

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 136

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 1986

1 The House met, at 9 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 **SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY RESEARCH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1986:**  
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.

*Limitation of debate:* At 10 a.m., the Deputy Speaker having called the attention of the House to the fact that the time allotted for the second reading had expired—

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

*In the committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Jones (Minister for Science), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 10—

Page 7, line 13, omit "a person", substitute "an eligible person".

Page 7, line 13, before "persons" insert "eligible".

Page 7, after proposed sub-section 10J (1) insert the following sub-section:

"(1A) The Chief Executive shall not delegate a power under sub-section (1) except with the approval of the Board."

Page 7, at the end of proposed section 10J add the following sub-section:

"(6) In this section, "eligible person" means—

(a) an officer; or

(b) a director or employee of a company where—

(i) the company and the Organisation are partners in a partnership;  
or

(ii) the Organisation holds a controlling interest in the company."

Debate continued.

*Limitation of debate:* At 10.20 a.m., the Deputy Chairman having called the attention of the committee to the fact that the time allotted for the committee stage had expired—

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and passed.

Further question—That the Bill, as amended, be agreed to, and that the Bill be reported with amendments—put and passed.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Jones, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 3 **AUSTRALIA CARD BILL 1986:** 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.

It being approximately 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106A, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 4 **HEALTH CARE SYSTEM:** Mr Porter, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House—

- (1) recalls the Government's promise to provide a fair, equitable and efficient health care system;
- (2) expresses its concern that the introduction of Medicare has led to a shift from private to public health care with public hospitals unable to meet the rapidly growing demand, resulting in growing queues, a fall in public hospital standards and an erosion of private health care, and
- (3) condemns the Government for its breach of election undertakings and for its failure to provide reasonable access to public hospitals for the elderly, the poor and the chronically ill.

Debate ensued.

Mr D. M. Cameron addressing the House—

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109, as amended by sessional order.

Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notice No. 1 be extended until 2 p.m.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Lee was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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

*Suspension of standing and sessional orders—Motion of censure of Prime Minister:* Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith a motion of censure of the Prime Minister.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

*Prime Minister—Motion of censure:* Mr Howard moved—That this House censures the Prime Minister for his failure to address adequately the impact on Australia's economy of today's record adverse balance of payments deficit figure.

Debate ensued.

Dr Watson rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr Dawkins (Minister for Trade) moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Speaker, Mrs Child, in the Chair)—

AYES, 62

Mr Adermann	Mr Conquest	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Aldred	Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Andrew*	Mr Downer	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Beale	Mr Drummond	Mr McGauran	Mr Shipton
Mr Blunt	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Everingham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Slipper
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr Macphee	Mr Smith
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Halverson	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hawker	Mr Moore	Mr Tuckey
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hicks*	Mr Nehl	Dr Watson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hodges	Mr Peacock	Mr Webster
Mr Carlton	Mr Hodgman	Mr Porter	Mr White
Mr Cobb	Mr Howard	Mr Reith	Mr Wilson
Mr Coleman	Mr Hunt	Mr Robinson	
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher	

NOES, 75

Mr Baldwin	Mr Duffy	Mr Jenkins	Mr P. F. Morris
Mr Beazley	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Jones	Mr Mountford
Mr Beddall	Ms Fatin	Mr Keating	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Blanchard	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mrs Kelly	Mr O'Neil
Dr Blewett	Mr Free	Mr Kent	Mr Punch
Mr Bowen	Mr Gayler	Mr Keogh	Mr Saunderson
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Gear	Mr Kerin	Mr Scholes
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gorman	Dr Klugman	Mr Scott
Mr Brumby	Mr Grace	Mr Lamb	Mr Simmons
Mr Campbell	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lee	Mr Snow
Mr Charles	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Dr Charlesworth	Mr Hawke	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Hayden	Mr McLeay	Mr Tickner
Mr Cleeland	Mr Holding	Mr Maher	Mr Uren
Mr Cohen	Mr Hollis	Mr Martin	Mr West
Mr Cross	Mr Howe	Mrs Mayer	Mr Willis
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Humphreys*	Mr Mildren	Mr Wright
Mr Dawkins	Mr Hurford	Mr Milton	Mr Young
Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr A. A. Morris	

\* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Questions without notice concluded.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of 28th meeting, Adelaide, 3 July 1986.

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—53rd Report, for 1985-86.

High Court of Australia Act—High Court of Australia—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1985-86.

