

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

No. 82

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1988

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 **PAPER:** The Acting Speaker presented the following paper:
 Public Service Act—Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff—Report for 1987-88.
- 4 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AGED PENSIONERS LIVING STANDARDS:** 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 growing concern among Australia's aged pensioners at their declining living standards".
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Connolly addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 5 **MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE:** Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:
 17 October 1988—Message—
 No. 216—Social Security (Review of Decisions) 1988.
 No. 217—Qantas Airways Limited (Loan Guarantee) 1988.
- 6 **RAAF BASE, TINDAL, NT—APPROVAL OF WORK:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Stage 2 development of RAAF Base, Tindal, NT.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 7 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—FITOUT OF REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE, SYDNEY:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Fitout works at 110 Goulburn Street, Sydney, for the northern command and eastern region headquarters of the Australian Federal Police.
 Mr West presented plans in connection with the proposed work.
 Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1988-89:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 3—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs, \$210 576 000—further debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Defence, \$7 440 398 000—debated and agreed to.

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr R. F. Edwards reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 1988-89:** 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 Beazley (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS) BILL 1988-89:** 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 Beazley (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 **STATES GRANTS (GENERAL REVENUE) BILL 1988:** 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), viz.—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 notes that:*

- (1) this Government's prospective 1988-89 budget surplus is mostly based on increased taxation, and over 70 per cent of the expenditure cuts in budget outlays comes from reduced payments to State governments;
- (2) this Government has been found wanting in the need to bear its share of expenditure restraint by cutting its own direct expenditure; and
- (3) the arrangements outlined in the Bill reflect policies that discourage the incentive to invest and work productively and therefore facilitate the restructuring of the Australian economy to address the nation's net foreign debt of some \$88 billion”—

Debate resumed.

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

The House divided (the Acting Speaker, Mr McLeay, in the Chair)—

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Mr Baldwin	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Johns	Mr O'Neil
Mr Beazley	Ms Fatin	Mrs Kelly	Mr Price
Mr Beddall	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mr Kent	Mr Saunderson
Mr Blanchard	Mr Free	Mr Kerr	Mr Sawford
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Mr Lamb*	Mr Scholes
Mr Charles	Mr Gear	Mr Langmore	Mr Sciacca
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Gorman	Mr Lavarch	Mr J. L. Scott
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Grace	Mr Lee	Mr L. J. Scott
Mr Cleeland	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lindsay	Mr Simmons
Mr Cohen	Mr Hand	Ms McHugh	Mr Snow
Mr Courtice	Mrs Harvey	Mr Martin	Mr Snowdon
Ms Crawford	Mr Holding	Mr Mildren	Mr Staples
Mr Cross	Mr Hollis	Mr Milton	Mr Tickner
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Howe	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr Uren
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr West
Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Mountford	Mr Willis
Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wright

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Mr Adermann	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr McGauran	Mr Ruddock
Mr Aldred	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shack
Mr Andrew*	Mr T. A. Fischer	Mr Macphee	Mr Sharp
Mr Beale	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Shipton
Mr Blunt	Mr Goodluck	Mr Moore	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mr Smith
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Halverson	Mr Peacock	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Hawker	Mr Porter	Mr Taylor
Mr E. C. Cameron	Dr Hewson	Mr Pratt	Mr Tuckey
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Prosser	Mr Webster
Mr Carlton	Mr Hunt	Mr Reith	Mr White
Mr Cobb	Mr Jull	Mr Robinson	Mr Wilson
Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Rocher	Dr Woods

* 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.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 125, dated 7 September 1988, 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.

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

12 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1988:** 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 Peacock (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who had already spoken, by indulgence of the Chair, 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:

- (1) notes that this is the highest taxing Government in the post-war history of Australia;
- (2) notes that this Government's so-called tax reforms invariably involve simply offsetting tax reductions in one area by tax increases in others, as witnessed in this Bill by the termination of the 5/3 depreciation arrangement to offset a reduction in the corporate tax rate;
- (3) notes that the Government continues its propensity for taxation by stealth by again unaccountably raising the provisional tax uplift factor;
- (4) notes that the Treasurer has failed to meet his responsibilities in respect of the administration of the taxation system and has hidden behind the rhetoric

of the Commissioner for Taxation and encouraged the undermining of the rule of law in taxation matters; and

- (5) condemns the Government for its practice of 'government by press release' which can cause otherwise legitimate legislation to be called into question because of the unacceptable retrospectivity thus introduced".

Statement by Minister: Mr P. F. Morris (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), by leave, made a statement in relation to the deferral of the release of new tax instalment schedules.

Debate continued.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron addressing the House—

13 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 October 1988:

Civil Aviation Act—Civil Aviation Regulations—Civil Aviation Order Part 105—Amendments (2), dated 6 and 10 October 1988.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bilney, Dr Blewett, Mr Bowen, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Brumby, Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mrs Child, Mrs Darling, Mr Katter, Mr Kerin, Dr Klugman, Mr McArthur, Mr Millar and Dr Wooldridge.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives