

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 12

THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 1987

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

2 **NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** Mr Humphreys (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Humphreys moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Paper:* Mr Humphreys presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

3 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LOANS BILL 1987:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 6

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to authorise the borrowing and expending of money for certain 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, 7 October 1987

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

4 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1987-88:** The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

*In the committee*

Schedule 3—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Social Security, \$623,707,000—debated.

*Paper:* Mrs Sullivan, by leave, presented the following paper:

Health care—Article entitled "The tragic victims of *Catch 22* health care" from the *Catholic Leader*, dated 27 September 1987, page 15.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, \$958,593,000—debated.

It being approximately 12.45 p.m., in accordance with sessional order 106A—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 5 **GRIEVANCE DEBATE:** Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, as amended by sessional order, the order of the day having been read—  
Question proposed—That grievances be noted.  
Debate ensued.  
It being 2 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106, as amended by sessional order.  
Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.
- 6 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 7 **PAPER:** The Deputy Speaker, for Madam Speaker, presented the following paper:  
Public Service Act—Department of the House of Representatives—Report for 1986-87.
- 8 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:  
Archives Act—  
Advisory Council on Australian Archives—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.  
Australian Archives—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.  
Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—  
Australian Bureau of Statistics—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.  
Australian Statistics Advisory Council—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.  
Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Report for 1986-87.  
National Health and Medical Research Council—Report—101st session, Brisbane, June 1986.  
Public Service Act—Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.  
Wool Marketing Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.
- 9 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 20 October 1987, at 2 p.m., unless Madam Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.  
Question—put and passed.
- 10 **HOUSE COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in addition to Madam Speaker, *ex officio*, Mr Goodluck, Mr Hollis, Mr Katter, Mr Martin, Mr Price and Mrs Sullivan be members of the House Committee.  
Question—put and passed.
- 11 **LIBRARY COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in addition to Madam Speaker, *ex officio*, Mr Cross, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr McVeigh, Mr Smith, Dr Wooldridge and Mr Wright be members of the Library Committee.  
Question—put and passed.
- 12 **PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr N. A. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Campbell, Mr Cleeland, Mr Gear, Mr Kerr, Mr Millar, Mr Reith and Mr Tickner be members of the Committee of Privileges.  
Question—put and passed.

13 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Blanchard, Mr Brumby, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Jenkins, Mr McLeay, Mr Nehl and Dr Woods be members of the Publications Committee.

Question—put and passed.

14 **BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946*, in addition to Madam Speaker, *ex officio*, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mrs Harvey, Mr Hicks, Mr Jull and Mr Scott be members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.

Question—put and passed.

15 **NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *National Crime Authority Act 1984*, the following Members be appointed members of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the National Crime Authority, viz.: Mr Cleeland, Mr Dubois, Mr MacKellar, Mr McGauran and Mr O'Keefe.

Question—put and passed.

16 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1951*, the following Members be appointed members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.: Mr Aldred, Mr Fitzgibbon, Dr Hewson, Mr Lee, Mr Martin, Mr Nehl, Mr Ruddock, Mr Scholes and Mr Tickner.

Question—put and passed.

17 **PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT COMMITTEE:** Mr Young (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following Members be appointed members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz.: Mr Burr, Mr Gear, Mr Halverson, Mr Hollis, Mr Millar and Mr Mountford.

Question—put and passed.

18 **STANDING COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP:** The House was informed that Madam Speaker had received notifications from the Whips nominating Members to be members of the following standing committees:

*Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs:*

Mr Blanchard, Mr Campbell, Mr Cross, Mr Gayler, Mr Hollis and Mr Snowdon had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Andrew, Mr Connolly and Mr Miles had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr I. M. D. Cameron had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Community Affairs:*

Mr Dubois, Ms Fatin, Mrs Harvey, Mr Johns, Ms McHugh, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Sciacca had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Cadman, Mr Connolly and Mr Wilson had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Blunt and Mr Cowan had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training:*

Mr Brumby, Ms Fatin, Mr Free, Mr Gear, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Mildren and Mr Price had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Prosser, Mrs Sullivan and Dr Woods had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr McVeigh and Mr Robinson had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Environment, Recreation and the Arts:*

Dr Charlesworth, Mr Chynoweth, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Jenkins, Mr Lamb, Ms McHugh and Mr Milton had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Dobie, Mr MacKellar and Mr Webster had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr P. S. Fisher and Mr Sharp had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration:*

Dr Charlesworth, Mr Courtice, Mr Gear, Mr Jenkins, Mr Martin, Mr Saunderson and Mr Simmons had been nominated by the Government Whip; Dr Hewson, Mr McArthur and Mr Wilson had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Braithwaite and Mr Cobb had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology:*

Mr Baldwin, Mr Beddall, Mr Cunningham, Mr Grace, Mr Mildren, Mr A. A. Morris and Dr Theophanous had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Hawker, Mr McArthur and Dr Wooldridge had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Hunt and Mr Lloyd had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Infrastructure:*

Mr Gorman, Mrs Jakobsen, Mr Langmore, Mr McLeay, Mr O'Neil, Mr Saunderson and Mr Scott had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Downer and Mr Halverson had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Blunt and Mr T. A. Fischer had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs:*

Mr Charles, Mr Cleland, Mr Griffiths, Mr Johns, Mr Kerr, Mr Scholes and Mr Tickner had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr Moore, Mr Reith and Mr Ruddock had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Adermann and Mr McGauran had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

*Standing Committee on Procedure:*

Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Lamb, Mr Lindsay, Mr Mountford and Mr Scholes had been nominated by the Government Whip; Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr E. C. Cameron had been nominated by the Opposition Whip and Mr Millar had been nominated by the National Party Whip.

