

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 109

THURSDAY, 6 APRIL 1989

1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Adermann, Mr Aldred, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Brumby, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Courtice, Ms Crawford, Mr Cross, Mr Cunningham, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Gayler, Mr Halverson, Mr Hand, Mr Hawke, Mr Humphreys, Mr Johns, Mr Jull, Mr Lindsay, Mr Lloyd, Mr Macphee, Mr Mildren, Mr Millar, Mr Moore, Mr Peacock, Mr Saunderson, Mr Scholes, Mr L. J. Scott, Mrs Sullivan, Mr Taylor, Mr White and Mr Wright, from 418, 156, 330, 75, 126, 495, 896, 199, 194, 24, 175, 547, 203, 138, 75, 1674, 1259, 425, 147, 265, 209, 173, 325, 636, 665, 505, 60, 150, 353, 604, 109 and 452 petitioners, respectively, praying that action to reverse rising cost trends be taken and positive incentives provided to encourage all health funds to share the cost of health care for the sick and elderly.

Mr Beale, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Cohen, Mr Dobie, Dr H. R. Edwards, Ms Fatin, Mr Hall, Mr Hollis, Mr Jull, Mr Kerin, Mr Pratt, Mr Punch, Mr Saunderson, Mr Shipton, Mr Smith, Mr Spender and Dr Theophanous, from 65, 14, 243, 45, 15, 16, 77, 17, 154, 17, 23, 18, 5, 56, 10, 17, 50, 36 and 15 petitioners, respectively, praying that the importation and availability of pornography in videos, films and television be banned and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography.

Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Dobie, Mr Halverson, Mr Lamb, Mr Lloyd, Mr Pratt, Mr L. J. Scott, Mr Sharp, Mr Sinclair and Mrs Sullivan, from 112, 188, 144, 24, 54, 27, 27, 104, 72, 25 and 27 petitioners, respectively, praying that the decision to place certain pharmaceutical drugs on the "Authority only" listing be abandoned.

Mr Baldwin, Mr Dobie, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Holding, Mr Johns, Mr Jull, Mr Lloyd, Mr Milton and Mr Pratt, from 12, 12, 6, 24, 24, 20, 12, 12 and 12 petitioners, respectively, praying that an International Earth Repair Action Decade begin on 5 June 1990.

Mr Courtice, Mr Gayler, Mrs Sullivan, Mr White and Mr Wright, from 89, 75, 262, 683 and 653 petitioners, respectively, praying that the aged pension be increased to 30 per cent of average weekly earnings and certain other action be taken in relation to pensions.

Mr Braithwaite and Mr T. A. Fischer, from 9 and 9 petitioners, respectively, praying that PAYE taxes and all sales taxes be reduced by one third and

