

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 47

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 1988

- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Madam Speaker (the Honourable Joan Child) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Braithwaite, Mr Griffiths, Mr Macphee and Mr Scholes, from 480, 124, 44 and 42 petitioners, respectively, praying that no action be taken to change the national flag.
 - Mr Baldwin, Mr Nehl and Mr Scott, from 17, 37 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that Australia withdraw from the Asian Regional Co-operative Project on Food Irradiation and from the International Consultative Group on Food Irradiation and certain other action be taken in relation to food irradiation.
 - Mr Baldwin, from 800 petitioners, praying that the closure of the Lilyfield post office agency, NSW, be prevented.
 - Dr Blewett, from 2266 petitioners, praying that a national, voluntary campaign to screen for glaucoma be initiated.
 - Mr Braithwaite, from 58 petitioners, praying that Telecom's proposal to time-charge local calls be rejected.
 - Mr Moore and Mr Shipton, from 344 and 49 petitioners; Mr Fife, from 175 residents of the Division of Hume, and Mr Nehl, from 311 residents of the Division of Cowper, respectively, in similar terms.
 - Mr Cadman, from 43 petitioners, praying that any proposal for a national identification numbering system be rejected.
 - Mr I. M. D. Cameron, from 15 petitioners, praying that Telecom not proceed with timing local telephone calls.
 - Mr Ruddock, from 224 petitioners in similar terms.
 - Mr Connolly, from 15 petitioners, praying that items covering the treatment of sun damaged skin and warts by specialists be reinstated on the medical benefits schedule.
 - Mr Cohen, from 22 petitioners, praying that amendments to ACT legislation and customs regulations which permit the distribution of pornographic material be reversed.
 - Mr Halverson, from 11 petitioners, praying that the national flag not be changed except by a referendum.
 - Dr Hewson, from 20 petitioners, praying that those involved in the public release of confidential medical information be censured.
 - Mr Kerr, from 3165 residents of Tasmania, praying that the decision to discontinue Medicare agency arrangements with St Luke's Medical and Hospital Benefit Association Ltd be reconsidered.

Mr Kerr, from 139 petitioners, praying that measures be taken to ensure that the ABC continues to offer comprehensive broadcasting services under its present charter.

Mr Langmore, from 59 petitioners, praying that any proposal for, or legislation permitting, a casino in the ACT be rejected.

Mr McArthur, from 62 petitioners, praying that the sale of violent videos, books and toys of violence be banned.

Mr MacKellar, from 383 petitioners, praying that the closure of the Fairlight post office agency, NSW, be prevented.

Mr Punch, from 1098 petitioners, praying that the House request the Queensland Government to halt mining of Mt Etna, in central Queensland, and certain other action be taken in relation to Mt Etna.

Mr Punch, from 11 petitioners, praying that the listing of wet tropical rainforests of north Queensland on the World Heritage List be prevented.

Mr Ruddock, from 275 petitioners, praying that all advertising of alcohol on radio and television be banned.

Mr Shipton, from 159 petitioners, praying that a referendum on the Australia Card Bill be held before the proposal is resubmitted to Parliament.

Mrs Sullivan, from 129 petitioners, praying that the proposal to meter local telephone calls by Telecom be reconsidered.

Mr White, from 86 petitioners, praying that the sales tax on soya milk be rescinded.

Petitions received.

3 ECONOMIC POLICIES FOR THE G7 MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES: Mr

Langmore, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in view of the severe constraints on global economic growth and on the development of lower income countries caused by severe trade imbalances, high real interest rates, massive debts of many countries, historically low commodity prices, and industrial and agricultural protection, this House urges the Group of Seven major Western industrial countries (the G7—the United States, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada) to—

- (1) co-ordinate their national fiscal and monetary policies so as to reduce trade, exchange rate and interest rate imbalances and instability;
- (2) strongly encourage current account surplus countries to adopt expansionary macroeconomic policies so as to increase their imports and stimulate world trade;
- (3) reduce their wasteful military expenditure and urge Warsaw Pact countries to do the same so as to reduce fiscal imbalances, reduce interest rates and increase resources for economically and socially useful activities;
- (4) establish facilities through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for phased, partial debt forgiveness and rescheduling;
- (5) increase overseas aid for developing countries to the greatest extent possible with the ultimate goal of reaching the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Product;
- (6) support a new issue of Special Drawing Rights by the International Monetary Fund allocated to developing countries to allow relaxation of their balance of payments constraints; and
- (7) convene a global conference on reform of the international monetary system.

Debate ensued.

The time allotted for the debate having expired, the debate was interrupted, the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting Thursday, and Dr Hewson was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

4 TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE USA: Mr Lloyd (Deputy Leader of the National Party of Australia), pursuant to notice, moved—That this House

recognises the need to maintain a strong and expanding trade relationship with the USA and that to this end the Government should—

- (1) invite a delegation of key US Congressmen to visit Australia for talks with key farm and government personnel as a matter of urgency;
- (2) devote more resources to the promotion of Australia's primary industry produce in the US, as less than half of one per cent of Commonwealth outlays go to the Primary Industry portfolio, even though Australia's primary industries account for some 40% of export earnings;
- (3) establish a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Primary Industry, with US trade a matter for immediate discussion;
- (4) seek to arrange further talks between Australian parliamentarians and US Congressmen and farm leaders; and
- (5) maintain regular and direct contact between US administration leaders and Australian Ministers, including the Prime Minister.

