

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 4

TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 1985

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- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Dr H. A. Jenkins) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES:** The following warrant nominating a Deputy Chairman of Committees, pursuant to standing order 18, was laid on the Table by Mr Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 18, I nominate John Neil Andrew to act as a Deputy Chairman of Committees when requested to do so by the Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand on 26 February 1985.

H. A. JENKINS
Speaker

- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Hodgman, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr West (Minister for Housing and Construction)—
 Mr West laid upon the Table the following paper:
Housing Assistance Act 1984.
 Questions without notice continued.
- 4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 - Aussat Pty Ltd—Report for year 1983-84.
 - Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with Auditor-General's Report, for year 1983-84.
 - Australian Tourist Commission Act—Australian Tourist Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1983-84.
 - Australian Wine Research Institute—Report for year 1983-84.
 - Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—37th Annual Report and financial accounts, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1983-84.
 - Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act—Commissioner for Employees' Compensation—Report for year 1983-84.
 - Cotton Research Act—Cotton Research Committee—Report for period 31 December 1982 to 30 June 1984.
 - Dairying Research Act—Australian Dairy Research Committee—12th Annual Report, for year 1983-84.
 - Department of Primary Industry—Report for year 1983-84.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Certain consumer electronic equipment and components, dated 14 February 1984 (No. 339).

Dried vine fruits industry, dated 28 September 1984 (No. 351).

Heavy commercial motor vehicles, parts and accessories, dated 29 February 1984 (No. 343).

Heavy engineering industry—

Interim report, dated 23 November 1984 (No. 354).

The demand for heavy engineering products in Australia—Annexure to interim report, dated November 1984.

Re-import concessions, dated 16 November 1984 (No. 353).

Separate Articles Direction No. 1 of the Customs Tariff, dated 5 April 1984 (No. 345).

Tableware and other goods of ceramics, dated 7 December 1984 (No. 356).

Telecommunications and related equipment and parts, dated 5 October 1984 (No. 352).

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1983-84.

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Report on the operation of the Act for year 1983-84.

Social Security Act—Department of Social Security—Report of the Director-General, for year 1983-84.

United Nations—General Assembly—38th Session, New York, 20 September to 21 December 1983—Report of Australian Delegation.

Weights and Measures (National Standards) Act—National Standards Commission—Report for year 1983-84.

Wool Industry Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1983-84.

5 AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Jones (Minister for Science) presented the following paper:

Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Council of Australian Institute of Marine Science—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's report, for year 1983-84.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

6 AUSTRALIAN MARINE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Jones (Minister for Science) presented the following paper:

Australian Marine Sciences and Technologies Advisory Committee—Report for 1983.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate adjourned (Mr MacKellar), 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 E. C. Cameron, Mr Hawker, Mr Kent, Mr Lloyd, Mr McArthur, Mrs Mayer and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Cadman, Mr Drummond and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens in similar terms.

Mr Cadman, Mr Fife and Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that the laws which banned the entry and sale of hard-core and violent pornography be re-enacted.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

- Mr Cadman, Mr Cowan and Mr Fife—from certain citizens praying that the ordinance superseding the ACT Objectionable Publications Ordinance be disallowed and certain other action be taken in relation to censorship matters.
- Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken against the importation and distribution of pornographic and obscene materials.
- Mr P. S. Fisher and Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken against the importation and distribution of pornographic and obscene materials, and entitlements of de facto spouses of Parliamentarians and homosexual partners of ABC employees.
- Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the House of Representatives Expenditure Committee concerning Telecom's zonal charging policies be implemented.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that chiropractic services be included in Medicare when it is introduced.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Government reconsider the assets test.
- Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Indi praying that young Australians who have undertaken employment while at school be eligible for Tertiary Education Assistance allowances.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that anomalies in ABC radio transmission in North Queensland be rectified.
- Dr Charlesworth—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Coleman—from certain citizens praying that wild horses be protected from industry and discriminate slaughter.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that, when the redeveloped Brisbane Airport becomes operative, no jet aircraft use the crosswind runway and the curfew be maintained from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Mrs Darling—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr Drummond—from certain electors of the Division of Forrest praying that reference to God and The Queen in the oath and affirmation of allegiance be retained.
- Mr Hand—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that measures be taken to reduce the burden of imposed costs and regulation on Australian farmers.
- Mr Keogh—from certain citizens praying that consideration be given to legislating to prohibit importation of certain pornographic materials.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that a national park be set aside for wild horses and action be taken to ensure that killing of feral animals be undertaken in a humane manner.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the customs regulation prohibiting the importation of obscene, indecent or blasphemous materials be restored.
- Mr Simmons—from certain citizens praying for Commonwealth and State co-operation and financial commitment in making certain aircraft available for fighting bushfires in New South Wales.
- Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that consideration be given to the inclusion of psychological services within Medicare.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that there be no increase in State aid to private schools and that the primary obligation to government schools be re-affirmed.

Mr Wright—from certain electors of the Division of Dawson praying for legislation to reverse the extension of certain entitlements to de facto and homosexual partners of parliamentarians and public servants and to confer proper recognition upon traditional de jure marriage.

Petitions received.

- 8 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT—DEPRECIATION OF DOLLAR:** Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Howard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The growing doubts about the Government’s ability and resolve to effectively manage the economy as exemplified by the recent depreciation of the Australian dollar”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 9 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL’S SPEECH:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

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

- 10 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Young moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 6.45 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 February 1985:

Acts Interpretation Act—

Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of periodic report—Australia Council, report for year 1983-84.

Statements relating to failure to furnish periodic reports within specified period—

Australian National University Council, report for 1983 (Part II).

Commonwealth Legal Aid Council, report for year 1983-84.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Determination, dated 15 January 1985, listing fees for purposes of the Pharmacy Ordinance.

States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1981—Statement of particulars of direction given by Minister under sub-section 42 (2).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brumby and Mr Scholes.

D. M. BLAKE

Clerk of the House of Representatives