- certain action be taken in relation to government and statutory authority charges.
- Mr Carlton and Mr Shack, from 17 and 19 petitioners, respectively, praying that legislation be passed to enable the Constitution to be altered to provide for a citizen initiated referendum.
- Mr Lamb and Mr McArthur, from 15 and 15 petitioners, respectively, praying that all advertising of alcohol on radio and television be banned.
- Mr Andrew, from 1979 petitioners, praying that a financially viable nursing home be maintained as an adjunct to the Star of the Sea Home for Aged at Wallaroo, SA.
- Mr Beale, from 44 petitioners, praying that legislation banning X-rated videos be passed.
- Mr Blanchard, from 47 petitioners, praying that section 13 of the Customs (Cinematograph Films) Regulations be retained and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship.
- Mr Cowan, from 291 petitioners, praying that Australia withdraw from the Asian Regional Co-operative Project on Food Irradiation and from the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation and certain other action be taken in relation to food irradiation.
- Mr Cowan, from 151 petitioners, praying that the incidence of crime and violence broadcast on television be reduced.
- Mr Cowan, from 17 petitioners, praying that freehold titles to Australian land and property be held and transacted only by those persons who are Australian by birth or naturalisation.
- Mr T. A. Fischer, from 56 petitioners, praying that CPI-based increases to fuel excise be halved and the proportion of this tax spent on roads increased by one half.
- Mr T. A. Fischer, from 8 petitioners, praying for a complete review of the non-sexist language chapter in the *AGPS Style manual for authors, editors and printers*.
- Mr Gayler, from 272 petitioners, praying that the entry of nuclear capable vessels into the Port of Cairns and Australian waters in general be prohibited.
- Mr Halverson, from 52 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Halverson, from 22 petitioners, praying that the Income Tax Assessment Act be amended to ensure tax exemption for pony clubs.
- Mr Hicks, from 1658 residents of Broken Hill, NSW, praying that increased funding be provided for support services to the frail and aged in Broken Hill and certain other action be taken in relation to aged care.
- Mr Jull, from 180 petitioners, praying for an increase in the current Medicare levy to provide funding for cancer and AIDS research.
- Mr Lamb, from 225 petitioners, praying that urgent steps be taken to prevent any more land being bought by non-resident foreigners.
- Mr Lloyd, from 117 petitioners, praying that legislation be amended to allow cheaper fuel for country people.
- Ms McHugh, from 2285 petitioners, praying that the concern of Australians at the lack of progress in attending to the plight of starving people of the world be raised in the United Nations General Assembly.
- Mr Nehl, from 889 petitioners, praying that any restructuring of Australia Post's operations not result in any reduction of postal services to customers.
- Mr Nehl, from 558 petitioners, praying that legislation be passed to ban the distribution of X-rated videos.
- Mr O'Neil, from 34 petitioners, praying that the decision to place certain drugs on the "Authorities Required" list be reversed.

Mr Pratt, from 240 petitioners, praying that legislation be amended to provide protection against inflation for pensioners' investments and broaden the availability of fringe benefits to pensioners.

Mr Pratt, from 38 petitioners, praying that legislation be amended to increase immediately the level of spending on maintenance and development of the national road system.

Mr Shack, from 17 petitioners, praying for the introduction of a Bill to enable alteration of the Constitution to allow citizens' initiative and veto referendums.

Mr Simmens, from 188 petitioners, praying that woodchipping be phased out and certain other action be taken in relation to the forests of south eastern Australia.

Mr Smith, from 33 petitioners, praying that the provision of an adequately funded pharmaceutical benefits scheme which provides a comprehensive range of modern therapeutic products be guaranteed.

Mrs Sullivan, from 153 electors of the Division of Moncrieff, praying that a Medicare facility in the Runaway Bay and Helensvale districts, Qld, be established as soon as possible.

Petitions received.

3 TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Saunderson (Chairman) presented the following report and related papers:

Transport, Communications and Infrastructure—Standing Committee—Release of tyre safety inquiry documents—

Report dated March 1989.

Copy of letter from Secretary, Attorney-General's Department to Secretary, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure, dated 14 March 1989.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Saunderson made a statement in connection with the report.

4 ANTARCTIC DIVISION: Mr Milton, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) commends the Antarctic Division, and in particular the Antarctic expeditioners whose initiative and enthusiasm contribute to expanding our understanding and scientific knowledge of a unique and vitally important environment; and
- (2) calls on the Government to provide the necessary resources to enable the Division to continue its valuable research in Antarctica.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

5 AGRIBUSINESS IN AUSTRALIA: Mr Tickner, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House:

- (1) notes the development of agribusiness in Australia; and
- (2) calls on the relevant Government departments to devise strategies to:
 - (a) control appropriately the activities of agribusiness companies;
 - (b) limit further concentration of ownership of their companies;
 - (c) develop alternatives to agribusiness;
 - (d) encourage research to enable farmers to move towards more sustainable agricultural practices; and
 - (e) provide guidelines for the operation of agribusiness in Australia.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 6 AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY CHEMICALS:** Mr Andrew, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House acknowledges the essential role that agricultural and veterinary chemicals have played in the development of agriculture in Australia and condemns the proposed Senate inquiry into agricultural chemicals as prejudicial and alarmist.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 7 AIDS EDUCATION:** Mr Cobb, pursuant to notice, moved—That the present Government's program to educate the Australian population with regard to AIDS should be redirected more towards preventing the disease through changing lifestyle patterns of risk groups in the community.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.30 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 104A and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday.

