

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 14

THURSDAY, 28 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 9 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senator Reid, from 25 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the recommendation of the Vinson inquiry that an abortion clinic be established in Canberra.

Senator Walters, from 10 petitioners praying that the Senate take action to restrict the viewing of certain films, video tapes and printed material.

Senators Black, Chipp, Gietzelt, Jones and Vigor, from 10, 14, 15, 14 and 19 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 Sir John Carrick, from 1692 petitioners praying that the Senate pass a motion that the existing Australian National Flag be changed only with the approval of the nation as expressed in a referendum.

Senator Zakharov, from 71 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.

The following petition, not in conformity with the Standing Orders, was, by leave, presented by Senator Bjelke-Petersen and received:

From 276 petitioners praying that the Australian sugar industry be subsidised and granted loans at a low interest rate.

4 **PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) (CASH BIDDING) AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes), at the request of the Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans) and pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—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.

Question—put and passed.

5 **CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES) BILL 1985:** Senator Mason, pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to alter the Constitution with respect to the qualification and disqualification of Members of the Parliament and Parliamentary Candidates.

Question—put and passed.

Bill presented, and on the motion of Senator Mason read a first time.

Senator Mason, by leave, moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of the Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) the debate was adjourned.

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

6 ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT: The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—

- (1) That Business of the Senate, Order of the Day No. 1 (Presentation of the Report of the Senate Select Committee on Video Material) be postponed till a later hour of the day.
- (2) That, unless otherwise ordered, the order of General Business for consideration this day pursuant to Sessional Order be as follows:
 - (a) consideration of Government Papers pursuant to Sessional Order;
 - (b) General Business, Notice of Motion No. 3 standing in the name of Senator Lewis relating to administration of the Australian Capital Territory; and
 - (c) General Business, Notice of Motion No. 6 standing in the name of Senator Missen relating to the Great Barrier Reef.

Senator Harradine moved an amendment, viz: Paragraph (1), leave out “a later hour of the day”, insert “immediately after Question Time”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be left out be left out—put and negatived.

Amendment negatived accordingly.

Main Question—put and passed.

7 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION) BILL 1985: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Gietzelt)—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.

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) 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.

On the motion of Senator Robertson the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.

9 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Harradine, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised during debate this day.

10 VIDEO MATERIAL—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT: Pursuant to Order, the Chairman of the Select Committee on Video Material (Senator Jones) tabled the following Report:

Report of the Senate Select Committee on Video Material, dated March 1985.

Ordered to be printed.

Senator Jones, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

On the motion of the Minister for Education (Senator Ryan) the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.

11 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST: The Minister for Education (Senator Ryan) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, till 2 p.m. this day, matters of public interest may be raised and discussed by Senators, provided that no Senator shall speak for more than 15 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Discussion of matters of public interest ensued accordingly.

Paper: Senator Lewis, by leave, tabled the following Paper:

Australian Capital Territory—Operation of Melba Health Centre—Statistics for October, November and December 1983, and January, February, March, April and May 1984.

—
And it being 2 p.m.—

12 QUESTIONS.

13 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Vigor, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised during Question Time this day.

14 NOTICE: The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney), by leave, gave a Contingent Notice of Motion, as follows—To move (contingent on Senator Walsh, in the course of the proceedings of the Senate, concluding any speech, statement, answer to a Question or comment)—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) moving a motion of censure of Senator Walsh.

15 SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM—ALLEGED MIS-USE—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: The President made a statement relating to an alleged mis-use of a Senate Committee room this day and to the security of Parliament House.

16 PARLIAMENTARY EVIDENCE—LIMITATION ON USE IN COURT PROCEEDINGS—MEDIA REPORTS OF COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS OF JUSTICE MURPHY—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: The President made a statement relating to inaccurate media reports concerning matters raised by counsel appearing on behalf of the Senate in committal proceedings in the New South Wales Local Court in respect of Mr Justice Murphy.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

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

17 APPROPRIATIONS AND STAFFING—STANDING COMMITTEE—5TH REPORT: The President tabled the following Report:

Appropriations and Staffing—Standing Committee—5th Report, dated March 1985.