Debate ensued.

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

5 APPOINTMENT OF MINISTERS AND SENATE COMMITTEE SYSTEM: Mr Burr, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House urges—

- (1) the political party that wins the next and subsequent elections to appoint all Ministers of the Government from the Members of the House of Representatives; and
- (2) the Senate to further expand its committee system and to adopt greater powers of investigation and inquiry.

Debate ensued.

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

6 PARLIAMENT—OPENING ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House advises His Excellency the Governor-General that the arrangements for the opening of future Sessions of the Parliament, whether after the dissolution of the House of Representatives or the prorogation of a Session, should be altered to remove all elements which place the House of Representatives in an inferior position to the Senate and, in particular, that—

- (1) the declaration of the opening of a Parliament by a Deputy appointed by the Governor-General and the speech of the Governor-General on the occasion of the opening of a Parliament be delivered in the Members' Hall or the appropriate equivalent in the new Parliament House; and
- (2) all parliamentary arrangements for the formal opening be the joint responsibility of both Houses.

On the motion of Mr Millar, the following words were added to the motion, after debate:

“; and that a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it take similar action”.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

7 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of sessional order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 1.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with sessional order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS: Statements by Members being made—

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

International Telefax Directory—World Edition—Copy of invoice received by Mr D. Simmons, MP.
Statements by Members continued.

9 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Papers: Mr Keating (Treasurer) presented the following papers:

Taxation—Charts comparing Australia's position with OECD average—

Chart 1—Total taxation as % of GDP.

Chart 2—Corporate tax as % of GDP.

Questions without notice continued.

10 **REPORTS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE:** Madam Speaker presented the following papers:

Audit Act—Report of the Auditor-General on audits, examinations and inspections carried out under the Audit and other Acts, dated 23 March 1988.

Efficiency audit—Australian National Railways Commission: Commission traffic—Report of the Auditor-General, dated 23 March 1988.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the reports of the Auditor-General, dated 23 March 1988, on—

Audits, examinations and inspections carried out under the provisions of the Audit Act and other Acts, and

An efficiency audit of the Australian National Railways Commission: Commission traffic; and

(2) That the report upon an efficiency audit of the Australian National Railways Commission: Commission traffic be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Communications and Infrastructure.

Question—put and passed.

11 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

Audit Act—Australian Capital Territory Health Authority—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—129th meeting, Fremantle, 5 February 1988.

Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—40th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

Family Law Act—Australian Institute of Family Studies—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report (Interim) No. 43—The Commonwealth Prisoners Act.

Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act—Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

12 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF FAMILY STUDIES—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Family Law Act—Australian Institute of Family Studies—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

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

13 **LAW REFORM COMMISSION—REPORT ON THE COMMONWEALTH PRISONERS ACT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report (Interim) No. 43—The Commonwealth Prisoners Act.

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

- 14 **JOINT COAL BOARD—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—40th Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report and freedom of information statement, for 1986-87.

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

- 15 **AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL—PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—129th meeting, Fremantle, 5 February 1988.

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

- 16 **STEVEDORING INDUSTRY FINANCE COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the following paper:

Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee Act—Stevedoring Industry Finance Committee—Report and financial statements, including the Auditor-General's Report, for 1986-87.

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

- 17 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ABORIGINALS:** The House was informed that Mr Miles had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The damage done by the Government to prospects for continuing reconciliation between Aboriginal and other Australians by its insensitivity and unrealistic raising of expectations".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—Mr Miles addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 18 **ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 12 April 1988, at 2.15 p.m.

Question—put and passed.

- 19 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE:** Mr Beazley (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr Lee be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts.

Question—put and passed.

- 20 **COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE:** The House was informed that the National Party Whip had nominated Mr T. A. Fischer to be a member of the Standing Committee on Community Affairs for the purpose of the inquiry reviewing the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service.

- 21 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr Hollis (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Public Works Committee Act—Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works—51st General Report.

Ordered to be printed.

- 22 **ADMIRALTY BILL 1988:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Admiralty and maritime jurisdiction. Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 23 **SELECTION COMMITTEE—REPORT:** Mr McLeay (Chairman) presented the report of the Selection Committee relating to the program of business prior to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 14 April 1988.

- 24 **CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1988:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend various Acts relating either to criminal matters or to the National Crime Authority, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 25 **NATIONAL COMPANIES AND SECURITIES COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1988:** Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 21 of the *National Companies and Securities Commission Act 1979*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

Paper: Mr Bowen presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

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

- 26 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—5TH REPORT:** Mr Jenkins (Chairman) presented the 5th Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

5TH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The joint committee, having considered petitions and papers presented to the Parliament since 25 February 1988, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Heritage Commission Act—Australian Heritage Commission—Report for 1986-87.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (Transitional Provisions) Act—Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation—

Report for period 27 April to 30 June 1987 including a report on the operations of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission for period 1 July 1986 to 26 April 1987.