- 8 GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

- 9 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS:** Members' statements were made.

- 10 MINISTERIAL CHANGES:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that this morning His Excellency the Governor-General had appointed Mrs Kelly as Minister for Telecommunications and Aviation Support and Mr Simmons as Minister for Defence Science and Personnel.

- 11 QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) presented the following paper:

Natural disaster relief—Payments by type of disaster 1983-84 to 1987-88.

Questions without notice continued.

Paper: Mr Holding (Minister for the Arts and Territories) presented the following paper:

ACT Administration—Allegations of impropriety and victimisation in contract administration—Copy of letter from Mr Holding, Minister for the Arts and Territories to Mr B. Collaery, Chairman, Residents Rally for Canberra, dated 22 March 1989.

Questions without notice continued.

- 12 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—41st Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1987-88.

Companies and Securities Law Review Committee—Report for 1987-88.

Inter-State Commission Act—Inter-State Commission—Report—Waterfront investigation: Conclusions and recommendations, dated March 1989—

Volume 1.

Volume 2—Appendices.

- Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report No. 47—Community law reform for the Australian Capital Territory: 3rd Report—Enduring powers of attorney.
- National Crime Authority Act—National Crime Authority—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1987-88.
- Public Service Act—
 Department of the Treasury—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1987-88.
 Royal Australian Mint—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1987-88.
- Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Development Authority Act—Textiles, Clothing and Footwear Development Authority—Report for the period 5 May to 30 June 1988.
- 13 **INTER-STATE COMMISSION—REPORT ON WATERFRONT INVESTIGATION—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:
 Inter-State Commission Act—Inter-State Commission—Report—Waterfront investigation: Conclusions and recommendations, dated March 1989—
 Volume 1.
 Volume 2—Appendices.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Fife), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS:** The House was informed that Mr Miles had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of Government policy and the collapse of effective administration in Aboriginal Affairs".
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Miles addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 15 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr McLeay (Chairman) presented the report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 13 April 1989.
- 16 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Tickner (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
 Report 296—The Auditor-General: Ally of the people and parliament—Reform of the Australian Audit Office.
 Ordered to be printed.
 Mr Tickner, Mr Ruddock and Mr Nehl, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.
- 17 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LANDS ACQUISITION BILL 1988:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 318

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to the acquisition of land by the Commonwealth and certain authorities and dealings with land so acquired, and for other purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

KERRY SIBRAA
 President

The Senate,
 Canberra, 5 April 1989

Ordered—That the amendments be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

No. 1—Page 2, subclause 5 (2), lines 13 to 18, leave out the subclause, insert the following subclause:

“(2) If a provision referred to in section 21A of the *Christmas Island Act 1958* is in operation, this Act does not apply to anything dealt with by the provision.”.

No. 2—Page 3, clause 6, definition of “Commonwealth authority”, paragraph (a), lines 1 to 3, leave out the paragraph, insert the following paragraph:

“(a) that is incorporated by or under a law of the Commonwealth or by or under a law of a Territory, other than:

- (i) an enactment as defined by section 3 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*;
- (ii) a law of the Northern Territory; or
- (iii) a law of Norfolk Island; and”.

No. 3—Page 52, clause 119, lines 33 to 37, leave out the clause, insert the following clause:

Disposal of interests in land

“119. (1) An interest in land vested in an acquiring authority may be disposed of under the written authority of the Minister.

“(2) A person dealing with an acquiring authority is not concerned to inquire whether this Part has been complied with, and the vesting in a person of an interest in land is not affected by any contravention of this Part.”.

No. 4—Page 56, subclause 124 (8), line 39, leave out “subsection 53 (2A)”, insert “subsections 53 (2) and (2A)”.

