

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 23

THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 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 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 17 November 1987, at 2 p.m., unless Madam Speaker fixes an alternative day or hour of meeting.  
Question—put and passed.
  - 3 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 40

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'National Health Act 1953', 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.

KERRY SIBRAA  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 3 November 1987

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

- 4 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—INCOME TAX AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 42

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Income Tax Act 1986', and for related purposes*", and requests the House to amend the Bill as indicated by the annexed Schedule.

KERRY SIBRAA  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4 November 1987

Ordered—That the amendment requested by the Senate be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

- 5 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—MEDICARE LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 43

Madam Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Medicare Levy Act 1986, and for related purposes*", and requests the House to amend the Bill as indicated by the annexed Schedule.

KERRY SIBRAA  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4 November 1987

Ordered—That the amendment requested by the Senate be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, at the next sitting.

6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

4 November 1987—Message No. 41—Taxation Laws Amendment (No. 3) 1987.

7 ACCESS TO EVIDENCE AND RECORDS OF JOINT COMMITTEES ON THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—SENATE'S RESOLUTION: The order of the day having been read for the consideration of message No. 20 from the Senate transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate relating to access to evidence and records of Joint Committees on the Australian Capital Territory—Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—

(1) That the House of Representatives, having considered message No. 20 of the Senate, agrees that the Senate Standing Committee on Infrastructure, when sitting as a joint committee with the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure to consider matters referred to in paragraph (1) of message No. 20 of the Senate, have power to consider and make use of the evidence and records of the Joint Committees on the Australian Capital Territory appointed during previous Parliaments.

(2) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution.

Question—put and passed.

8 INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEES—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE POWERS AND PROCEEDINGS—SENATE'S RESOLUTION: The order of the day having been read for the consideration of message No. 37 from the Senate transmitting a resolution agreed to by the Senate relating to the powers and proceedings of the Standing Committees on Infrastructure of the Senate and the House of Representatives when sitting as a joint committee—

Mr Young (Leader of the House) moved—

(1) That this House concurs in paragraphs (2) to (5), inclusive, of the resolution transmitted in message No. 37 of the Senate relating to the powers and proceedings of the Standing Committees on Infrastructure of the Senate and the House of Representatives when sitting as a joint committee.

(2) That the provisions of the resolution so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

(3) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution.

Question—put and passed.

9 INFRASTRUCTURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—AMENDMENT OF TITLE: Mr Young (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That sessional order 28B be amended by omitting from paragraph (a) (vii) "Infrastructure" and substituting "Transport, Communications and Infrastructure".

(2) That references to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure in resolutions of the House of this session be read as references to the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure.

(3) That nominations notified to the Speaker of Members to be members of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure be nominations of Members to be

members of the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure.

- (4) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of part (2) of this resolution.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 **FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** 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 by Mr Reith who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for inquiry and report by 7 December 1987”.

Debate continued.

Mr Spender addressing the House—

It being 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.

- 11 **EDUCATION SYSTEM:** Mr Gear, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House commends the Hawke Government for:

- (1) the steps it has taken to increase the retention rate among secondary school students following the disastrous fall in numbers during the years of the Fraser Government;
- (2) its achievement in significantly expanding the numbers of places in universities; and
- (3) its proposals to develop skills formations in Australia so that our education system will be better able to respond to the needs of industry and thus materially assist the development of a successful and internationally competitive Australian economy.

Debate ensued.

Mr Hicks 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, general business, be extended until 2 p.m.

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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

*Paper:* Mr Hand (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) presented the following paper:

Aboriginal deaths in custody—Royal Commission—Background paper.

Questions without notice continued.

- 13 **PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY:** Madam Speaker reminded the House that the Address in Reply would be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House at 4.00 p.m. this day.

Madam Speaker said she would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other honourable Members, would accompany her to present the Address.

- 14 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—54th Report, including freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Razors and razor blades, dated 13 October 1987 (No. 406).

Tobacco growing and manufacturing industries, dated 24 September 1987 (No. 405).

**15 COMMONWEALTH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES—POLICY GUIDELINES—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Holding (Minister for Employment Services and Youth Affairs) presented the following paper:

Commonwealth statutory authorities and government business enterprises—  
Policy guidelines—Policy information paper issued by Senator Walsh, Minister for Finance, dated October 1987.

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

**16 AUSTRALIAN WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr P. F. Morris (Minister for Resources) presented the following paper:

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of 29th meeting, Perth, 9 July 1987.

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

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

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

Mr Cadman, Mr Cobb and 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 proposal for an identification card be rejected.

Mr Blunt—from certain citizens; and Mr Blunt and Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain residents of Bundaberg, Monto, and Warrego, Qld, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

Mr Beale, 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 I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Robinson and Mr Ruddock—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 I. M. D. Cameron and Mr Hawker—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 Cadman and Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the fringe benefits tax legislation be repealed.

Mr Dobie and Mr T. A. Fischer—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 Free and Mrs Kelly—from certain citizens praying that all bans on smoking in the workplace and on domestic air travel be lifted and discriminatory smoking legislation not proceed.

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

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of the Division of Richmond praying that prescription drugs continue to be provided to pensioners without fee.