Freedom of information statement, June 1987.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act—Security Appeals Tribunal—Report for 1986-87.

Bankruptcy Act—Report for 1985-86.

Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd—Report for 1986-87.

- Commonwealth Schools Commission—Report—Schooling in rural Australia, dated November 1987.
- Grain storage, handling and transport—Report of Royal Commission of Inquiry, dated February 1988—
 Volume 1—Report.
 Volume 2—Supporting papers.
 Volume 3—Supporting papers.
- Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Transport containers, dated 22 February 1988 (No. 409).
- National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council—Report for 1986-87, including a report on the operations of the Coal Research Assistance Act.
- National Gallery Act—Australian National Gallery—Report for 1986-87.
- National Health and Medical Research Council—Report—102nd session, Canberra, November 1986.
- National Library Act—National Library of Australia—Report for 1986-87.
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission Act—National Occupational Health and Safety Commission—Report for 1986-87.
- Public Service Act—
 Department of Employment and Industrial Relations—Report for 1986-87, including the report of the National Director of the Commonwealth Employment Service for 1986-87, pursuant to the Commonwealth Employment Service Act.
 Department of Education—Report for 1986-87.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Report for 1986-87.
- Rural Industries Research Act—
 Dried Fruits Research Council—Report for 1986-87.
 Poultry Research Council—Report for 1986-87.
- Science and Industry Research Act—Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization—Report for 1986-87.
- Torres Strait Fisheries Act—Protected Zone Joint Authority—Report for 1986-87.
- Wheat Marketing Act—Australian Wheat Board—Report for year ending 30 September 1987.

H. A. JENKINS
 Chairman

24 March 1988

Mr Jenkins, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

27 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CONSERVATION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1988: Message No. 129, dated 24 March 1988, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983' and the 'Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974', and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Punch (Minister representing the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Paper: Mr Punch presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Debate, by leave, ensued.

Mr Chynoweth addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr McLeay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 68

Mr Baldwin	Mr Dubois	Mrs Jakobsen	Mr Mountford
Mr Beazley	Mr Duncan	Mr Jenkins	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Beddall	Mr R. F. Edwards	Mr Johns	Mr O'Neil
Mr Blanchard	Ms Fatin	Mr Jones	Mr Price
Dr Blewett	Mr Fitzgibbon	Mrs Kelly	Mr Punch
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Mr Kent	Mr Scholes
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Gayler	Mr Kerr	Mr Sciacca
Mr Campbell	Mr Gear	Mr Lamb*	Mr Scott
Mr Charles	Mr Gorman	Mr Langmore	Mr Simmons
Mr Chynoweth	Mr Grace	Mr Lavarch	Mr Snow
Mr Cleland	Mr Griffiths	Mr Lee	Mr Snowdon
Mr Courtice	Mr Hand	Mr Lindsay	Mr Staples
Ms Crawford	Mrs Harvey	Ms McHugh	Dr Theophanous
Mr Cross	Mr Holding	Mr Mildren	Mr Tickner
Mr Cunningham*	Mr Hollis	Mr Milton	Mr Uren
Mrs Darling	Mr Howe	Mr A. A. Morris	Mr West
Mr Dawkins	Mr Humphreys	Mr P. F. Morris	Mr Wright

NOES, 50

Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr McArthur	Mr Sharp
Mr Aldred	Mr Downer	Mr McGauran	Mr Shipton
Mr Beale	Dr H. R. Edwards	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sinclair
Mr Blunt	Mr Fife	Mr Macphee	Mr Smith
Mr Braithwaite	Mr P. S. Fisher	Mr Miles	Mr Spender
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr Millar	Mrs Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Mr Nehl	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Halverson	Mr Porter	Mr Webster
Mr E. C. Cameron*	Mr Hawker	Mr Prosser	Mr White
Mr Carlton	Dr Hewson	Mr Reith	Mr Wilson
Mr Cobb	Mr Hicks*	Mr Rocher	Dr Woods
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr Ruddock	
Mr Cowan	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Punch, the Bill was read a third time.

28 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Punch (Minister for the Arts and Territories) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr Wilson rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Beazley (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 11.41 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 12 April 1988 at 2.15 p.m., in accordance with the resolution agreed to this day.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 March 1988:

Census and Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Statement of disclosure of information—1988—No. 2—List of names and addresses of waterfront industry establishments for Inter-State Commission and Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics.

Quarantine Act—Determination fixing fees pursuant to section 86E, dated 24 March 1988.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Determination listing charges for purposes of the Motor Omnibus Services Ordinance, dated 19 February 1988.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bilney, Mr Brumby, Mr D. M. Cameron, Dr Charlesworth, Mr Cohen, Mr Duffy, Mr T. A. Fischer, Mr Howard, Mr Katter and Mr Martin.

A. R. BROWNING

Clerk of the House of Representatives