

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 23

THURSDAY, 9 MAY 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 Childs, from 102 petitioners praying that the Parliament recognise the widespread public opposition to plant variety rights and promote alternative means of royalty collection for plant breeders.

Senator Childs, from 13 petitioners praying that the Senate act to protect society from moral pollution and its harmful effects.

Senator Bjelke-Petersen, from 123 petitioners praying that the Australian flag be not changed without the consent of the people in a referendum.

Senator Messner, from 39 petitioners praying that the Senate pass the Social Security and Repatriation (Abolition of Assets Test) Bill 1985 [No. 2].

Senators Childs and Robertson, from 35 and 12 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 Bjelke-Petersen, from 13 petitioners praying that the Senate ensure that present legislation relating to video classification is amended to exclude excessive violence, explicit sex and sadism from video material.

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

Australian Electoral Commission—Research Reports Nos 1 and 2 of 1985 on Informal Voting 1984, House of Representatives.

Commonwealth Legal Aid Act—Commonwealth Legal Aid Council—Annual Report 1983-84.

Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Report by the Chairman, Mr H. R. Hudson, on the Review of the Structure of the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and arrangements for co-ordination and consultation with States and institutions, dated 25 March 1985.

Companies and Securities Law Review Committee—Annual Report (1st) for period 1 January to 30 June 1984.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Corrigendum to Annual Report 1983-84.

Social Security—Reciprocal Agreements—Statement by the Minister for Social Security.

**5 BANKS (SHAREHOLDINGS) AMENDMENT BILL 1985**—*Message from the House of Representatives:* The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 45

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Banks (Shareholdings) Act 1972', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

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

On the motion of the Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) the Bill was read a first time.

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

On the motion of Senator Kilgariff the debate was adjourned.

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

**6 RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH BILL 1985**

**RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985**

**TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 1) AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 2) AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**TOBACCO CHARGE (NO. 3) AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**POULTRY INDUSTRY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985**

**POULTRY INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1985—**

*Messages from the House of Representatives:* The following Messages from the House of Representatives were reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 46

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for the undertaking of research and development in relation to certain goods, and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 47

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to enact certain transitional provisions and effect certain amendments and repeals in consequence of the enactment of the 'Rural Industries Research Act 1985'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 48

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Tobacco Charge Act (No. 1) 1955', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 49

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Tobacco Charge Act (No. 2) 1955', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 50

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Tobacco Charge Act (No. 3) 1955', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 51

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Poultry Industry Levy Act 1965', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 52

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Poultry Industry Assistance Act 1965'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

*Suspension of Standing Orders to deal with Bills together:* The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Questions with regard to the several stages for the passage through the Senate of all or several of the Bills being put in one motion at each stage, and the consideration of all or several of such Bills together in Committee of the Whole, and as would prevent the reading of the short titles only on every order for the reading of the Bills.

Question—put and passed.

Ordered—That the Bills may be taken through all their stages without delay.

On the motion of Senator Grimes the Bills were read a first time.

Senator Grimes moved—That these Bills 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.

#### 7 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1984-85—*Message from the House of Representatives:*

The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 53

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the 'Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1984-85', for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1985, and for other purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

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

The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That this Bill be now read a first time.

On the motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) the debate was adjourned.

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

#### 8 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1984-85—*Message from the House of Representatives:*

The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 54

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sum appropriated by the 'Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1984-85', for certain*

*expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1985, and for other purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 7 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

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

On the motion of the Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Grimes 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.

## 9 EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE BILL 1985

### EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE COLLECTION BILL 1985

#### EXPORT INSPECTION LEGISLATION (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985—

*Messages from the House of Representatives:* The following Messages from the House of Representatives were reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 55

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to impose a charge on the inspection of certain commodities intended for export*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 56

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make provision for the collection of the charges imposed by the 'Export Inspection Charge Act 1985'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 57

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make amendments of certain Acts, and to repeal certain Acts, in consequence of the enactment of the 'Export Inspection Charge Act 1985' and the 'Export Inspection Charge Collection Act 1985'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

*Suspension of Standing Orders to deal with Bills together:* The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Questions with regard to the several stages for the passage through the Senate of all or several of the Bills being put in one motion at each stage, and the consideration of all or several of such Bills together in Committee of the Whole.

