

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 67

WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 1985

1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy-President (Senator Hamer) took the Chair.

2 PRAYERS.

3 PETITIONS: The following 23 petitions, lodged with the Clerk by the Senators indicated, were received:

Senators Sir John Carrick, Harradine, Puplick and Richardson, from 229, 466, 294 and 185 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 Missen and Vallentine, from 22 and 12 petitioners, respectively, praying that the protection of Australian historical and environmental assets be a subject for a referendum.

Senators Peter Baume and Sir John Carrick, from 59 and 27 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate defer any action on the Australian Bill of Rights Bill 1985 for a period of 12 months.

Senator Coates, from 17 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill 1985.

Senator Crichton-Browne, from 51 petitioners praying that the assets test be repealed.

Senator Sir John Carrick, from 11 petitioners praying that the Senate act to protect society from moral pollution and its harmful effects.

Senator Peter Rae, from 28 petitioners praying that the proposed introduction of compulsory identification cards be reconsidered and rejected.

Senator Button, from 43 petitioners praying that the Senate ensure the protection of the Otway forests in Victoria and refuse any licence to export woodchips from the Otways.

Senator Button, from 56 petitioners praying that the proposed cut-back of funding for pre-school and child care services be reversed.

Senator Button, from 57 petitioners praying that no further action be taken towards self-government in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) until after the holding of a referendum of voters of the ACT.

Senators Cook and Kilgariff, from 58 and 60 petitioners, respectively, praying that the Senate urge the Government to take action concerning the continued abuse of human rights in East Timor and to raise that issue in the United Nations.

Senator Chipp, from 88 petitioners praying that the Senate support Senator Chipp's various legislative measures dealing with the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Senator Vigor, from 341 petitioners praying that the further development of the Belconnen Mall, Canberra, include development of community facilities and the retention of the present child care centre.

Senator Kilgariff, from 1783 petitioners praying that the Senate request the Government to ensure that no tax be imposed on health fund contributions or benefits.

Senator Kilgariff, from 31 petitioners praying that the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* be amended to restore Aboriginal land holders to a position which is similar to other land holders.

Senator Chipp, from 341 petitioners praying that the Senate reject the Child Care Amendment Bill 1985.

Senator Vallentine, from 18 petitioners praying that no new uranium mines be commenced in Australia and present mining contracts cease on fulfilment.

- 4 **ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT**—*Statement, by leave:* The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes), by leave, made a statement relating to the state of health of the President (Senator the Honourable Douglas McClelland).

5 **NOTICES:**

Notices of Motion:

Senator Sir John Carrick: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate—

- (a) commends United States' President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev upon their recent Summit talks in Geneva;
- (b) urges the 2 leaders to expedite the meetings of their respective officials towards achieving and ratifying an effective mechanism for massive nuclear and conventional disarmament to the lowest levels consistent with the maintenance of a viable deterrent and with full monitoring and verification; and
- (c) emphasises the great value of major and continuous dialogue in the removal of international misunderstandings and suspicions.

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

- (a) notes the recent statement by the Minister for Defence (Mr Beazley) that the contract or parts of the contract for the construction of submarines for the Royal Australian Navy is to be awarded to many (if not all) States of the Commonwealth;
- (b) expresses its concern that South Australians are being misled by the State Labor Premier (Mr Bannon) into believing that he can deliver the submarine contract to South Australia; and
- (c) calls on the Minister for Defence to reconsider his decision not to grant the submarine contract to South Australia.

Senator Michael Baume: To move on the next day of sitting—That the Senate notes with concern—

- (a) the 2.6 per cent rise in the underlying inflation rate in the September quarter national accounts, as measured by the implicit price deflator for non-farm gross domestic product, which is the highest quarterly rise in inflation for almost 3 years and represents a rate far higher than the target of 7 per cent on which the 1985-86 Budget is based; and
- (b) the fall in the household savings ratio revealed in the national accounts, to only 11.3 per cent, the lowest level for 13 years.