Ordered to be printed.

18 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT: Senator Reid, on behalf of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory, tabled the following Report:

Report on Proposals for Variations of the Plan of Layout of the City of Canberra and its Environs (83rd Series—2nd Report), dated March 1985, together with minutes of proceedings.

Senator Reid, by leave, made a statement relating to the Report.

19 PUBLICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—1ST REPORT: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Publications (Senator Elstob) tabled the following Report:

FIRST REPORT

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

The Joint Committee, having considered petitions and papers presented to Parliament, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Annual Report 1983-84.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act—Administrative Review Council—Annual Report (8th) 1983-84.

- Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations Act—Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations—Annual Report (8th) for year ending 31 August 1984.
- Air Navigation Act—Department of Aviation—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Albury-Wodonga Development Act—Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation—Annual Report (11th) 1983-84.
- Archives Act—Australian Archives—Annual Report (1st) for period 6 to 30 June 1984.
- Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—Annual Report (32nd) 1983-84.
- Attorney-General's Department—Annual Report 1983-84, together with the Annual Report 1983-84 of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel, made under the *Parliamentary Counsel Act 1970*.
- Aussat Pty Ltd—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australia-China Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australia Council Act—Australia Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Bicentennial Road Development Trust Fund Act—Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Biological Resources Advisory Committee—Australian Biological Resources Study—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act—Australian Broadcasting Corporation—Annual Report (1st) 1983-84.
- Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research Act—Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—Annual Report (5th) 1983-84.
- Australian Film and Television School Act—Australian Film and Television School—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Act—Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs—Annual Report (5th) 1983-84.
- Australian Marine Sciences and Technologies Advisory Committee—Annual Report 1983.
- Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian National Airlines Act—Australian National Airlines Commission (TAA)—Annual Report (39th) 1983-84.
- Australian National Railways Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Overseas Projects Corporation Act—Australian Overseas Projects Corporation—Annual Report (16th) 1983-84.
- Australian Research Grants Committee—Australian Research Grants Scheme—Report on Grants approved for 1985.
- Australian Science and Technology Council Act—Australian Science and Technology Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Report on Computer-related Technologies in the Metal Trades Industry, prepared by the Technological Change Committee, dated 11 January 1985.
- Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act—Security Appeals Tribunal—Annual Report (5th) 1983-84.
- Australian Shipping Commission Act—Australian Shipping Commission—Australian National Line—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian Tourist Commission Act—Australian Tourist Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Australian War Memorial Act—Australian War Memorial—Annual Report 1983-84.

- Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act—Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation—Annual Report (3rd) 1983-84.
- Australian Wine Research Institute—Annual Report (30th) 1983-84.
- Barley Research Act—Barley Industry Research Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Broadcasting and Television Act—
 Australian Broadcasting Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84.
 Special Broadcasting Service—Annual Report (6th) 1983-84.
- Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—Annual Report (37th) 1983-84.
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands—
 Annual Report 1982-83.
 Annual Report 1983-84.
- Committee of Members' Interests—Special Report, dated 20 March 1985.
- Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Limited—Annual Report (33rd) 1983-84.
- Commonwealth Electoral Act—Australian Electoral Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—51st Report (1984) on Special Assistance for the States.
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—Report of the Commonwealth of Australia Branch Delegation to the 30th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, held on Isle of Man, September-October 1984.
- Commonwealth Schools Commission—Report of Panel—Planning and Funding Policies for New Non-Government Schools, dated March 1985.
- Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Act—Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Commission—Annual Report (23rd) 1983-84.
- Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act—Commissioner for Employees' Compensation—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Complaints (Australian Federal Police) Act—Federal Police Disciplinary Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Cotton Research Act—Cotton Research Committee—Annual Report (1st) for period 31 December 1982 to 30 June 1984.
- Criminology Research Act—
 Australian Institute of Criminology—Board of Management—Annual Report (12th) 1983-84.
 Criminology Research Council—Annual Report (12th) 1983-84.
- Dairying Research Act—Australian Dairy Research Committee—Annual Report (12th) 1983-84.
- Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Defence Service Homes Act—Defence Service Homes Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Administrative Services—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Communications—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Defence Support—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Health—Director-General of Health—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Home Affairs and Environment—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—Review of Activities 1983-84, including a report on the operation of the Immigration (Education) Act.
- Department of Industry and Commerce—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Primary Industry—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Resources and Energy—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Special Minister of State—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Territories and Local Government—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Trade—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Department of Transport—Annual Report 1983-84.

