

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 13

WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 1985

**1 MEETING OF SENATE:** The Senate met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The President (Senator the Honourable Douglas McClelland) took the Chair.

**2 PRAYERS.**

**3 PETITIONS:** The following 7 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senator Reid, from 47 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Australian Capital Territory Smoking and Tobacco Products Advertisements Prohibition Bill 1983 [1985].

Senator Zakharov, from 48 petitioners praying that legislation for any plant variety rights system which gives exclusive ownership rights over seeds to individuals, organisations or enterprises be not passed.

Senators Button and Collard, from 11 and 13 petitioners, respectively, praying that post-secondary tuition fees and any form of the user-pays principle in education not be introduced, that student financial assistance be increased and that visa charges on private overseas students be removed.

Senator Mason, from 20 petitioners praying that the Senate act to protect society from moral pollution and its harmful effects.

Senator Mason, from 51 petitioners praying that the Senate request the Government to communicate to the Government of the USSR the wish of the petitioners that the Church of Mary Queen of Peace be restored to the Catholics of Klaipeda in Lithuania.

Senator Collard, from 240 petitioners praying that the Australian flag be not changed without the consent of the people in a referendum.

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

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

(a) requests the immediate withdrawal of Australia from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), as unionism as currently practiced in Australia is:

(i) an anachronism,

(ii) no longer relevant to or compatible with the future development of Australian industry or society, and

(iii) still compulsory when it should be a matter of personal choice;

(b) in making this decision to withdraw from the ILO, acknowledges that:

(i) most Australians would prefer to have a job rather than be a party to the ILO, and

(ii) bodies such as the ILO, which reinforce the monopoly of labour by unions, are incompatible with basic civil rights; and

(c) therefore resolves to congratulate and support Singapore on its resignation from the ILO.

Senator Jones: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate, noting that the Queensland Government has rushed through amendments to the already draconian Electricity (Continuity of Supply) Act, giving police powers of arrest without

warrant in situations of so-called harassment of people working in the electricity industry during the present power dispute, condemns that Government because—

- (a) claims made in the State Parliament by the Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Gibbs, of threats of violence and arson, are false and totally denied by the employees of the South East Queensland Electricity Board sacked by the Bjelke-Petersen Government in February 1985, and by the Electrical Trades Union;
- (b) existing police powers are perfectly adequate to deal with any situation that might arise; and
- (c) this massive increase in police powers is a gross infringement of civil liberties, and points to the fact that Queensland has become a neo-fascist police state.

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

- (a) recognising that this country is one of the most indebted in the world, with liabilities per head in excess of Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Poland and Brazil;
  - (b) conscious of the fact that we are now spending more on public debt interest than we do on education, and almost as much as we do on defence;
  - (c) being aware of the manner in which our public debt interest has grown from \$887m or 4.9 per cent of budget outlays in 1974-75 to a staggering \$5 601m or 8.8 per cent of outlays in 1984-85; and
  - (d) taking into account the fact that if any of our major exports collapse the Australian economy will be liable to a most serious economic collapse,
- calls on the Hawke Socialist Government to recognise the extreme danger of the situation and take immediate action to reduce Government borrowings.

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

- (a) notes with concern the prediction from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics that the average Australian rural income will fall 29 per cent in 1985;
- (b) urges the Federal Government to take immediate and urgent action on the detailed proposal of the National Farmers' Federation to control spiralling farm costs which add an extra unnecessary \$16 000 per farmer to the cost of farming; and
- (c) condemns the Federal Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Kerin, for his rejection of an all-States agreement for a national dairy marketing plan which would have ensured stability for the troubled dairy industry.

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

Brisbane—New International Airport—Supply of materials for pavements—Review of actions by the Department of Housing and Construction in the matter of the supply of crushed rock by Blue Rock Quarries—Report by Prof. L. K. Stevens, dated 25 February 1985.

Management and Investment Companies Act—Management and Investment Companies Licensing Board—Annual Report (1st) 1983-84.

**6 POSTPONEMENT:** Senator Macklin, at the request of Senator Mason, moved—That General Business, Notice of Motion No. 16 standing in the name of Senator Mason for the introduction of a Bill, be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Question—put and passed.

**7 BANKRUPTCY AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

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*In the Committee*

Clauses 1 to 14, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Clause 15 debated and agreed to.

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The Acting Deputy-President (Senator Elstob) resumed the Chair; and the Chairman of Committees (Senator Hamer) reported accordingly.

On the motion of Senator Gareth Evans the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 8 **GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Aulich—That the following Address-in-Reply be agreed to:

To His Excellency the Governor-General

**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—**

We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

*And on the amendment moved thereto by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney), viz:* That the following words be added to the Address-in-Reply “, but the Senate is of the opinion that the Government's program outlined in the Governor-General's Speech fails to address critical problems facing Australia in that—

- (a) it fails to reassure the Australian people that the country's defence arrangements within the western alliance will be preserved and strengthened following:
  - (i) the Prime Minister's capitulation to internal party pressures on the issue of Australia providing logistical assistance to the United States for its testing of the MX missile, and
  - (ii) increasing uncertainty as to the future of the ANZUS Treaty fuelled by members of the Labor Government, including a Cabinet Minister;
- (b) it contains no coherent economic strategy at a time when recovery is threatened by:
  - (i) record government taxation and spending,
  - (ii) continuing pressure within the Government for new taxes on assets,
  - (iii) growing demands for higher wages and other extra cost burdens on industry,
  - (iv) the level of public debt repayments, and
  - (v) loss of value of the currency reflecting world concern about Australia's competitiveness and government instability; and
- (c) it endorses a rigid, centralised wage determining structure which imposes the same cost burdens on commerce and industry regardless of ability to pay”.