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

- (a) applauds New Zealand's inspiring and far-sighted stand in banning nuclear-powered and armed warships from its ports and supports that country's courageous refusal to be "bullied" into changing its policy;
- (b) condemns the heavy-handed rhetoric of Mr Peacock in describing the New Zealand Government as "delinquent" and his seeking, through a return to the policies and rhetoric of the cold war era, to diminish the widespread aspirations of people in this region for a truly nuclear-free and independent Pacific; and
- (c) whilst appreciating the fact that the Australian Labor Government has refrained from intimidating the New Zealand Government into changing

its policy, calls on the Australian Government to actively support New Zealand's position on the banning of nuclear warships and urges the Australian Government to adopt a similar stand to that of its New Zealand counterpart.

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

- (a) notes that the Federal Labor Government's proposal to outlaw legitimate business expenses will cause great hardship to many small businesses, not only in the restaurant industry, but in many other small businesses that are unable to afford expensive advertising campaigns and instead rely on personal contact to promote their product;
- (b) notes that this proposal presents the Australian Democrats with an opportunity to do something effective for small business; and
- (c) calls on the Australian Democrats to join with the National and Liberal parties and reject Labor's anti-small business taxes.

Notices of Motion withdrawn:

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Cooney), in accordance with notices of intention given on 26 November 1985, withdrew Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 1 standing in his name for this day, for the disallowance of the *Electricity (Amendment) Ordinance 1985*, Notice of Motion No. 5 standing in his name for this day and Notices of Motion Nos 2 and 3 standing in his name for 3 sitting days hence, for the disallowance of Telecommunications (General) By-laws Nos 42, 43 and 44, respectively.

Senator Cooney, by leave, withdrew Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 3 standing in his name for this day, for the disallowance of the *Meat (Amendment) Ordinance 1985* and Notice of Motion No. 4 standing in his name for this day, for the disallowance of the *Blood Donation (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) Ordinance 1985*.

Senator Cooney, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

Postponements:

Senator Cooney postponed Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 2 standing in his name for the disallowance of the *New South Wales Acts Application Ordinance 1985*, till the next day of sitting.

Senator Cooney, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

Senator Vigor postponed Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 6 standing in his name for the disallowance of section 3 of the *New South Wales Acts Application Ordinance 1985*, till the next day of sitting.

Senator Vigor, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

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

Archives Act—Australian Archives—Annual Report (2nd) 1984-85.

Australian Bicentennial Authority Act—Australian Bicentennial Authority—Annual Report (5th) 1984-85, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.

Australian Capital Territory—Joint Committee—Report on Retail Trading Hours in the Australian Capital Territory—Government Response—Statement by the Minister for Territories.

Australian Citizenship Act—Return 1983-84.

Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Australian Institute of Marine Science—Annual Report 1984-85, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.

Australia's Foreign Policy—Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, dated 26 November 1985.

Chicken Meat Research Act—Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee—Annual Report 1984-85.

Commonwealth Electoral Act—Australian Electoral Commission—Elections 1984—Report on election funding and financial disclosure (Interim), dated 30 September 1985.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Annual Report 1984-85.

Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment—Annual Report 1984-85.

Department of Resources and Energy—Annual Report 1984-85.

Department of Science—Annual Report 1984-85.

Department of Trade—Annual Report 1984-85.

Environment—Reports by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment—Objectives, achievements and priorities in environment, conservation and heritage.

State of the Environment in Australia 1985.

Statement by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment on both Reports, dated 25 November 1985.

Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act—Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board—Annual Report 1984-85.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Fertilisers, dated 21 October 1985 (No. 372).

Grain Harvesters and Parts (Bounty Arrangements), dated 28 October 1985 (No. 373).

Medical Research Endowment Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Annual Report 1984.

National Soil Conservation Program—Progress Report 1983-85, by the Department of Primary Industry.