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

Mr Blunt—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the proposed identification card legislation be rejected.

- Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the closure of post office agencies be prevented and their services be extended.
- Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.
- Mr Cobb—from certain citizens praying that the problems which identification cards are intended to reduce be attacked by other methods.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that items covering the treatment of sun damaged skin and warts by specialists be reinstated on the medical benefits schedule.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Telecom abandon its proposal to time charge local telephone calls.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that an anti-poverty level of income for all young people be established, educational opportunities be increased and a long-term job creation program be established.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the Flags Amendment Bill receive a speedy passage.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the closure of the Gynea Bay post office, NSW, be prevented.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the Kurnell peninsula, NSW, be rezoned.
- Mrs Kelly—from certain citizens praying that the Defence Service Home Loan scheme be retained and certain other action be taken in relation to the scheme.
- Mrs Kelly—from certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory praying that further destruction of parkland and recreational areas within the city cease.
- 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 Langmore—from certain citizens praying that the pension base of the Commonwealth occupational superannuation scheme be restored in conjunction with the social security adjustments to pensions in November 1987.
- Mr Lee—from certain citizens praying that the pension discounting effect of the Superannuation and Other Benefits Legislation Amendment Act be limited to restore the base level for pension adjustment and certain other action be taken in relation to the Commonwealth occupational superannuation schemes.
- Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that no action be taken to legislate for the Australia Card.
- Mr Nehl—from certain citizens praying that the proposed closure of the Army Reserve subsection at Macksville, NSW, be stopped and a permanent depot be built.
- Mr Rocher—from certain citizens praying that the Australia Card Bill be withdrawn and, if reintroduced, be rejected.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Veterans' Affairs remain a separate department.
- Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that notice be given to terminate the lease of the US base at Pine Gap.
- Mr Webster—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.
- Dr Woods—from certain citizens praying that all naval and defence equipment and munitions be removed from Spectacle Island and Snapper Island in Sydney Harbour and that Spectacle Island be opened to the public.

Petitions received.

**18 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY:**

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 culpable negligence of the Prime Minister and the Treasurer in allowing the Australian economy to become so vulnerable to external economic shock".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Howard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

---

*Suspension of sitting:* At 3.34 p.m., the Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of sitting:* At 5.30 p.m., Madam Speaker resumed the Chair.

---

**19 PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY:** Madam Speaker reported that, accompanied by Members, she had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech on the Opening of the 1st Session of the 35th Parliament, agreed to by the House on 24 September 1987, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:

Madam Speaker,

Thank you for your Address in Reply.

It will be my pleasure and my duty to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives, to which the Address gives expression.

**20 OVERSEAS VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Hawke (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning his recent visit to the United States, Canada, Ireland, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Mr Howard (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

**21 FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** 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 Reith, viz.—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for inquiry and report by 7 December 1987"—*

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

**22 FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA (ADDITIONAL JURISDICTION AND EXERCISE OF POWERS) BILL 1987:** 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 by Mr Reith who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "the Bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for inquiry and report by June 1988".

Amendment negatived.

- Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
 On the motion of Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 23 **STATES GRANTS (TERTIARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) BILL 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the grant of financial assistance to the States and the Northern Territory with respect to tertiary education.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Dawkins moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins, by leave, presented the following paper:  
 Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission Act—Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Higher Education: Recommendations for 1988, dated October 1987.  
 Mr Dawkins concluded his speech.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 **STATES GRANTS (TERTIARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Tertiary Education Assistance) Act 1984*, and for related purposes.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Dawkins moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 **AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian National University Act 1946*.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Dawkins moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 26 **CANBERRA COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Canberra College of Advanced Education Act 1967*.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Dawkins moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 27 **MARITIME COLLEGE AMENDMENT BILL 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Maritime College Act 1978*.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Dawkins moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
*Paper:* Mr Dawkins presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 28 **STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987:** Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice,

presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1984*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 29 STATES GRANTS (EDUCATION ASSISTANCE—PARTICIPATION AND EQUITY) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1987: Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Education Assistance—Participation and Equity) Act 1983*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

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

- 30 STUDENT ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1987: Mr Dawkins (Minister for Employment, Education and Training), for Mr Holding (Minister for Employment Services and Youth Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Student Assistance Act 1973*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 31 PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Mountford (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Procedure:

1st Report—Improved opportunities for private Members: Proposed sessional orders—

Report, dated 3 November 1987.

Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Mountford, Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr Rocher, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Ordered—That consideration of the report be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 32 TELEVISION LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1987: 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—

Mr Blunt addressing the House—

*Adjournment negatived:* It being 10.15 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Staples (Minister for Consumer Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Blunt moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House notes the need for the maintenance of localism in broadcasting and the proper representations of local interests in the ownership of television licences”.

Debate continued.



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

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.06 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 17 November 1987, at 2 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Andrew, Mr Braithwaite, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Cadman, Mr I. M. D. Cameron, Mr Chynoweth, Mr Cohen, Mr R. F. Edwards, Mr Jones, Mr Katter, Mr Kerin, Mr Langmore, Mr Lavarch, Mr Moore, Mr Punch and Mr Sharp.

---

**A. R. BROWNING**

Clerk of the House of Representatives