- Director of Public Prosecutions Act—Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Annual Report (1st) for period 5 March 1984 to 30 June 1984.
- Dried Fruits Research Act—Dried Fruits Research Committee—Annual Report (13th) 1983-84.
- Economic Planning Advisory Council Act—Economic Planning Advisory Council—Annual Report (1st) 1983-84.
- Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—Annual Report (37th) 1983-84.
- Environment Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act—Supervising Scientist for the Alligator Rivers Region—Annual Report (6th) 1983-84.
- Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Family Law Act—
 - Family Law Council—Annual Report (8th) 1983-84.
 - Institute of Family Studies—Annual Report (4th) 1983-84.
- Fishing Industry Research Act—Fishing Industry Research Committee—Annual Report (15th) 1983-84.
- Freedom of Information Act—Annual Report (2nd) 1983-84 by the Attorney-General.
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Annual Report (8th) 1983-84.
- Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—Annual Report (10th) 1983-84.
- Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—Annual Report (21st) 1983-84.
- Honey Research Act—Honey Research Committee—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Housing Assistance Act—Annual Report (2nd) 1982-83 on the 1981 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement.
- Housing Loans Insurance Act—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation—Annual Report (20th) 1983-84.
- Independent Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—Report 1983-84—Statement of particulars of guarantees and payments made under the Act.
- Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—
 - Certain Consumer Electronic Equipment and Components, dated 14 February 1984 (No. 339).
 - Dried Vine Fruits Industry, dated 28 September 1984 (No. 351).
 - Empty Gelatin Capsules, dated 7 December 1984 (No. 355).
 - Honey Industry, dated 4 May 1984 (No. 347).
 - Heavy Commercial Motor Vehicles, Parts and Accessories, dated 29 February 1984 (No. 343).
 - Heavy Engineering Industry (Interim Report), dated 23 November 1984 (No. 354), and
 - Annexure—The Demand for Heavy Engineering Products in Australia.
 - Re-Import Concessions, dated 16 November 1984 (No. 353).
 - Rougher Headed Timber, dated 22 February 1985 (No. 358).
 - Separate Articles Direction No. 1 of the Customs Tariff, dated 5 April 1984 (No. 345).
 - Tableware and other Goods of Ceramics, dated 7 December 1984 (No. 356).
 - Telecommunications and Related Equipment and Parts, dated 5 October 1984 (No. 352).
 - Vegetables and Vegetable Products (Interim Report on Frozen Peas), dated 15 February 1985 (No. 357).
- International Labour Conference—Report of the Australian Delegation to the 69th Session, Geneva, 1 to 22 June 1983.
- International Monetary Agreements Act—Annual Report on operations of the Act and, insofar as they relate to Australia, of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 1983-84.