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Annual Report 1984-85, by the Minister for Primary Industry.

Poultry Research Advisory Committee—Report for period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1985.

Science, Technology and the Environment—Standing Committee—Report on the Preservation of the Abbott's Booby on Christmas Island—Government Response—Joint Statement by the Minister for Territories and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment.

Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—Annual Report (15th) 1984-85, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon.

Social Security Act—Department of Social Security—Annual Report 1984-85.

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—Report (5th) of the Australian Government under Article 9 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Statements by Senators: Senator Durack, the Leader of the Australian Democrats (Senator Chipp), Senator Reid and the Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes), by leave, made statements relating to Government Papers tabled this day.

- 7 AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION—APPROVAL OF GUARANTEE:** The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) at the request of the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button) and pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That, for the purpose of sub-section 8A (7) of the *Australian Industry Development Corporation Act 1970*, the Senate approves the giving of a guarantee to the Australian Industry Development Corporation in the terms set out in the Deed of Guarantee presented to the Senate by the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce on 26 November 1985.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Suspension of Standing Orders***: The Chairman of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts (Senator Georges), pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Joint Statutory Committee of Public Accounts meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 27 November 1985.

Question—put and passed.

9 **TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1985**

SOCIAL SECURITY (POVERTY TRAPS REDUCTION) BILL 1985

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY STAMP DUTY AMENDMENT BILL 1985

BANK ACCOUNT DEBITS TAX AMENDMENT BILL 1985

INCOME TAX (COMPANIES, CORPORATE UNIT TRUSTS AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1985

TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 4) 1985—

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

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 222

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to taxation*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 22 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 223

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to social security*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 22 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 224

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Australian Capital Territory Stamp Duty Act 1969', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 22 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 225

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Bank Account Debits Tax Act 1982', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 22 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 226

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Income Tax (Companies, Corporate Unit Trusts and Superannuation Funds) Act 1985', and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 22 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
Speaker

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 231

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to income tax*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 26 November 1985

H. A. JENKINS,
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.

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.

- 10 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—That consideration of Committee Reports pursuant to Sessional Order be not proceeded with this day.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 **VIDEO MATERIAL—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—***Suspension of Standing Orders:* Senator Walters, by leave, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Joint Select Committee on Video Material meeting during the sitting of the Senate on Wednesday, 27 November 1985.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 **STATEMENT BY SENATOR:** Senator Archer, by leave, made a statement relating to the giving of approval for a guarantee to the Australian Industry Development Corporation, considered earlier this day (*see Entry No. 7 above*).

- 13 **HOURS OF MEETING AND PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered—

(1) Government Business take precedence of General Business for the remainder of the present period of sittings.

(2) (a) The hours of meeting of the Senate on Wednesday, 27 November 1985, be—

10 a.m.—12.45 p.m.

2 p.m.—6.30 p.m.

8 p.m.—10.30 p.m.; and

(b) the Sessional Order relating to the adjournment of the Senate have effect at 10.30 p.m. on that day.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 14 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86:** The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the Committee

Schedule 2 further considered.

Group E—

Divisions 575-583, Department of the Special Minister of State, \$243,624,000, further debated.

Paper: The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) tabled the following Paper:

Australian Institute of Sport—A copy of a letter from the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Tourism to Mr P. White M.P., dated 26 November 1985 relating to the Institute becoming a statutory authority.

Votes for the Department of the Special Minister of State further debated and passed without requests.

Divisions 315-319, Department of Foreign Affairs, \$1,129,023,000, debated and passed without requests.

Divisions 230-244, Department of Defence, \$5,739,612,000, debated.

And it being 2 p.m.—

15 QUESTIONS.

16 TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES: The Deputy-President tabled a Warrant withdrawing, at his request, Senator Tate from the panel of Temporary Chairmen of Committees and appointing Senator Giles in his place, as follows:

Pursuant to Standing Order 28A, I hereby withdraw Senator Tate from the panel of Temporary Chairmen of Committees and appoint Senator Giles to the panel.