Industries Assistance Commission Act—Industries Assistance Commission—Report for 1985-86.

National Advisory Authority on Computer Security—Statement by Mr Beazley, Minister for Defence, dated November 1986.

Ombudsman Act—Commonwealth Ombudsman and Defence Force Ombudsman—Reports for 1985-86.

United Nations General Assembly—40th Session, 1985—Report of Australian delegation.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Amending agreement in relation to the provision of financial assistance to South Australia for urban and regional development, dated 6 October 1986.

**7 MEDICARE BENEFITS REVIEW COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Medicare Benefits Review Committee—2nd Report, dated June 1986.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**8 AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO AIDS—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Australia's response to AIDS—Report by Margaret Duckett, Department of Health.

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**9 BETTER HEALTH COMMISSION—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) presented the following papers:

Better Health Commission—Final report—Looking forward to better health—Volume 2—The taskforces and working groups: reports to the Better Health Commission.

Volume 3—The workshops and consultations: reports to the Better Health Commission.

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

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

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

Mr Andrew, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Duncan, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Hawker, Mr Jacobi, Mr Lee, Mr Macphee, Mr Rocher, Mr Ruddock, Mr Shipton, Mr Slipper and Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr Blunt, Mr Cadman, Mr Cowan, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mrs Kelly, Mr Martin, Mr Robinson, Mr Ruddock and Mr Wright—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.

Mr Jenkins, Mr Kent, Mr Langmore, Mr Scott and Mr Staples—from certain staff of the ABC and the SBS praying that certain action be taken in relation to the Staff Elected Director of the ABC following the ABC's amalgamation with the SBS.

Mr Bilney, Mr Duncan, Mr Hurford and Mr Scott—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the Payneham Rehabilitation Centre be fully utilised.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr Connolly, Mr Hawker and Mr Hicks—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Andrew, Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Rocher (2)—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Halverson, Mr Kent, Mr Macphee and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Hawker, Mr Macphee, Mr Peacock and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

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 Andrew and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to prevent the extinction of Aboriginal and Islander languages.

- Mr Cadman and Mr Rocher—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 Drummond and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that family allowance payments be increased and proposed changes to the spouse rebate be rejected.
- Mr Hawker and Mr Kent—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hawker—from certain residents of the Division of Wannon; and Mr Langmore—from certain citizens served by Bendigo College of Advanced Education praying that tertiary education remain free to all students.
- Mr Langmore—from certain residents of the Division of Melbourne in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the decision to phase down the Glen Waverley Rehabilitation Centre, Vic., be reversed.
- Mr Blanchard—from certain citizens praying that the textile, clothing and footwear industries unions' alternative 7 year plan be supported.
- Mr Blanchard—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that the decision to deny secondary allowances to Year 11 students under the age of 16 years be reversed and allowances not be made directly payable to students.
- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that decisions affecting multiculturalism, education and certain other areas contained in the 1986-87 Budget be reconsidered.
- 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 D. M. Cameron—from certain residents of Queensland praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Maranoa praying that the ABC's proposals to cease broadcasting certain country programs be reconsidered and that it not disregard its rural listeners.
- Mr Charles—from certain citizens praying that all assets and financial interests of ex-President Marcos, his wife and their associates, held in Australia be repatriated to the control of the Philippines' Government.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that there be more commitment in establishing peaceful relations with all people.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the Extradition (Foreign States) Act be amended to protect the rights of accused persons.
- Mr Drummond—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be cancelled.
- Mr Halverson—from certain citizens praying that incentive and opportunity be restored to the Australian economy and certain restrictions on small business be abandoned.
- Mr Halverson—from certain citizens praying that no cutbacks be made to the portfolio of Veterans' Affairs and certain action be taken to assist ex-servicemen and women.
- Mr Halverson—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be withdrawn.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that the commitment to the oil import parity pricing policy be honoured.
- Mr Hawker—from certain citizens praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.
- 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 citizens praying that the assets test on pensions be repealed.