**19 DEFENCE AND THE 1987-88 BUDGET—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement outlining features of the Government's defence policies and programs in the context of the 1987-88 Budget, and presented the following paper:

Defence and the 1987-88 Budget—Ministerial statement, 8 October 1987.

Mrs Kelly (Minister for Defence Science and Personnel) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mrs Kelly, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr White speaking for a period not exceeding 48 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr West—Minister for Administrative Services), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**20 NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE—UPDATED BUDGET AND PROGRESS REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS:** Mr West (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the updated budget and construction progress of the new Parliament House project, and presented the following papers:

**New Parliament House project—**

**Building and non-building items budgets—Table and graph showing budget composition 1978 to 1987.**

**Efficiency audit—Parliament House Construction Authority: Construction project management—Report of the Auditor-General—Response by the Parliament House Construction Authority.**

Mr Dobie, Mr McLeay and Mr Ruddock, by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.

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

Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Goodluck, Mr Halverson, Mr Hicks, Mr Rocher and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.

Mr Beale, Mr Chynoweth, Mr Halverson, Mr Kent, Mr Milton and Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that the importation of cobalt 60 and other radioactive substances be banned and regulations permitting irradiation of food in Australia be disallowed.

Mr Cadman, Dr H. R. Edwards, Mr Millar and Mr Webster—from certain citizens; and Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Cowan from certain residents of Queensland and the Division of Lyne, respectively, praying that the proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Blunt and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Dawkins, Mr Prosser, Mr Rocher and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that the importation and possession of child pornography be made a criminal offence and certain other action be taken in relation to pornography in the ACT.

Mr Andrew, Mr Downer and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.

Mr Cadman, Mr Hicks and Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that the major recommendations of the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985 be implemented without delay.

Mr T. A. Fischer and Mr P. S. Fisher—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken within the Australian Taxation Office and other departments to counter tax evasion and fraudulent practices.

Mr Burr—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition. Mr Hicks and Mr Webster—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.

Mr Nehl and Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card legislation be withdrawn.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the Industrial Relations Bill be rejected.

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that the capital gains tax be repealed.

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 fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

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

Mr Cadman—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 D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.

Mr I. M. D. Cameron and Mrs Darling—from certain citizens in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that any legislation designed to impose a national identification system be opposed.

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 Kerr—from certain citizens praying that effective action be taken against the promotion of tobacco.

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that certain action be taken to prevent the implementation of the Australia Card legislation.

Mr Mildren—from certain residents of Victoria praying that road funding be increased to a level that will arrest the deterioration of the road system.

Mr Peacock—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.

Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the circulation of X-rated videos be prevented and laws regarding obscenity in the media be revived and enforced.

Mr West—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to reduce social security services in Warrawong, Dapto and Corrimal, NSW.

Petitions received.

- 22 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR SENATE:** 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 fundamental threat to the role and power of the Senate contained in the proposals of the Constitutional Commission".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)**

**BILL 1987:** Message No. 7, dated 7 October 1987, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to make various amendments of the statute law of the Commonwealth, and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 24 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1987-88:** The House, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

*In the committee*

Schedule 3—

Proposed expenditure—Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, \$958,593,000—further debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Community Services and Health, \$1,251,369,000—  
Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$1,141,145,000—  
Department of Aboriginal Affairs, \$317,510,000—  
together debated.

It being 10.15 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

*Adjournment negated:* The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Dr Blewett (Minister for Community Services and Health) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

*In the committee*

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditures agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Defence, \$7,150,478,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Primary Industries and Energy, \$349,568,000—debated.

The committee continuing to sit until after 12 midnight—

**FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 1987**

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Staples (Minister for Consumer Affairs), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

25 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the appointment of Senators to the following committees:

7 October 1987—Message No. 8—

Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings—Senators M. Baume and Childs.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts—Senators Bishop, Gietzelt, Giles, McKiernan and Watson.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works—Senators Burns, Devereux and Sheil.

Joint Standing Committee on the New Parliament House—Senators M. Baume, Colston, Devlin, MacGibbon, Reid and Schacht.

26 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Staples (Minister for Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.22 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 20 October 1987, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 October 1987:

Health Insurance Act—Statement of particulars of Ministerial determination made pursuant to section 106AA relating to Dr K. Reye, dated 26 August 1987.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Determination listing fees for purposes of Real Property Ordinance, dated 9 September 1987.

Taxation (Administration) Ordinance—Stamp Duties (Conveyances) Determination (No. 3), dated 21 September 1987.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Campbell, Mr Cohen, Mr Duffy, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Hurford, Mr Katter, Mr Keating, Mr Macphee, Mr Mildren, Mr A. A. Morris, Mr Peacock, Mr Porter, Mr Shipton, Mr Smith and Mr Uren.

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**A. R. BROWNING**

Clerk of the House of Representatives