

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 117

FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 1986

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

2 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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 Carlton, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the passage of this Bill, the House condemns the Government for—

(1) the failure of the Budget to tackle Australia’s fundamental economic problems, namely—

- (a) the record and rising level of overseas debt;
- (b) excessively high levels of government spending and taxation;
- (c) an inflation rate 4 times the average of our major trading partners;
- (d) interest rates once again approaching 20%;
- (e) a wages policy that does not take account of the capacity of individual enterprises to pay, and
- (f) the pernicious effects of the anti-business, anti-investment taxes such as the capital gains tax and the fringe benefits tax, and

(2) the loss of Australia’s AAA international credit rating following the failure of the Budget”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Kent addressing the House—

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 101A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Hayden (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Senator Evans (Minister for Resources and Energy) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs until 25 September 1986 and Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs from that date until Mr Hayden’s return.

4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

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

Mr Andrew, Mr Blunt, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Conquest, Mr Cowan, Mr Dobie, Mr Downer, Mr Drummond, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr P. S. Fisher, Mr Fitzgibbon, Mr Hollis,

- Mr Hawker, Mr Kent, Mr McArthur, Mrs Mayer, Mr Robinson, Mr Slipper, Mr Tickner, Mr Tuckey and Dr Watson—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
- Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Duncan, Mr Hawker, Mr Kent, Mr McArthur and Mrs Mayer—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.
- Mr Beale, Mr N. A. Brown and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Divisions of Richmond and Maranoa, respectively, praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker and Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
- Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Mr Tickner—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 Campbell and Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
- Mr Dobie and Dr Watson—from certain citizens praying that the assets test, capital gains tax, fringe benefits tax and tax on lump sum superannuation be repealed.
- Mr Hayden and Mr Keogh—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.
- Mr Ruddock and Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that funding for English as a second language programs be restored to the 1985 level.
- Mr Andrew—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.
- Mr Cadman and Mr Sharp—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Beale—from certain citizens praying that the legislation to tax fringe benefits not proceed.
- Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Government launch a public appeal to help the Chernobyl victims and certain action be taken to restrict Soviet nuclear activity.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that proclamation of the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be delayed until a referendum has been held.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the decision to close the Wollongong office of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs be reversed.
- Mr Cadman—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the Western Sydney State University be established in conjunction with the NSW Government.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the right of employees to select their own superannuation scheme be guaranteed and certain other action be taken in relation to superannuation.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the film "Hail Mary" be banned.
- Mr Charles—from certain residents of Chelsea and district, Vic., praying that an anti-nuclear policy be enacted which provides for the end to uranium mining in Australia and encourages other nations to dispense with nuclear weapons and power plants.

- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that sub-section 16 (2) of the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended so that the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal shall consult the public when determining television standards and screening hours.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be cancelled.
- Dr H. R. Edwards—from certain citizens praying that 1988 be proclaimed the first International Earth Repair Year.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be opposed and certain other action be taken in relation to the Bill.
- Mr Hawker—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the proposed capital gains tax legislation be introduced without delay and that it be rejected.
- Mr Hollis—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs' Wollongong area office be kept operational and fully staffed.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Lalor/Thomastown, Vic.
- Mr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to relieve housing-related poverty.
- 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 Kent—from certain citizens praying that all prescribed medicines be provided to pensioners free of charge.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that announcers on the Albanian program on radio 3EA be replaced with community representatives.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that a Medicare office be established in Wyong, NSW, as soon as possible.
- Mr McArthur—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Constitution be reformed in order to recognise significant public expressions of concern.
- Mr Reith—from certain citizens praying that pony clubs be given tax exempt status.
- Mr Robinson—from certain residents of the Division of Page praying that the superannuation claim of the trade union movement be rejected and superannuation be allowed to develop without trade union domination.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be restored to their former level.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that measures be taken to reduce the burden of imposed costs and regulation on Australian horticultural growers.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that home loan interest rates be tax deductible.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that means be sought for the protection of the people's interests to reverse the decision to hand Ayers Rock over to an Aboriginal Land Council.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.

- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that new initiatives be taken to encourage all member states of the United Nations to conclude a treaty banning all nuclear weapons tests and that certain other action be taken in relation to nuclear weapons tests.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that an Australian republic be created on or before 1 January 1988.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the export of kangaroo products be banned and action be taken to prohibit the commercial killing of kangaroos.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor be closed down and no new reactors built.
- Mr Tickner—from certain citizens praying that an additional nuclear reactor not be constructed at Lucas Heights, NSW, or elsewhere within Australia.
- Mr Tickner—from certain residents of Sutherland Shire, NSW, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Dr Watson—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Dr Watson—from certain electors of the Division of Forde praying that debate on the Australian Bill of Rights Bill 1985 be deferred for 12 months and that the Bill be circulated for 12 months for the widest possible debate, scrutiny and discussion.

Petitions received.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION:** The House was informed that Mr Blunt had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Hawke Government's superficial and ineffective approach to social security policy and administration".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Blunt addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1986-87—BUDGET DEBATE:** 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 Carlton (see entry No. 2)—*

Debate resumed.

- 8 ADJOURNMENT:** It being approximately 3.45 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Paper:* Mr Lee, by leave, presented the following paper:

Post office agencies—Proposed closures—Letter from J. Dempsey, Acting District Manager, Gosford District, Sydney North Division, Australian Postal Commission, to Mr Lee, MP, dated 26 August 1986.

Debate continued.

The House continuing to sit until 4.30 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Monday next at 2 p.m.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 19 September 1986:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act—Declaration made pursuant to sub-section 12 (1), dated 29 August 1986.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Order—1986—M30/86—1987 Performance.

Export Control Act—Export Control (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1986—No. 9—Export Control (Fees).

Meat Inspection Act—Meat Inspection (Orders) Regulations—Orders—1986—No. 3—Meat Inspection (Fees).

Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act—Declaration under sub-section 9 (1) deeming to amend Part IV of Schedule 2 of the Act, dated 30 August 1986.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr Beazley, Mr Bilney, Mr Bowen, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Cleeland, Mr Dawkins, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Everingham, Mr Free, Mr Griffiths, Mr Halverson, Mr Hayden, Mr Hodgman, Mr Humphreys, Mr Jacobi, Mr Katter, Mrs Kelly, Mr McGauran, Mr Shack, Mr Shipton\*, Mr Smith, Mr Staples, Mrs Sullivan and Mr Tuckey.

\*On leave

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