- 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 Hodges—from certain citizens praying that price controls be applied to food and certain other items.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the existing national flag remain sacrosanct.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the standard pension be raised to 25% of average weekly earnings and certain other action be taken to assist pensioners and low income earners.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.
- 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 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 Langmore—from certain citizens praying that the tertiary administration fee be withdrawn.
- Mr Langmore—from certain citizens praying that the annual tertiary administrative charge not be introduced and the visa charge and full cost tuition fees for overseas students be removed.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that the Summerland Point Post Office, NSW, be reopened.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that obligations to war widows be honoured.
- Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that the US Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.
- Mr Milton—from certain residents of Victoria praying that the decision to sell uranium to France be reversed.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that Western Australian regional evening programs be retained by the ABC and Western Australia be represented on the board of the ABC.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that funding be restored to the English as a second language and multicultural education programs.
- Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying for official recognition of the African National Congress and the South West Africa Peoples Organisation and that certain other financial and humanitarian support be given to the South African and Namibian people.
- Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax be abandoned.
- 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 the Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.
- Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the assets test be reconsidered.
- 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 the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that pharmaceutical benefits be restored to their former level.

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 right to work be acknowledged and protected and that certain other action be taken to protect workers.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that public funding for projects which are undesirable or of dubious worth be halted.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of Queensland praying that the total ban on entertainment expenses be abandoned and tax deductibility be allowed for legitimate and necessary expenses.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Shire of Caboolture, Qld, praying that depreciation be allowed on all buildings used to produce rental income.

Mrs Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that there be no taxation on illness and no special taxation on those who seek to insure themselves against the cost of private medical treatment in hospital.

Mrs Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to discontinue the provision of free medication to pensioners be rejected.

Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the members of the Film Censorship Board be replaced.

Mr White—from certain citizens praying that full funding be restored to the English as a second language program.

Petitions received.

- 11 **PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT:** The House was informed that Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The impact on all Australians of our worst ever current account deficit".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard rising to address the House—

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NURSING HOMES AND HOSTELS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1986:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 351

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act 1954', the 'National Health Act 1953' and the 'Nursing Homes Assistance Act 1974', and for related 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.

D. MCCLELLAND  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 13 November 1986

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, sub-clause 2 (4), line 3, leave out “Sub-section 7 (1), sections”, insert “Sections 7,”.

No. 2—Page 2, paragraph 4 (a), proposed new paragraph 9 (1) (b), line 25, after “Secretary”, insert “certifies, in writing, that the Secretary”.

No. 3—Page 2, paragraph 4 (b), lines 29 to 33, leave out the paragraph, insert the following paragraph:

“(b) by adding at the end the following sub-sections:

‘(3) The Minister may determine, in writing, that a class of persons specified in the determination is a class of financially disadvantaged persons for the purposes of this section.

‘(4) Sections 48, 49, 49A and 50 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* apply to certificates made under sub-section (1) and determinations made under sub-section (3) as if in those provisions references to regulations were references to certificates or determinations, references to a regulation were references to a provision of a certificate or determination and references to repeal were references to revocation.

‘(5) Certificates made under sub-section (1) and determinations made under sub-section (3) shall not be taken to be statutory rules within the meaning of the *Statutory Rules Publication Act 1903*, but sub-sections 5 (3) to (3C) (inclusive) of that Act apply in relation to such certificates and determinations as they apply to statutory rules.

‘(6) For the purposes of the application of sub-section 5 (3B) of the *Statutory Rules Publication Act 1903* in accordance with sub-section (5) of this section, the reference in the first-mentioned sub-section to the Minister of State for Sport, Recreation and Tourism shall be read as a reference to the Minister administering this Act.

‘(7) Section 5 of the *Evidence Act 1905* applies to certificates made under sub-section (1) and determinations made under sub-section (3) as that section applies to an order made by the Minister.

‘(8) In this section, “financially disadvantaged person” means an eligible person included in a class of persons determined by the Minister, under sub-section (3), to be a class of financially disadvantaged persons.’.”

No. 4—Page 3, sub-clause 7 (2), lines 35 to 39, leave out the sub-clause.

No. 5—Page 12, sub-clause 25 (1), lines 17 to 26, leave out the sub-clause, insert the following sub-clause:

“(1) Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the definition of ‘Secretary’ in sub-section (1) the following definition:

““special needs group” has the same meaning as in section 39 of the *National Health Act 1953*.”.

On the motion of Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Blanchard reported accordingly.

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

13 AUSTRALIA CARD BILL 1986: 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.



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

14 **ADJOURNMENT:** Dr Blewett (Minister for Health) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.58 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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**PAPER:** The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 13 November 1986:

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States, dated 6 November 1986.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bilney, Mrs Darling, Mr Dobie, Mr Duncan, Mr Fife, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Jacobi\*, Mr Langmore and Mr Price.

\*On leave

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