- Labour Market Programs—Report of the Committee of Inquiry (Chairman: Mr P. E. F. Kirby), dated January 1985.
- Management and Investment Companies Act—Management and Investment Companies Licensing Board—Annual Report (1st) 1983-84.
- Meat Research Act—Australian Meat Research Committee—Annual Report (18th) 1983-84.
- Medical Research Endowment Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Annual Report 1983.
- Museum of Australia Act—Museum of Australia—Annual Report 1983-84.
- National Capital Development Commission Act—National Capital Development Commission—Annual Report (27th) 1983-84.
- National Companies and Securities Commission Act—National Companies and Securities Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council—Annual Report 1983-84.
- National Library Act—National Library of Australia—Annual Report (24th) 1983-84.
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Annual Report (9th) 1983-84.
- Norfolk Island—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Oilseeds Levy Collection and Research Act—Oilseeds Research Committee—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Ombudsman Act—Commonwealth Ombudsman and Defence Force Ombudsman—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Phosphate Mining Company of Christmas Island Limited—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Pig Meat Promotion Act—Pig Meat Promotion Committee—Annual Report (9th) 1983-84.
- Pipeline Authority Act—Pipeline Authority—Annual Report (11th) 1983-84.
- Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Primary Industry Bank Act—Report (7th) on operation of Part II of the Act, for period 15 November 1983 to 25 October 1984.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—
 Academic Salaries Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84.
 Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Australian Capital Territory—Statement of Receipts and Expenditure 1982-83.
- Snowy Mountains Council—Annual Report (26th) 1983-84.
- Social Security Act—Department of Social Security—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Social Welfare Policy Secretariat—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Special Prosecutors Act—Special Prosecutor—R.V. Gyles, Q.C.—Report (Final), for period 1 July 1984 to 21 September 1984.
- Superannuation Act—Annual Report and financial statements of the Superannuation Fund Investment Trust, together with the Auditor-General's Report and a further Report by the Auditor-General; and Annual Report of the Commissioner for Superannuation, 1983-84.
- Tobacco Industry Act—Tobacco Industry Trust Account—Annual Report 1983-84.
- United Nations—Report of the Australian Delegation to the 38th Session of the General Assembly, New York, 20 September to 21 December 1983.
- War Graves Act—Office of Australian War Graves—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Weights and Measures (National Standards) Act—National Standards Commission—Annual Report 1983-84.
- Wool Industry Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Annual Report 1983-84.

CORRIGENDA

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

Immigration (Education) Act—Corrigendum to the Child Migrant Education Report 1983-84.

28 March 1985

RON ELSTOB,
Chairman

Senator Elstob, by leave, moved—That the Report be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

20 PAPERS: The following Papers were tabled:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Proposals 1985—

No. 2—Household energy survey, 1985-86.

No. 3—New topics to be included in the population survey, May 1985.

Bounty (Agricultural Tractors) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 30.

Public Service Act—

Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 29.

Determinations 1985—Nos 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Regulations 1985—No. 8—(Co-operative Societies Ordinance).

Superannuation Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 31.

21 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S PROCLAMATION—COMMENCEMENT OF ACT: A Proclamation by His Excellency the Governor-General was tabled, notifying that His Excellency had proclaimed the following sub-sections of an Act to come into operation on the date specified:

Customs and Excise Amendment Act 1982—Sub-sections 69 (1), (2) and (3) and sub-section 70 (4)—1 April 1985 (*Gazette* No. S96, 27 March 1985).

Pursuant to Sessional Order, General Business was called on.

22 GOVERNMENT PAPERS—CONSIDERATION: The following Government Papers were considered pursuant to Sessional Order:

Capital Territory Health Commission—Annual Report 1983-84—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper.

Paper: Senator Lewis, by leave, tabled the following Paper:

Australian Capital Territory—Community Health Centres—Letter from Dr K. M. Doust, Chairman of the Capital Territory Health Commission, to Senator R. A. Crowley, dated 30 March 1984, together with Information Paper on Primary Medical Care in Community Health Centres in the ACT.

Motion further debated and agreed to.

Academic Salaries Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Macklin to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.

Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion of Senator Harradine to take note of Paper agreed to.

Expenditure—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Ministerial Statement on Report on Telecom's Zonal Charging Policies—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Reid to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.

Special Broadcasting Service—Report by Committee of Review—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Lajovic to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.

Parliamentary Zone—Proposal for construction of additional administrative accommodation at the Australian National Gallery—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Cooney and agreed to.

Environment and Conservation—House of Representatives Standing Committee—Government Response to Report on Australia's Participation in International Environmental Organisations—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Missen.

