

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 44

THURSDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 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 24 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senator Sanders, from 130 petitioners praying that the Senate oppose any sections of the proposed Veterans' Entitlements Bill which would have the effect of reducing veterans' benefits, including that which seeks to change the onus of proof.

Senator Boswell, from 157 petitioners praying that former legislation banning the entry into Australia and sale of hard-core pornographic and violent videos and publications be re-enacted.

Senator Parer, from 23 petitioners praying that the Senate formulate an International Sugar Agreement and legislate to provide assistance to cane growers.

Senators Crowley, Maguire, Messner and Teague, from 164, 116, 181 and 106 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate request the Government to restore the review of the nursing home benefit rates in November 1985, provide nursing home care concessions for pensioner patients and to resolve its concerns over health care costs with the South Australian Government.

Senators Messner and Vanstone, 2 petitions similar in wording, from 35 and 18 petitioners, respectively, praying that the proposed cut-back of funding for pre-school and child care services be reversed.

Senator Peter Baume, from 1123 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985.

Senator Messner, from 79 petitioners praying that the Australian flag be not changed without the consent of the people in a referendum.

Senator Chaney, from 21 petitioners praying that the assets test be repealed.

Senators Michael Baume, Black, Gietzelt, Parer and Sheil, from 75, 1025, 63, 2112 and 1289 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate pass Senator Harradine's Bill to prohibit experiments involving the use of human embryos created by in vitro fertilization.

Senator Walters, from 34 petitioners praying that laws be enacted and enforced to restrict the importation, production, possession and distribution of pornography in any form.

Senator Macklin, from 87 petitioners praying that a Senate Select Committee on Nuclear Disarmament and Peace be established to investigate the creation of a Ministry of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament.

Senators Childs, Jones and Reynolds, from 17193, 1017 and 5712 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate request the Government to ensure that no tax be imposed on health fund contributions or benefits.

Senator Durack, from 2110 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 Kilgariff, from 87 petitioners praying that remote area residents of the Northern Territory have equality of access to mail services and that the delivery landing fee be terminated.

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

Senator Puplick: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Customs Regulations (Amendment), as contained in Statutory Rules 1985 No. 71 and made under the *Customs Act 1901*, be disallowed.

Senator Kilgariff: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate, in view of the ever-increasing cost of the receiving dishes necessary to receive Aussat transmissions, now estimated at between \$2200 and \$2700, and the fact that sales tax on the components of this equipment is levied at between 20 per cent and 32.5 per cent, calls upon the Government to investigate means of reducing the financial burden upon both individuals and organisations living and operating in the outback, for example, the Isolated Parents and Children's Association, who would greatly benefit from the receipt of the radio and television transmissions which Australians in the more populous eastern states take for granted.

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

- (a) the move by South African President Botha to grant dual citizenship to black South Africans in the 4 so called "homelands";
- (b) that this move is only a cosmetic gesture designed to placate the increasing world abhorrence of the apartheid system;
- (c) that even the Reagan administration in the United States has seen fit to declare that the Botha statement does not go far enough; and
- (d) that the grave situation in South Africa can only be resolved when the entire national community, regardless of colour, race or creed, is given the franchise and full and free equal citizenship rights.

**5 DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:** The President drew attention to the presence in the gallery of a delegation from the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, led by Sir Kenneth Lewis, M.P. and, on behalf of honourable Senators, extended a warm welcome to the members of the delegation.

**6 QUESTIONS.**

**7 PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—6TH, 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH REPORTS OF 1985:** The Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Senator Foreman) tabled the following Reports:

Construction of a Submarine Escape Training Facility, HMAS *Stirling*, Garden Island, Western Australia (6th Report of 1985).

Laboratory Development at CSIRO Floreat Park Laboratories, Perth (7th Report of 1985).

Construction of State Head Office Building for Telecom Australia, Sydney (8th Report of 1985).

Refurbishment of Commonwealth Centre and Associated Major Fitout Works, Melbourne (9th Report of 1985).

Ordered to be printed.

**8 ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at 11.14 a.m. till tomorrow at 9 a.m.

**9 ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Bjelke-Petersen, Black, Boswell, Coleman (on leave), Jessop, Reynolds, Sibraa, Walsh and Zakharov.

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