No. 5—Page 57, subclause 125 (1), lines 5 and 6, leave out “shall not, without the written authority of the Minister, acquire an interest in overseas land”, insert “shall not acquire an interest in overseas land otherwise than in accordance with this section”.

No. 6—Page 57, subclause 125 (2), lines 14 and 15, leave out “shall not, without the written authority of the Minister, dispose of an interest in land”, insert “shall not dispose of an interest in overseas land otherwise than in accordance with this section”.

No. 7—Page 57, after subclause 125 (2), insert the following new subclause:

“(2A) An interest in overseas land may be acquired or disposed of by an acquiring authority under the written authority of the Minister.”.

No. 8—Page 57, subclause 125 (5), lines 38 and 39, leave out the subclause.

No. 9—Page 60, clause 130, line 4, leave out “and 129”, insert “, 129 and 133”.

No. 10—Page 62, subclause 137 (1), line 18, leave out “such address as is prescribed”, insert “an address prescribed for the purposes of this subsection”.

No. 11—Page 63, subclause 139 (1), lines 13 to 15, leave out the subclause, insert the following subclause:

“(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Minister or the Attorney-General may, in writing, delegate all or any of his or her powers and functions under this Act to:

- (a) a member of the Australian Public Service; or
- (b) a person who has executive authority in relation to the affairs of a Commonwealth authority.”.

On the motion of Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), the amendments were agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr West, the House adopted the report.

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

5 April 1989—Message No. 319—Lands Acquisition (Repeal and Consequential Provisions) 1988.

19 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE:** Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

20 **MILITARY POLICE COMPLEX, GREEN HILLS, LIVERPOOL MILITARY AREA, NSW—DEVELOPMENT—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: Development of a military police complex at Green Hills, Liverpool Military Area, NSW.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

21 **ECONOMIC STATEMENT AND REPLY—TELEVISION COVERAGE:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), for Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That this House authorises:

- (1) the Speaker to make arrangements for all or part of the ministerial statement concerning economic measures to be made by the Treasurer on 12 April 1989 and all or part of the reply to that statement by the Leader of the Opposition to be televised;
- (2) the direct, live telecast of all or part of that film and the accompanying sound of the proceedings by any television station provided that a station telecasts both speeches live and gives approximately equal time to both speeches; and
- (3) the use by any television station of any part of the filmed proceedings and accompanying sound in subsequent news, current affairs and documentary programs.

Question—put and passed.

22 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 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—

Debate resumed by Dr Hewson 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 notes that:

- (1) budget estimates put Commonwealth Government outlays at over a quarter of Australia's GDP, and that this is funded by revenue collection that has made this the highest taxing Government in the post-war history of Australia;
- (2) the Government's budget strategy is in tatters with its key forecasts on inflation and the balance of payments wildly off-track;
- (3) the Government is locked into a strategy of sole reliance on monetary policy and high interest rates to bring the economy back on track with the result that home loan interest rates are now at their highest level in Australia's history; and
- (4) the process of micro-economic reform has stalled with the Government either stopping or delaying much needed structural policies which are crucial if Australia is to increase productivity and to reduce its unsustainably high level of foreign debt”.

Debate continued.

Paper: Mr Aldred, by leave, presented the following paper:

Mr V. Zemskov—Copy of letter from Mr Aldred to FOI Co-ordinator, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, seeking information on Mr Zemskov under the Freedom of Information Act, dated 23 December 1988.

Debate continued.

Mr Milton addressing the House—

23 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10.30 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 Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) required the debate to be extended. The debate continuing until 11.05 p.m., Madam Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 April 1989:
Defence Act—

Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations—1989—Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6.
Determinations under section 58B—1989—

No. 15—Settling In and Settling Out Allowance.

No. 35—Outfit Allowance.

No. 37—Overseas Living Allowance and other allowances.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Braithwaite, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Goodluck, Mr P. F. Morris, Mr J. L. Scott and Mr Uren*.

* On leave

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives