

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 60

THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 1985

- 1 **MEETING OF SENATE:** The Senate met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment.
- 2 **ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT:** The Clerk informed the Senate of the unavoidable absence of the President (Senator the Honourable Douglas McClelland), and thereupon the Deputy-President (Senator Hamer) took the Chair.

3 **PRAYERS.**

- 4 **PETITIONS:** The following 14 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senators Giles, Robertson and Walsh, from 315, 89 and 172 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.

Senators Evans and Short, from 497 and 231 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate request the Government to remain consistent in its obligations to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and take action to prevent the operation of legalised brothels in Victoria.

Senator Peter Rae, from 10 petitioners praying that the proposed introduction of compulsory identification cards be reconsidered and rejected.

Senator Richardson, from 37 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985.

Senator Vigor, from 909 petitioners praying that the further development of the Belconnen Mall, Canberra, include the development of community facilities and the retention of the present child care centre.

Senator Short, from 7 petitioners praying that laboratory experimentation upon Australian protected wildlife be prohibited.

Senator Bolkus, from 1077 petitioners praying that home loan interest rates be reduced.

Senator Jessop, from 109 petitioners 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.

Senator Zakharov, from 31 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.

Senator Zakharov, from 54 petitioners praying that the Senate legislate to close the joint Australian-United States electronic communications facilities at the Watsonia Army Barracks, Victoria.

Senator Jessop, from 55 petitioners praying that the proposed cut-back of funding for pre-school and child care services be reversed.

5 **NOTICES:***Contingent Notices of Motion:*

Senator Peter Baume: To move (contingent on the moving of a motion to debate a matter of urgency under Standing Order 64 and the expiration of

the time provided for discussion of the motion)—That so much of the Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended as would prevent the Question on the matter of urgency being put forthwith.

Senator Durack: To move (contingent on the President proceeding to the placing of business on Friday, 8 November 1985)—

- (1) That so much of the Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended as would prevent paragraph (2) of this Resolution having effect.
- (2) That the Question on the matter of urgency moved by Senator Durack under Standing Order 64 on 6 November 1985 be put forthwith.

Notice of Motion: Senator Messner gave a Notice of Motion, as follows: To move on the next day of sitting—That in the interests of maintaining a modicum of confidence in the Australian dollar on overseas markets, the Prime Minister (Mr Hawke) prohibit the Treasurer (Mr Keating) from travelling overseas to explain how well the Australian economy is doing.

- 6 POSTAL SERVICES AMENDMENT (CONTINUANCE OF POSTAL SERVICES) BILL 1985:** Senator Archer, at the request of Senator Lewis (having altered his Notice of Motion in accordance with Standing Order 109), 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 *Postal Services Act 1975* to allow for the continuance of postal services when the Australian Postal Commission is not able effectively to provide those services.

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 7 HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1985—***Message from the House of Representatives:* The following Message from the House of Representatives was reported:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 187

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend various laws relating to health, and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 6 November 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 Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button) the Bill was read a first time.

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

On the motion of Senator Peter Baume the debate was adjourned.

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

- 8 ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Leader of the Government (Senator Button) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the order of General Business for consideration this day pursuant to Sessional Order be as follows—
- (a) consideration of Orders of the Day relating to Government Papers; and
 - (b) General Business, Orders of the Day:
 - (i) No. 130 (Nuclear Weapons Prohibitions Bill 1985),
 - (ii) No. 95 (Constitution Alteration (Democratic Elections) Bill 1985), and
 - (iii) No. 12 (Rainforest Preservation Agreements Bill 1982 [1983] [1985]).

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Missen, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to media reports concerning the Report from the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs on a Bill of Rights for Australia, tabled on 5 November 1985.

10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86: 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 first time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

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

Cognate debate: The following Bills were, by leave, considered together with the above-mentioned Bill during the second reading debate:

Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1985-86

Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill 1985-86

Debate ensued.

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

11 MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST: The Minister for Finance (Senator Walsh) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, till 2 p.m. this day, matters of public interest may be 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.

Leave refused: Senator Kilgariff sought leave to incorporate a document in *Hansard*.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Discussion continued.

Leave refused: Senator Kilgariff again sought leave to incorporate a document in *Hansard*.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Discussion continued.

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

Northern Territory—Government Commitment to Tourist Development Projects—Statement to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly by the Chief Minister, the Hon. I. L. Tuxworth.

Discussion continued.

And it being 2 p.m.—

12 QUESTIONS.

- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE:** The Deputy-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 growing evidence that the Accord is undermining the economic welfare of Australia".

And at least 4 Senators having risen in support of the proposed discussion—
The Deputy-President called upon Senator Chaney to speak.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES E AND F—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The Chairmen of Estimates Committees E and F (Senators Zakharov and Georges), by leave, tabled additional information received by Estimates Committees E and F, respectively.

Ordered—That the additional information be incorporated in the Estimates Committees' *Hansard*.

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

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

Rainforest Conservation in Australia—Report, together with Statement by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment—Debate resumed on the motion of the Leader of the National Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Collard) to take note of Papers—Motion agreed to.

National Conservation Strategy for Australia—Final Report, together with Statement by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment—Debate resumed on the motion of the Leader of the National Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Collard) to take note of Papers—Motion agreed to.

Immigration Serving Immigrants and Australia—Statement by the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—Debate resumed on the motion of Senator Kilgariff to take note of Paper—Motion agreed to.

- 16 NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROHIBITIONS BILL 1985:** Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Chipp)—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

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

- 17 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86:** 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.

Senator Cook addressing the Chair—

And it being 10.30 p.m.—

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

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at 10.39 p.m. till tomorrow at 9 a.m.

- 19 ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman (on leave), Haines, Lewis and McClelland.

A. R. CUMMING THOM,
Clerk of the Senate