

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 3

MONDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1985

1 **MEETING OF SENATE:** The Senate met at 2 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The President (Senator the Honourable Douglas McClelland) took the Chair,

2 **PRAYERS.**

3 **PETITIONS:** The following 19 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senator Walters, from 1028 petitioners praying that the Senate take action to restrict the viewing of certain films, video tapes and printed material.

Senators Archer, Reid and Robertson, from 19, 55 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate disallow certain regulations and ordinances dealing with publications and video materials, that action be taken to enforce existing laws, that further measures be taken in association with the States and that the censors more appropriately reflect reasonable and responsible community attitudes.

Senator Robertson, from 26 petitioners praying that former legislation banning the entry into Australia and sale of hard-core pornographic and violent videos and publications be re-enacted.

Senators Reid and Robertson, from 43 and 19 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Australian flag be not changed without the consent of the people in a referendum.

Senator Reid, from 115 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Australian Capital Territory Smoking and Tobacco Products Advertisements Prohibition Bill 1983 [1985].

Senators Jessop, MacGibbon, Robert Ray and Reid, from 14, 7, 18 and 13 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Costigan Royal Commission be reactivated and provided with sufficient resources to conclude its investigations into organised crime in Australia.

Senator Robert Ray, from 36 petitioners praying that the Commonwealth Government increase funding and facilities for technical and further education colleges.

Senators Sir John Carrick and Jessop, from 26 and 23 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate act to protect society from moral pollution and its harmful effects.

Senator Giles, from 11 petitioners praying that the mining and export of uranium in Australia cease.

Senator Zakharov, from 26 petitioners praying that the Senate reject recommendations concerning the funding of private schools, declare a 3-year moratorium on increases in such funding and re-affirm support for government schools.

Senator Robertson, from 38 petitioners praying that a conscience vote be permitted to all members of Parliament on issues relating to the prevention of the importation and sale of hard-core pornography.

Senator Robertson, from 112 petitioners praying that the Senate request the Government to honour its obligation to protect Australia's children by reversing its decision to remove barriers to the importation of hard-core pornography.

4 NOTICES: Notices of Motion were given, as follows—

Senator Reid: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes the freezing of applications for appointments to the Small Business and Local Enterprise Development Unit which the Government announced in the 1984-85 Budget was to be set up in the then Department of Territories and Local Government;
- (b) urges the Government to take prompt action to ensure that the Unit is adequately staffed and put into operation as soon as possible; and
- (c) urges the Government to carry out this commitment to the economic development of the Australian Capital Territory.

Senator Boswell: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) notes that the Council of Small Business Organisations, the Australian Small Business Association, the National Farmers' Federation and numerous other groups representing the interests of small business and primary industry in Australia have stated their implacable opposition to the introduction of any capital gains tax;
- (b) notes that the small business sector employs 46 per cent of Australia's work force and already contributes more tax revenue than any other sector of the economy; and
- (c) calls on the Federal Government to give an immediate assurance to the small business and primary industry sectors that it will not introduce a capital gains tax.

5 DISPUTED RETURNS AND QUALIFICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—

APPOINTMENT: The President tabled his Warrant appointing a Committee of Disputed Returns and Qualifications, as follows:

Pursuant to Standing Order 38, I hereby appoint the following Senators to be the Committee of Disputed Returns and Qualifications:

Senator Archer
 Senator Baume
 Senator Bolkus
 Senator Chipp
 Senator Colston
 Senator Robert Ray
 Senator Sibraa

Given under my hand this twenty-fifth day of February 1985.

DOUGLAS McCLELLAND
 President

6 GOVERNMENT PAPERS: The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) tabled the following Papers:

Acts Interpretation Act—Correspondence and Statements relating to extension of specified period for presentation of Annual Reports (1983-84) of the following organisations—

Australian Atomic Energy Commission.
 Australian Capital Territory Milk Authority.
 Australian Dairy Corporation.
 Australian Trade Union Training Authority.
 Building and Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board.
 Canberra Commercial Development Authority.
 Commissioner for Superannuation and the Superannuation Fund Investment Trust.
 Commonwealth Ombudsman.
 Law Reform Commission.

