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Department of Housing and Construction—Report, including reports on the administration and operation of the First Home Owners Act and the Home Deposit Assistance Act, and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves, Department of Veterans' Affairs—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

- 5 **PAPER:** Mr McVeigh, by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

National computer centre, Kent Street, Deakin, ACT—*Inside News*, October/November, 1987, published by Peter Sawyer.

- 6 **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE:** Messages from the Senate, dated 26 November 1987, were reported—

(a) returning the Commonwealth Borrowing Levy Bill 1987 and acquainting the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate—Message No. 48.

(b) returning the following Bills without amendment:

Message—

No. 49—Appropriation (No. 1) 1987-88 (*without requests*).

No. 50—Appropriation (No. 2) 1987-88.

- 7 **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: 30 November 1987—Message No. 36—Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) 1987-88.

2 December 1987—Message—

No. 37—

Appropriation (No. 1) 1987-88.

Appropriation (No. 2) 1987-88.

No. 38—

Commonwealth Borrowing Levy 1987.

Commonwealth Borrowing Levy Collection 1987.

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

Mr Beale, Mr Halverson, Mr Jenkins, 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 McVeigh—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Beale, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr E. C. Cameron and Mrs Kelly—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken in the ACT in relation to loitering, consumption of alcohol by under age persons and the production, sale and distribution of material depicting violence.

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.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Maranoa in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Katter and Mr Robinson—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 Rocher and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.

- 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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that staff, student and community representation be included on the Board and Council of the proposed Canberra Institute of the Arts.
- 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.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the Kurnell peninsula, NSW, be rezoned.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.
- 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 McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the proposed closure of the Army Reserve subsection at Macksville, NSW, be stopped and a permanent depot be built.
- Mr O'Neil—from certain citizens praying that all action to close Telecom business offices cease immediately.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the importation and possession of child pornography be made a criminal offence and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography in the ACT.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the decision by the ABC not to televise the 1988 Jack High Bowling Tournament be reversed.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Snow—from certain members and supporters of the National Epilepsy Association of Australia praying that Regulation 26 of the Migration Regulations be amended to permit persons suffering from epilepsy entry into Australia.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down immediately and permanently.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that notice be given to terminate the lease of the US base at Pine Gap.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that effective action be taken against the promotion of tobacco.

Petitions received.

- 9 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MEDICARE:** The House was informed that Mr Tuckey had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The unintended consequences of the Government's recent Medicare decisions".

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

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**10 AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mrs Darling, by leave, presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation to India and Sri Lanka, November 1986—  
Report.

Mrs Darling, Mr Dobie and Mr Price, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

**11 FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Cross presented the following report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade:

The management of Australia's defence—

Report, dated November 1987.

Evidence received by the committee.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

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

**12 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Hollis (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the fitout of accommodation for the Department of Administrative Services, Chatswood, NSW (6th report of 1987).

Ordered to be printed.

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

**13 TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Langmore presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure:

Constructing and restructuring Australia's public infrastructure—

Report, dated November 1987.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Langmore and Mr Downer, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

**14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:**

Message No. 47, dated 26 November 1987, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend various Acts in relation to crime, the trial of certain offences, the confiscation of proceeds of crime, dealing with information obtained by intercepting telecommunications, the Fitzgerald inquiry, and the transfer of prisoners, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Staples (Minister for Consumer Affairs), by leave, moved—That the second reading be made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

Question—put and passed.

**15 BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Staples (Minister for Consumer Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Staples presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Staples, the Bill was read a third time.

16 **AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr J. J. Brown presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate adjourned (Mr Sharp), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

17 **AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1987:** The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr J. J. Brown (Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Sharp), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

18 **AUSTRALIAN TOURIST COMMISSION 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.

19 **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 Holding (Minister for Employment Services and Youth Affairs) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.02 p.m., Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2 p.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 December 1987:

Acts Interpretation Act—Statements relating to the extension of specified period for presentation of the Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island—Annual report and financial statements 1986-87.

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 278.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Orders—1987—

M38/87—Aus-Meat Accreditation Required for Slaughtering, Boning, Packaging and Processing of Meat for Export.

MQ22/87—Sheep and/or Goatmeat to EEC—1988 Quota Administration Scheme.

MQ23/87—High Quality Beef to EEC—1988 Quota Administration Scheme.

Christmas Island Act—Ordinances—1987—

No. 8—Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island (Winding up).

No. 9—Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island (Amendment).

No. 10—Services Corporation (Amendment).

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1987—

No. 3—Interpretation (Amendment) (*in substitution for the paper presented on 17 November 1987*).

Excise Act—Declaration pursuant to section 78B, dated 11 November 1987.

Health Insurance Act—

Approvals pursuant to subsection 23DB (1), dated 26 November 1987 (2).

Determination pursuant to subsection 23DN (1), dated 26 November 1987.

Statements of particulars of ministerial determinations made pursuant to section 106AA, dated 16 November 1987 in respect of—

Dr M. D. Readett.

Dr S. Sinnathamby.

- Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for the purposes of—  
Defence, WA.  
National park, Gimbat Station, NT.  
Pipeline Authority, Cobar, NSW.
- National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 279.
- Navigation Act—Navigation (Orders) Regulations—Order—1987—No. 9—Marine,  
Part 7.
- Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General fixing 23 November 1987  
as the day on which the *Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner Act  
1987* shall come into operation.
- Public Service Act—  
Determinations—1987—Nos. 109, 110, 111, 112.  
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 270.
- Radiocommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 272.
- Radiocommunications (Frequency Reservation Certificate Tax) Act—Regulations—  
Statutory Rules 1987, No. 274.
- Radiocommunications (Receiver Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules  
1987, No. 276.
- Radiocommunications (Temporary Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory  
Rules 1987, No. 275.
- Radiocommunications (Test Permit Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules  
1987, No. 277.
- Radiocommunications (Transmitter Licence Tax) Act—Regulations—Statutory  
Rules 1987, No. 273.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1987/11  
—Deputy Chairman, Australian Institute of Sport, and holders of public offices  
on other bodies.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1987—  
No. 65—Business Franchise (Tobacco and Petroleum Products) (Amendment)  
(No. 3).  
No. 66—Real Property (Amendment).  
No. 67—Stamp Duties and Taxes (Amendment).
- States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1984*—Direction—1987—  
No. 30.
- Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1987, No. 271.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting)  
except Mr Cohen, Mr Gayler, Mr Hayden, Mr Milton, Mr Sciacca, Mr Shack,  
Mr Simmons, Mr Spender and Mr Willis.

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**A. R. BROWNING**  
Clerk of the House of Representatives