Question—put and passed.

Ordered—That the Bills may be taken through all their stages without delay.

Senator Grimes moved—That these Bills be now read a first time.

On the motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) the debate was adjourned.

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

## 10 FISHING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1985

### FISHERIES LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985—

*Messages from the House of Representatives:* The following Messages from the House of Representatives were reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 58

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Fisheries Act 1952' and the 'Torres Strait Fisheries Act 1984', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 59

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Fisheries Licences Levy Act 1984'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

*Suspension of Standing Orders to deal with Bills together:* The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Questions with regard to the several stages for the passage through the Senate of the Bills being put in one motion at each stage, and the consideration of such Bills together in Committee of the Whole.

Question—put and passed.

Ordered—That the Bills may be taken through all their stages without delay.

Senator Grimes moved—That these Bills be now read a first 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.

- 11 **ORDER OF GENERAL BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—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, Order of the Day No. 102 (Social Security and Repatriation (Abolition of Assets Test) Bill 1985 [No. 2]); and
- (c) General Business, Order of the Day No. 2 (Constitution Alteration (Appropriation Bills) Bill 1984 [1985]).

Question—put and passed.

- 12 **WHEAT MARKETING AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

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 a later hour of the day.

- 13 **FIRST HOME OWNERS AMENDMENT BILL 1985:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Senator Lewis moved an amendment, viz: At end of motion, add "but the Senate, whilst accepting the need for overall budgetary cuts in Government spending, including in the First Home Owners Scheme, condemns the Government for—

- (a) introducing this Bill which amounts to a shameful dishonouring of an election pledge to maintain the First Home Owners Scheme; and
- (b) its arbitrary action in determining that the heaviest cuts would fall on the poorest and most needy members of the community".

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be added—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 35

Senators—			
Archer	Evans, Jack	Lewis	Scott
Baume	Guilfoyle,	MacGibbon	Sheil
Boswell	Dame Margaret	Macklin	Teague
Brownhill	Haines	Mason	Townley
Chaney	Hamer	Messner	Vanstone
Chipp	Hill	Missen	Vigor
Collard	Jessop	Parer	Walters
Crichton-Browne	Kilgariff	Puplick	Watson
Durack	Lajovic	Reid (Teller)	Withers

NOES, 30

Senators—			
Aulich	Crowley	McClelland	Robertson
Black	Devlin	McIntosh (Teller)	Ryan
Bolkus	Elstob	McKiernan	Sibraa
Childs	Evans, Gareth	Maguire	Tate
Coates	Foreman	Primmer	Walsh
Colston	Giles	Ray, Robert	Zakharov
Cook	Grimes	Reynolds	
Cooney	Jones	Richardson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Main Question, as amended—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*

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Education (Senator Ryan) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 14 **MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) 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.

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*And it being 2 p.m.—*

15 **QUESTIONS.**

- 16 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:** The President informed the Senate that the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Chaney) had proposed that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion, viz: “The confusion and uncertainty of the Government’s Aboriginal affairs policy”.

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

The President called upon Senator Chaney to speak.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**17 AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 1985**  
**DRIED SULTANA PRODUCTION UNDERWRITING AMENDMENT BILL 1985**  
**DRIED VINE FRUITS EQUALIZATION LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1985—**

*Messages from the House of Representatives:* The following Messages from the House of Representatives were reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 61

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act 1978', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 62

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Dried Sultana Production Underwriting Act 1982'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 63

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Dried Vine Fruits Equalization Levy Act 1978'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

*Suspension of Standing Orders to deal with Bills together:* The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Questions with regard to the several stages for the passage through the Senate of all or several of the Bills being put in one motion at each stage, and the consideration of all or several of such Bills together in Committee of the Whole.

Question—put and passed.

Ordered—That the Bills may be taken through all their stages without delay.

On the motion of Senator Grimes the Bills were read a first time.

Senator Grimes moved—That these Bills be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Kilgariff the debate was adjourned.