- Legal Aid Commission (ACT).
- Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority.
- Aussat Pty Ltd—Annual Report 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions of 119th Meeting of Council, held in Townsville, 30 July 1984.
- Australian Bicentennial Road Development Trust Fund Act—Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Annual Report (1st) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—Annual Report (5th) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Australian Fisheries Council—Resolutions of 14th Meeting of Council, held in Townsville, 28 July 1984.
- Australian Forestry Council—
 - Report by the Standing Committee on Forestry entitled, "The 1982-83 Bushfires", dated March 1984.
 - Summary of Resolutions and Recommendations of 21st Meeting of Council, held in Brisbane, 25 July 1984.
- Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Act—Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs—Annual Report (5th) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Australian Research Grants Committee—Australian Research Grants Scheme—Report on Grants approved for 1985.
- Australian Shipping Commission Act—Australian Shipping Commission—Australian National Line—Annual Report (28th) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act—Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation—Annual Report (3rd) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Aviation Cost Recovery—Report of Independent Inquiry (Chairman: Mr H. Bosch), dated 22 November 1984.
- Barley Research Act—Barley Industry Research Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Defence Service Homes Act—Defence Service Homes Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Department of Administrative Services—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Defence Support—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—Review 1983-84, including a report on the operation of the Immigration (Education) Act.
- Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—Annual Report (21st) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—
 - Dried Vine Fruits Industry, dated 28 September 1984 (No. 351).
 - Heavy Engineering Industry (Interim Report), dated 23 November 1984 (No. 354).
 - Annexure—The Demand for Heavy Engineering Products in Australia.
 - Re-import Concessions, dated 16 November 1984 (No. 353).
 - Tableware and Other Goods of Ceramics, dated 7 December 1984 (No. 356).
- Museum of Australia Act—Museum of Australia—Annual Report 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.
- Pig Meat Promotion Act—Pig Meat Promotion Committee—Annual Report (9th) 1983-84.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—Annual Report (9th) 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Annual Report 1983-84, by the Minister for Primary Industry.

War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves—Annual Report 1983-84.

Wool Industry Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.

7 QUESTIONS.

8 **PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:** Senator Short, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised in the House of Representatives on Friday, 22 February 1985.

Senator Harradine, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised during debate in the Senate.

Pursuant to Sessional Order, consideration of Government Papers was called on.

9 **GOVERNMENT PAPERS—CONSIDERATION:** The following Government Papers, tabled earlier this day (*see Entry No. 6 above*), were considered pursuant to Sessional Order:

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions of 119th Meeting—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer, debated and agreed to.

Australian Fisheries Council—Resolutions of 14th Meeting—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer and agreed to.

Australian Forestry Council—Summary of Resolutions and Recommendations of 21st Meeting—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer and agreed to.

Australian Postal Commission—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Lewis and agreed to.

Australian Wool Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Watson, debated and agreed to.

Pig Meat Promotion Committee—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer and agreed to.

Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer and debated.

Pursuant to Sessional Order, consideration of Government Papers was interrupted.

10 **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS:** The Acting Deputy-President (Senator Colston), on behalf of the President, tabled the following Reports, dated 7 December 1984:

Audit Act—Reports of the Auditor-General on Efficiency Audits—

Controls over Processing of Income Tax Assessments.

Processing and Assessment of Income Tax Returns.

Checking of Dividends and Interest Disclosed in Income Tax Returns.

Processing of Income Tax Instalment Declarations.

Senator Tate, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Reports.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Tate have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

11 **PAPERS:** The following Papers were tabled:

Attorney-General's Department—Corrigendum to the Annual Report 1983-84.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal No. 1 of 1985—Survey of Public Unit Trusts.

Census and Statistics Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 18.

Complaints (Australian Federal Police) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 11.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 12.

Departure Tax Collection Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 8.

Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 13.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement by the Minister, describing land acquired by agreement under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.

Pig Slaughter Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 10.

Public Service Act—

Determinations 1985—Nos 9, 13.

Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 7.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances 1985—

No. 2—Motor Traffic (Amendment).

No. 3—Health Services.

Torres Strait Fisheries Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 9.

- 12 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** *Suspension of Standing Orders:* The Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Chipp), pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Senator Chipp moving a motion relating to the order of business on the Notice Paper.

Question—put and passed.

Senator Chipp thereupon moved—That General Business, Order of the Day No. 7 (Australian Waters (Nuclear-powered Ships and Nuclear Weapons Prohibition) Bill 1984 [1985]) have precedence over all other business on the Notice Paper till consideration of that Bill is concluded.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 **AUSTRALIAN WATERS (NUCLEAR-POWERED SHIPS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROHIBITION) BILL 1984 [1985]:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Chipp)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) moved an amendment, viz: Leave out all words after "That", insert:

"(1) The Senate is of the opinion that—

- (a) continued access by United States and United Kingdom nuclear-powered ships, and of nuclear-capable ships, is vital for the maintenance of peace and an effective stable deterrence; and
- (b) unilateral disarmament measures can only undermine the cause of peace and contribute to instability.

(2) The Senate—

- (a) expresses concern at the attempt unilaterally to place restrictions on the military forces of Australia and its allies, and strongly is of the view that disarmament measures should occur only as part of a mutual and balanced reduction of arms with effective verification and compliance; and
- (b) is of the view that Australia has a significant role to play in the search for peace and disarmament but recognises that Australia's influence in disarmament fora is dependent upon our continuing to help in the maintenance of an effective deterrent".

Debate ensued.

Senator McIntosh addressing the Chair—

—
And it being 10.30 p.m.—

- 14 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Deputy-President (Senator Hamer), under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at 10.30 p.m. till tomorrow at 2 p.m.

15 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman (on leave) and Missen.

A. R. CUMMING THOM,
Clerk of the Senate