Debate resumed.

Senator Harradine addressing the Chair—

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*And it being 2 p.m.—*

**9 QUESTIONS:** Questions without Notice being proceeded with—

*Paper:* The Minister for Finance (Senator Walsh) tabled the following Paper:  
Political Profile of Peter Coleman—Article from *The National Times*, dated 17 June 1978.

Further Questions without Notice were answered.

**10 PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS:** Senator Short and the Minister for Finance (Senator Walsh), by leave, made personal explanations relating to a matter raised during Question Time on 26 March 1985.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney), by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

**11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:** The President informed the Senate that Senator Baume had proposed that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion, viz: "Labor's cold war of attrition against non-government schools".

And at least 4 Senators having risen in support of the proposed discussion—

The President called upon Senator Baume to speak.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

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

**12 GOVERNMENT PAPERS—CONSIDERATION:** The following Government Papers, tabled earlier this day (*see Entry No. 5 above*), were considered pursuant to Sessional Order:

New International Airport Brisbane—Report on supply of materials for pavements—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator MacGibbon, debated and agreed to.

Management and Investment Companies Licensing Board—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Maguire, debated and agreed to.

**13 SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—2ND ALERT DIGEST:** Senator McIntosh, at the request of the Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Tate), tabled the following Paper:

Scrutiny of Bills Alert Digest No. 2, dated 27 March 1985.

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

Census and Statistics Act—Proposal No. 2 of 1985—List of Names and Addresses of Agricultural Establishments for Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Grants) Act—Price Determination, dated 22 March 1985.

**15 TRUST RECOUPMENT TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1985—Message from the House of Representatives:** The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 24

The House of Representatives acquaints the Senate that it has agreed to the amendment made by the Senate in the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to the assessment and collection of a tax in respect of income of certain trusts*".

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 27 March 1985

H. A. JENKINS,  
Speaker

- 16 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION) BILL 1985**—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 23

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to the making by Australia of a special contribution to the International Development Association*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 26 March 1985

H. A. JENKINS,  
Speaker

Ordered—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

On the motion of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Gietzelt) the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Gietzelt moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Reid the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 17 PARTICULARS OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE 1984-85—PAPERS—REFERENCE TO ESTIMATES COMMITTEES**: The Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Gietzelt) tabled the following Papers:

Particulars of Proposed Additional Expenditure for the Service of the year ending on 30 June 1985.

Particulars of Certain Proposed Additional Expenditure in Respect of the year ending on 30 June 1985.

Senator Gietzelt, by leave, moved—

- (1) That the Particulars of Proposed Additional Expenditure for the Service of the year ending on 30 June 1985 and the Particulars of Certain Proposed Additional Expenditure in Respect of the year ending on 30 June 1985 be referred forthwith to Estimates Committees for examination and report.
- (2) That the Committees consider Proposed Additional Expenditure in the Estimates Committee groupings agreed to by Resolution of the Senate of 22 February 1985.
- (3) That the Committees report to the Senate on or before Friday, 10 May 1985.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

*Pursuant to Sessional Order, consideration of Committee Reports was called on.*

- 18 PRIVATE HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT ON PRIVATE NURSING HOMES IN AUSTRALIA**: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Giles—That the Senate take note of the Report.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 19 ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT**: The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—That the Senate proceed to the consideration of Government Business forthwith.

Question—put and passed.

- 20 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Aulich—That the following Address-in-Reply be agreed to:

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- (a) it fails to reassure the Australian people that the country’s defence arrangements within the western alliance will be preserved and strengthened following:
  - (i) the Prime Minister’s capitulation to internal party pressures on the issue of Australia providing logistical assistance to the United States for its testing of the MX missile, and
  - (ii) increasing uncertainty as to the future of the ANZUS Treaty fuelled by members of the Labor Government, including a Cabinet Minister;
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  - (i) record government taxation and spending,
  - (ii) continuing pressure within the Government for new taxes on assets,
  - (iii) growing demands for higher wages and other extra cost burdens on industry,
  - (iv) the level of public debt repayments, and
  - (v) loss of value of the currency reflecting world concern about Australia’s competitiveness and government instability; and
- (c) it endorses a rigid, centralised wage determining structure which imposes the same cost burdens on commerce and industry regardless of ability to pay”.

Debate resumed.

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*Notice:* The Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans), by leave, gave a Notice of Motion, as follows—To move on the next day of sitting—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* to provide for the granting of exploration permits by way of cash bidding, and for related purposes.

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Debate continued.

Senator Coates addressing the Chair—

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*And it being 7 p.m.—*

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

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at 7.32 p.m. till tomorrow at 10 a.m.

- 22 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman (on leave), Colston, Crichton-Browne, Georges, Parer and Robertson.

**A. R. CUMMING THOM,**  
Clerk of the Senate