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

**18 PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT BILL 1985—***Message from the House of Representatives:* The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 64

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for payments in respect of Australian books held in Australian libraries*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 9 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

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

On the motion of the Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) the Bill was read a first time.

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

On the motion of Senator Kilgariff the debate was adjourned.

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

**19 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—PROPOSED REFERENCE**—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 60

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate the following Resolution which was agreed to by the House of Representatives this day and requests the concurrence of the Senate therein:

- (1) That, in accordance with paragraph 8 (1) (d) of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1951*, this House refers to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts for investigation and report as necessary from time to time, the proposed acquisition of automatic data processing facilities by any Commonwealth department or authority of the Commonwealth staffed under the *Public Service Act 1922*; notification of intention of which is to be conveyed to the committee by the Minister responsible for the department or authority intending to acquire the facilities.
- (2) That this resolution will continue in force unless and until amended or rescinded by the Senate or the House of Representatives in this or a subsequent Parliament.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 8 May 1985

JOAN CHILD,  
Acting Speaker

Ordered—That consideration of the Message be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

**20 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES—ASSENT TO LAWS**: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were reported, informing the Senate that His Excellency had, in the name of Her Majesty, assented to the following laws:

7 May 1985—Messages—

No. 8—

*Australian Meat and Live-stock Research and Development Corporation Act 1985* (Act No. 12 of 1985)

*Australian Meat and Live-stock Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Act 1985* (Act No. 13 of 1985)

*Live-stock Slaughter Levy Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 14 of 1985)

*Live-stock Export Charge Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 15 of 1985)

No. 9—

*Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 16 of 1985)

*Extradition (Commonwealth Countries) Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 17 of 1985)

*Extradition (Foreign States) Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 18 of 1985)

No. 10—

*Soil Conservation (Financial Assistance) Act 1985* (Act No. 19 of 1985)

*Bounty (Injection-moulding Equipment) Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 20 of 1985)

No. 11—

*Bankruptcy Amendment Act 1985* (Act No. 21 of 1985)

**21 BUDGET OUTLAYS AND STAFFING—FORWARD ESTIMATES 1985 TO 1988—PAPER**: The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) tabled the following Paper:

Report on the Forward Estimates of Budget Outlays and Staffing 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, prepared by the Department of Finance, dated May 1985.

Senator Peter Rae, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

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



- 22 **ORDER OF GENERAL BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the order of General Business for consideration this day pursuant to Sessional Order be varied as follows—

- (a) consideration of Government Papers pursuant to Sessional Order;
- (b) General Business, Order of the Day No. 84 (Great Barrier Reef—Crown-of-Thorns starfish);
- (c) General Business, Order of the Day No. 2 (Constitution Alteration (Appropriation Bills) Bill 1984[1985]); and
- (d) General Business, Order of the Day No. 102 (Social Security and Repatriation (Abolition of Assets Test) Bill 1985 [No. 2]).

Question—put and passed.

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

- 23 **GOVERNMENT PAPERS—CONSIDERATION:** The following Government Papers, tabled earlier this day (*see Entry No. 4 above*), were considered pursuant to Sessional Order:  
Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Report by the Chairman on Review of Structure—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Baume and debated.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later hour of the day.

Commonwealth Legal Aid Council—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Robert Ray and agreed to.

Australian Electoral Commission—Report on Informal Voting 1984, House of Representatives—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Baume and debated.

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

- 24 **SOCIAL SECURITY—RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS—PAPER:** Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:  
Social Security—Reciprocal Agreements—Statement by the Minister for Social Security.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later hour of the day, and that Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle have leave to continue her speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 25 **SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—3RD AND 4TH REPORTS AND 4TH ALERT DIGEST:** The Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Tate) tabled the following Reports and Paper:

3rd Report, dated 8 May 1985.

4th Report, dated 8 May 1985.

Alert Digest No. 4, dated 8 May 1985.

Ordered—That the Reports be printed.

- 26 **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—Item 4, 84th Series), dated 7 May 1985, together with minutes of proceedings.

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

- 27 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—226TH REPORT:** Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle, on behalf of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, tabled the following Report:

226th Report—Report on Activities July 1983 to December 1984.

Ordered to be printed.