Given under my hand this twenty-seventh day of November 1985.

DAVID HAMER
Deputy-President

17 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: The Deputy-President informed the Senate that Senator Messner had proposed that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Senate for discussion, viz: "The trade union domination of the Government, particularly on the superannuation issue, to the detriment of the Australian community".

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

The Deputy-President called upon Senator Messner to speak.

Discussion ensued.

Ordered—That the business of the day be called on.

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

18 GOVERNMENT PAPERS—CONSIDERATION: The following Government Paper, tabled earlier this day (*see Entry No. 6 above*), was considered pursuant to Sessional Order:

Department of Resources and Energy—Annual Report 1984-85—Motion to take note of Paper moved by Senator Maguire and debated.

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

19 AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER: Senator Durack, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Australia's Foreign Policy—Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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

20 ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE—REPORTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPERS: The Leader of the National Party of Australia in the

Senate (Senator Collard), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Papers:

Environment—

Report on the objectives, achievements and priorities in environment, conservation and heritage.

State of the Environment in Australia 1985—Report.

Statement by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment on both Reports.

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

- 21 **DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** The Leader of the National Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Collard), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 22 **DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** The Leader of the National Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Collard), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 23 **AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Australian Institute of Marine Science—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 24 **DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Department of Science—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 25 **AUSTRALIAN CHICKEN MEAT RESEARCH COMMITTEE—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 26 **POULTRY RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE—REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 1983 TO 30 JUNE 1985—PAPER:** Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Poultry Research Advisory Committee—Report for period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1985.

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

- 27 **ELECTION FUNDING AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE—INTERIM REPORT—PAPER:**
Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Election Funding and Financial Disclosure—Interim Report by the Australian Electoral Commission.

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

- 28 **POULTRY INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE ACT—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:**
Senator Archer, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 29 **INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—REPORT ON FERTILISERS—PAPER:**
Senator Brownhill, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report on Fertilisers.

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

- 30 **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Brownhill, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Department of Trade—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 31 **INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—REPORT ON GRAIN HARVESTERS AND PARTS (BOUNTY ARRANGEMENTS)—PAPER:** Senator Brownhill, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report on Grain Harvesters and Parts (Bounty Arrangements).

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

- 32 **NATIONAL SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM—PROGRESS REPORT 1983-85—PAPER:** Senator Brownhill, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

National Soil Conservation Program—Progress Report 1983-85.

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

- 33 **AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES BOARD—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Vanstone, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 34 **NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL—ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85—PAPER:** Senator Vanstone, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the following Paper:

National Health and Medical Research Council—Annual Report 1984-85.

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

- 35 **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE ABBOTT'S BOOBY ON CHRISTMAS ISLAND—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** The Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce (Senator Button), by leave, made a statement responding to the Report of the Standing Committee on Science, Technology and the Environment on the Preservation of the Abbott's Booby on Christmas Island, tabled on 2 November 1983.

- 36 **SCRUTINY OF BILLS—STANDING COMMITTEE—16TH REPORT AND 15TH ALERT DIGEST:** The Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Scrutiny of Bills (Senator Tate) tabled the following Report and Paper:

16th Report, dated 27 November 1985.

Alert Digest No. 15, dated 27 November 1985.

Ordered—That the Report be printed.

- 37 **PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—14TH AND 15TH REPORTS OF 1985:** The Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (Senator Foreman) tabled the following Reports:

Fitout of Office Space at Canberra National Convention Centre, Canberra City, for Commonwealth Use (14th Report of 1985).

Telecom Australia, Construction of New Accommodation at Resources Management Centre, Clayton, Victoria (15th Report of 1985).

Ordered to be printed.

- 38 **PAPERS:** The following Papers were tabled:

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 Nos 300, 301.