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

- 23 **ORDER OF GENERAL BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Leader of the Government (Senator Button) moved—That consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 3 standing in the name of Senator Lewis relating to administration of the Australian Capital Territory, be postponed till after consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 6 standing in the name of Senator Missen relating to the Great Barrier Reef.

Question—put and passed.

- 24 **SENATE SCRUTINY OF LEGISLATION—COMMITTEE SYSTEM—STATEMENT BY SENATOR:** The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney), by leave, made a statement relating to the improvement of Senate scrutiny of legislation and the Senate Committee system.

Senator Robertson, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

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

- 25 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans) moved—That further consideration of General Business be postponed till after consideration of the Message from the House of Representatives transmitting the Telecommunications (Interception) Amendment Bill 1985.

Question—put and passed.

- 26 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) AMENDMENT BILL 1985—*Message from the House of Representatives:*** The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 26

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the Telecommunications (Interception) Act 1979*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 28 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 Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans) the Bill was read a first time.

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

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later hour of the day, and that the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 27 **GREAT BARRIER REEF—CROWN-OF-THORNS STARFISH:** Senator Missen, having altered his Notice of Motion in accordance with Standing Order 109, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate, recognizing the unquestioned extent of Commonwealth responsibility for the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef exercised through the operations of the Marine Park Authority and for the effective countering of any established threat to the integrity of the reef area—

- (a) expresses concern about reports which indicate that large numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish have been found in many of the major reefs within the Great Barrier Reef, that the infestations are becoming widespread and posing a serious threat to the organization and functional relationships within some reef communities;

- (b) notes recent reports that soil erosion arising from the building of a road in the Daintree rainforest may be creating a threat to rare coral reefs just off the Daintree coast;
- (c) observes that, despite former reports of committees of inquiry into the crown-of-thorns starfish since 1969-70, the present Advisory Committee has reported in January 1985 that "present evidence is inadequate for scientists to agree on the nature and significance of the phenomenon of aggregations of large numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish and thus on the extent of any consequent risk" and that the current level of research activity is unlikely to lead to a short-term resolution of the questions raised;
- (d) expresses its deep concern to the Commonwealth Government and the Marine Park Authority for:
 - (i) the apparent lack of urgency in commissioning urgent research which would enable scientists to ascertain the nature and significance of the crown-of-thorns starfish infestations and the extent of any consequent risk that the reef or some substantial part of it is being destroyed,
 - (ii) the failure to review techniques for monitoring crown-of-thorns starfish and coral conditions, and developing more efficient techniques such as biological control by predators or other action to control the infestations,
 - (iii) the inadequacy of regulations preventing tourist spearfishermen and professional fishermen from removing large numbers of giant triton, groper and other natural predators of the starfish from the reef, and, accordingly
- (e) calls on the Senate Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment to undertake an urgent investigation into this matter, to ascertain whether the present proposals of the Advisory Committee and the Marine Park Authority are adequate to meet the situation, or otherwise to make specific recommendations relating to a co-ordinated program of crown-of-thorns starfish research, control and eradication within the Great Barrier Reef; and
- (f) in the event of the Senate Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment being presently unable to undertake such reference, then the Committee be asked to advise the Senate as to what other committee of the Parliament should be requested to undertake this investigation.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later of the day, and that Senator Mason have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

28 TELECOMMUNICATIONS (INTERCEPTION) 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.

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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

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

- 29 **PETROLEUM (SUBMERGED LANDS) (CASH BIDDING) AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** The Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans), pursuant to leave granted this day, presented 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.

On the motion of Senator Gareth Evans the Bill was read a first time.

Suspension of Standing Orders: Senator Gareth Evans, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Bill being passed through its remaining stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

Senator Gareth Evans 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.

- 30 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS AMENDMENT BILL 1985—***Message from the House of Representatives:* The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 25

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Act 1979'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 27 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 Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans) the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Gareth Evans 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.

