

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 159

TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 1987

- 1 The House met, at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Young (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Leader of the House), Mr Holding (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) was acting as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and Mr Bowen (Attorney-General) was acting as Leader of the House.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Hawke (Prime Minister) presented the following paper:
 Opposition commitments unrepudiated by Mr Howard—Schedule.
 Questions without notice continued.
- 4 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented:
 Torres Strait Fisheries Act—Protected Zone Joint Authority—Report for period 15 February 1985 to 30 June 1986.
- 5 **CHILD SUPPORT REFORMS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Howe (Minister for Social Security), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of proposals for child support reforms.
 Mr Blunt, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 6 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 Mr Cadman, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Rocher and Mr Slipper—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
 Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Kent, Mr Scott and Mr Staples—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 P. S. Fisher, Mr Nehl and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
 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.
 Dr H. R. Edwards and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens; and Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that deletion of the 45 commonly prescribed drugs from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be reconsidered.

Mr Kent and Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the US Government be urged to join the Soviet Union's nuclear test ban.

Mr Kent and Mr Staples—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 Beale—from certain citizens praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

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

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 Conquest—from certain residents of the Division of Hinkler praying that legislation be enacted to ensure that 1987 pension increases are based on the rate of pension applicable between June 1986 and 9 October 1986.

Mr Duffy—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Illawarra planetarium project be given sufficient funding to proceed.

Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that funding for occasional child care be increased.

Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that funding be provided to improve the Pacific Highway between Port Macquarie and Woolgoolga, NSW.

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 Queensland praying that the fringe benefits tax 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 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 Australian Bill of Rights Bill be repealed.

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 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 certain other action be taken to protect workers.

Mr Slipper—from certain residents of the Division of Fisher praying that the capital gains tax proposal be abandoned.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that Australia use its influence to establish a nuclear test moratorium and comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty.

Mr Staples—from certain citizens praying that the agreement with the US Government regarding the facilities at Pine Gap be renewed only if the US Government agrees to take up the phased nuclear disarmament plan put forward by the Soviet Union.

Mr Staples—from certain residents of the Division of Jagajaga praying that tertiary education remain free to all students.

Mr Tuckey—from certain citizens praying that the Anzac Rifle Range, Malabar, NSW, be retained.

Petitions received.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COST PRESSURES ON FARMERS AND SMALL BUSINESS: The House was informed that Mr Hunt (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's failure to ease the burden of high interest rates, high inflation and excess government taxes, exercises and charges on farmers and small business enterprises in Australia".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hunt addressed the House.

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

National Farmers' Federation (NFF) papers prepared for meeting between Mr I. M. McLachlan, President of the NFF and Mr Hawke, Prime Minister, and Mr Keating, Treasurer, dated 9 December 1986.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Millar (Vice-Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works: Public Works Committee Act—Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works—50th General Report.

9 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Downer presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

266th Report—Response, including the Finance Minute, to 239th Report—Expenditure from the Advance to the Minister for Finance (Appropriation Acts 1983-84).

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Downer, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

10 EXCISE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS: Mr Jones (Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce) moved—Excise Tariff Proposals No. 4 (1987), and Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 7 to 9 (1987).

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

11 AUSTRALIA CARD BILL 1986 [NO. 2]: 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 Martin), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

24 March 1987—Message—

No. 414—Commonwealth Guarantees (Charges) 1986.

No. 415—Australian Industry Development Corporation Amendment 1986.

13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Cohen (Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment) moved—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Cohen required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.03 p.m., Madam Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 24 March 1987:
Defence Act—Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1987—
No. 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Dawkins, Ms McHugh, Mr P. F. Morris and Mr Young.

A. R. BROWNING
Clerk of the House of Representatives