Audit Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 Nos 302, 303.

Banks (Shareholdings) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 Nos 299, 311.

Commonwealth Employees (Redeployment and Retirement) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 310.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 Nos 305, 306, 308.

Defence Act—Determinations 1985—

No. 69—Attendance Allowance and others.

No. 70—Intermediate Term Duty Living Allowance and others.

No. 71—Field Allowance and Travelling Allowance.

Excise Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 307.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 298.

Registration of Deaths Abroad Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 304.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1985 No. 309.

- 39 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1985-86:** The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the Committee

Schedule 2 further considered.

Group E—

Divisions 230-244, Department of Defence, \$5,739,612,000, further debated and passed without requests.

Group F—

Divisions 690-694, Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$900,732,000, passed without requests.

Divisions 664-668, Department of Transport, \$176,363,000, passed without requests.

Divisions 193-194, Department of Aviation, \$443,734,000, debated and passed without requests.

The following Votes were debated and passed without requests:

Divisions—	\$
620-628 Territories	181,715,000
249 National Capital Development Commission (Defence)	1,331,000

The following Votes were, by leave, taken together and debated:

Divisions—	\$
400-403 Local Government and Administrative Services	535,978,000
250 Rent (Defence)	70,776,000
252 Acquisition of Sites and Buildings (Defence)	41,763,000

Senator Reid moved—That the Committee, having considered the Report of Estimates Committee F, recommends—That the following matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations: The delay in the disposal of the Customs House, Wiltona Hostel, and Rifle Range, Williamstown, Victoria.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Votes further debated and passed without requests.

Schedule 2 passed.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole and passed without requests.

Bill to be reported without requests, but with a Resolution containing a recommendation.

The Deputy-President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Colston) reported that the Committee had considered the Bill and had agreed to the following:

- (1) That the Bill be reported without requests.
- (2) That the Committee, having considered the Reports of Estimates Committees, recommends—That the following matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Finance and Government Operations: The delay in the disposal of the Customs House, Wiltona Hostel, and Rifle Range, Williamstown, Victoria.

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.

40 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 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.

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 resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Colston) 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.

- 41 **ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE 1984-85—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE:** The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Statement.

In the Committee

The Minister for Community Services (Senator Grimes) moved—That the Committee approves the Statement, for the year 1984-85, of the Heads of Expenditure and the amounts charged thereto, pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

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

On the motion of Senator Grimes the Report from the Committee was adopted.

- 42 **ORDER OF BUSINESS—RE-ARRANGEMENT:** The Manager of Government Business (Senator Grimes) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after consideration of Government Business, Order of the Day No. 5 (Veterans' Entitlements Bill 1985; Veterans' Entitlements (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 1985).

Question—put and passed.

43 **VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS BILL 1985**

VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1985:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Gietzelt)—That these Bills be now read a second time.

Senator Lewis moved an amendment, viz: At end of motion, add “, but the Senate—

(a) expresses its concern in relation to:

- (i) the reimposition of the Government's assets test in respect of veterans' service pensions because of its iniquitous impact,
- (ii) the removal of repatriation cover for members of the Defence Force enlisting after the date of commencement of the new legislation without a new military compensation Act being in place,
- (iii) the creation of different levels of entitlement, and categories, in respect of allied veterans and war widows and,
- (iv) the degree of anomaly associated with the retrospectivity implicit in various aspects of the proposed changes; and

(b) calls on the Government to monitor closely the operation of the new legislation because of the significance of the changes and the many new definitions and provisions it introduces into the administration of veterans' affairs”.

Debate ensued.

Senator Peter Rae addressing the Chair—

And it being 10.30 p.m.—

- 44 **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 11.30 p.m. till tomorrow at 10 a.m.

45 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman (on leave), Evans, Hill, McClelland and Withers.

A. R. CUMMING THOM,
Clerk of the Senate