- 31 **ESTIMATES OF PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE 1984-85—EXPLANATORY NOTES—PAPERS:** The Minister for Resources and Energy (Senator Gareth Evans) tabled the following Papers:

Estimates of Proposed Additional Expenditure 1984-85—Explanatory Notes of departments and authorities—

Aboriginal Affairs

Arts, Heritage and Environment

Attorney-General's

Australian Development Assistance Bureau

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

Communications

Defence

Education

Employment and Industrial Relations

Finance

Foreign Affairs

Governor-General's Office

Health

Housing and Construction

Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

Industry, Technology and Commerce

Local Government and Administrative Services

Primary Industry

Prime Minister and Cabinet—including Commonwealth Ombudsman,
Australian Science and Technology Council and Auditor-General's Office

Public Service Board
 Resources and Energy
 Science
 Social Security
 Sport, Recreation and Tourism
 Territories—including National Capital Development Commission
 Trade
 Transport
 Treasury
 Veterans' Affairs

- 32 **GREAT BARRIER REEF—CROWN-OF-THORNS STARFISH:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Missen—That the Senate, recognizing the unquestioned extent of Commonwealth responsibility for the preservation of the Great Barrier Reef exercised through the operations of the Marine Park Authority and for the effective countering of any established threat to the integrity of the reef area—
- (a) expresses concern about reports which indicate that large numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish have been found in many of the major reefs within the Great Barrier Reef, that the infestations are becoming widespread and posing a serious threat to the organisation and functional relationships within some reef communities;
 - (b) notes recent reports that soil erosion arising from the building of a road in the Daintree rainforest may be creating a threat to rare coral reefs just off the Daintree coast;
 - (c) observes that, despite former reports of committees of inquiry into the crown-of-thorns starfish since 1969-70, the present Advisory Committee has reported in January 1985 that "present evidence is inadequate for scientists to agree on the nature and significance of the phenomenon of aggregations of large numbers of crown-of-thorns starfish and thus on the extent of any consequent risk" and that the current level of research activity is unlikely to lead to a short-term resolution of the questions raised;
 - (d) expresses its deep concern to the Commonwealth Government and the Marine Park Authority for:
 - (i) the apparent lack of urgency in commissioning urgent research which would enable scientists to ascertain the nature and significance of the crown-of-thorns starfish infestations and the extent of any consequent risk that the reef or some substantial part of it is being destroyed,
 - (ii) the failure to review techniques for monitoring crown-of-thorns starfish and coral conditions, and developing more efficient techniques such as biological control by predators or other action to control the infestations,
 - (iii) the inadequacy of regulations preventing tourist spearfishermen and professional fishermen from removing large numbers of giant triton, groper and other natural predators of the starfish from the reef, and, accordingly
 - (e) calls on the Senate Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment to undertake an urgent investigation into this matter, to ascertain whether the present proposals of the Advisory Committee and the Marine Park Authority are adequate to meet the situation, or otherwise to make specific recommendations relating to a co-ordinated program of crown-of-thorns starfish research, control and eradication within the Great Barrier Reef; and
 - (f) in the event of the Senate Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment being presently unable to undertake such reference, then the Committee be asked to advise the Senate as to what other committee of the Parliament should be requested to undertake this investigation.

Senator Missen, by leave, amended his motion as follows: Leave out paragraphs (e) and (f), insert "(e) refers to the Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment and the Standing Committee on National Resources the question of

whether an urgent investigation should be undertaken into this matter, and if so by which committee, to ascertain whether the present proposals of the Advisory Committee and the Marine Park Authority are adequate to meet the situation, or otherwise to make specific recommendations relating to a co-ordinated program of crown-of-thorns starfish research, control and eradication within the Great Barrier Reef”.

Debate ensued.

And it being 6.30 p.m.—

- 33 **ADJOURNMENT:** The President, under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at 6.47 p.m. till Tuesday, 16 April 1985, at 2 p.m.

- 34 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Boswell, Coleman (on leave), Colston, Crichton-Browne, Georges and Reynolds.

A. R. CUMMING THOM,
Clerk of the Senate