Senators Dame Margaret Guilfoyle and Watson, by leave, made statements relating to the Report.

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

- Lands Acquisition Act—Statement by the Minister describing land acquired by agreement under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.  
 Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Aviation—D. J. Roylance.

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*Pursuant to Sessional Order, consideration of General Business was called on.*

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

- Redistribution of Electoral Divisions, 1984—Determinations (and related documents) of proposed and final Electoral Divisions for the States and a Territory—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Macklin to take note of Papers—Motion agreed to.  
 Inter-State Commission—Report on the Tasmanian Freight Equalisation Scheme—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.  
 Australian Heritage Commission—Annual Report 1983-84 and Ministerial Statement—Motion of Senator Baume to take note of Papers agreed to.  
 Australian Code of Conduct for Companies with Commercial Interests in South Africa—Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.  
 Fishing Industry Act—Annual Report 1983-84—Motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper agreed to.  
 Human Rights Commission—Report No. 12—The Queensland *Electricity (Continuity of Supply) Act 1985*—Motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper agreed to.  
 Commonwealth Schools Commission—Recommendations for 1986—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.

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*Statement by Senator:* Senator Archer, by leave, made a statement relating to the Annual Report 1983-84 on the Fishing Industry Act.

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- Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission—Report by the Chairman on Review of Structure—Motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper agreed to.  
 Social Security—Reciprocal Agreements—Statement by the Minister for Social Security—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Dame Margaret Guilfoyle to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.  
 Australian Electoral Commission—Report on Informal Voting 1984, House of Representatives—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Baume to take note of Paper.  
 Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting.  
 Parliament House Construction Authority—Appointments—Statement by the Minister for Territories—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Lewis, debated and agreed to.

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*Statement by Senator:* Senator Vigor, by leave, made a statement relating to the Report of the Australian Electoral Commission on Informal Voting 1984, House of Representatives.

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Australian Capital Territory Schools Authority—Financial statements 1983-84—  
Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Lewis.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting.

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions of 120th Special Meeting—Motion  
to take note of Paper moved by Senator Archer and debated.

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

- 30 **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) 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 resumed.

*Paper:* The Minister for Education (Senator Ryan) tabled the following Paper:

Crown of Thorns Starfish—Report of Advisory Committee, dated 11 January 1985.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

- 31 **CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (APPROPRIATION BILLS) BILL 1984 [1985]:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of Senator Peter Rae—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Teague addressing the Chair—

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*Pursuant to Sessional Order, consideration of General Business was interrupted.*

- 32 **NATIONAL WELFARE FUND REPEAL BILL 1985:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Education (Senator Ryan)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Jack Evans moved an amendment, viz: At end of motion, add “, and the Senate calls upon the Government to introduce, within 12 months after the repeal of the National Welfare Fund Act by this Bill, a national superannuation scheme which is both universal and portable”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be added—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 6

Senators—

Chipp  
Evans, Jack

Haines  
Macklin (Teller)

Mason  
Vigor

NOES, 56

Senators—

Aulich  
Baume  
Black  
Bolkus  
Boswell  
Brownhill  
Chaney  
Childs  
Coates  
Collard  
Colston  
Cook  
Cooney  
Crichton-Browne  
Crowley

Devlin  
Elstob  
Evans, Gareth  
Foreman  
Giles  
Grimes  
Guilfoyle,  
  Dame Margaret  
Hamer  
Hill  
Jessop  
Jones  
Kilgariff  
Lajovic  
Lewis

McClelland  
MacGibbon  
McIntosh  
McKiernan  
Maguire  
Missen  
Parer  
Primmer  
Puplick  
Rae, Peter  
Ray, Robert  
Reid (Teller)  
Reynolds  
Richardson  
Robertson

Ryan  
Scott  
Sheil  
Short  
Tate  
Teague  
Townley  
Vanstone  
Walters  
Watson  
Withers  
Zakharov

And so it was negatived.

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

Bill read a second time.

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*And it being 10.30 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 11.14 p.m. till tomorrow at 9 a.m.

**34 ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Bjelke-Petersen, Button, Sir John Carrick, Coleman (on leave), Georges, Gietzelt, Hearn and Knowles.

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