

1968

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 1968

1 The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable W. J. Aston) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR LATE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT BRUCE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that a Memorial Service for the late Right Honourable Viscount Bruce would be held at All Saints Church, Ainslie, A.C.T. at noon on 20 March at which time the ashes of Viscount Bruce would be scattered over Canberra by the Royal Australian Air Force.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Railways Act—Commonwealth Railways Commissioner—Annual Report for year 1966–67.

Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—Fourth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1966–67.

5 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—SALES TAX BILLS: Mr McMahon (Treasurer) moved, pursuant to notice—That, in relation to the proceedings on any Sales Tax Bills, so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent—

(a) the presentation and the first readings of the Bills together;

(b) one motion being moved and one question being put in regard to, respectively, the second readings, the committee's report stage, and the third readings, of all the Bills together, and

(c) the consideration of all the Bills as a whole together in a committee of the whole.

Question—put and passed.

6 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives 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—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Patterson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

7 TOBACCO LEAF STABILISATION PLAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Anthony (Minister for Primary Industry), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the continuation of the Tobacco Leaf Stabilisation Plan.

8 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives 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—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Buchanan), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

9 ARMY INTERROGATION INCIDENT IN VIETNAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Lynch (Minister for the Army), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the circumstances surrounding an Army interrogation incident in Vietnam and stated that no court of inquiry would be appointed to inquire into the matter. Mr Lynch then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Army interrogation incident in Vietnam—Ministerial statement, 14 March 1968.

Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the motion: “but the House is of the opinion that the Government should table the evidence given before and the report made by the major whom the Task Force Commander appointed to investigate the allegations and should commission a judge to inquire into and report on the following matters:

- (1) Whether the prisoner was subjected to torture or inhuman treatment,
- (2) Why reports of her interrogation were classified as secret,
- (3) Why war correspondents who observed or filmed the interrogation were not asked to give evidence before the major,
- (4) Why the matters disclosed to him were not promptly brought to the attention of the Attorney-General and the Minister for the Army”.

Debate continued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Snedden moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Aston, in the Chair)—

AYES, 74

Mr Adermann	Mr Corbett	Mr Hughes	Mr Munro
Mr Allan	Sir J. Cramer	Mr Hulme	Mr Nixon
Mr Anthony	Mr Dobie	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Peacock
Mr Armstrong	Mr Drury	Mr Jarman	Mr Pearsall
Mr Arthur	Mr England	Mr Jess	Mr Pettitt
Mr Barnes	Mr Failes	Mr Jessop	Mr Robinson
Mr Bate	Mr Fairbairn	Mr A. T. Jones	Mr Sinclair
Mr Benson	Mr Fairhall	Mr Katter	Mr Snedden
Mr Bonnett	Mr Forbes	Mr Kelly	Mr St. John
Mr Bosman	Mr Fox	Sir W. Kent Hughes	Mr Stokes
Mr Bowen	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Killen	Mr Street
Mr Bridges-Maxwell	Mr Freeth	Mr King	Mr Swartz
Miss Brownbill	Mr Gibbs	Mr Lee	Mr Turner
Mr Bury	Mr Giles	Mr Lucock	Mr Wentworth
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Gorton	Mr Lynch	Mr Whittorn
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Graham	Mr Mackay	
Mr Chaney	Mr Hasluck	Mr McEwen	
Mr Chipp	Mr Haworth	Mr McLeay	
Mr Cleaver	Mr Holten	Mr McMahan	

Tellers:

Mr G. D. Erwin
Mr Turnbull

NOES, 37

Mr Barnard	Mr Costa	Mr Fulton	Mr Scholes
Mr Beaton	Mr Courtney	Mr Griffiths	Mr Stewart
Mr Beazley	Mr Crean	Mr Hansen	Mr Uren
Mr Birrell	Mr Cross	Mr Hayden	Mr Webb
Mr Bryant	Mr Curtin	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Whitlam
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr Daly	Mr Luchetti	
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Davies	Mr McIvor	
Mr Clark	Mr Devine	Mr Minogue	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Everingham	Mr Nicholls	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr J. R. Fraser	Mr Peters	Mr James

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the amendment be agreed to—being accordingly put—
The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Aston, in the Chair)—

AYES, 37

Mr Barnard	Mr Costa	Mr Fulton	Mr Scholes
Mr Beaton	Mr Courtney	Mr Griffiths	Mr Stewart
Mr Beazley	Mr Crean	Mr Hansen	Mr Uren
Mr Birrell	Mr Cross	Mr Hayden	Mr Webb
Mr Bryant	Mr Curtin	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Whitlam
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr Daly	Mr Luchetti	
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Davies	Mr McIvor	
Mr Clark	Mr Devine	Mr Minogue	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Everingham	Mr Nicholls	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr J. R. Fraser	Mr Peters	Mr James

NOES, 74

Mr Adermann	Mr Corbett	Mr Hughes	Mr Munro
Mr Allan	Sir J. Cramer	Mr Hulme	Mr Nixon
Mr Anthony	Mr Dobie	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Peacock
Mr Armstrong	Mr Drury	Mr Jarman	Mr Pearsall
Mr Arthur	Mr England	Mr Jess	Mr Pettitt
Mr Barnes	Mr Failes	Mr Jessop	Mr Robinson
Mr Bate	Mr Fairbairn	Mr A. T. Jones	Mr Sinclair
Mr Benson	Mr Fairhall	Mr Katter	Mr Snedden
Mr Bonnett	Mr Forbes	Mr Kelly	Mr St. John
Mr Bosman	Mr Fox	Sir W. Kent Hughes	Mr Stokes
Mr Bowen	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Killen	Mr Street
Mr Bridges-Maxwell	Mr Freeth	Mr King	Mr Swartz
Miss Brownbill	Mr Gibbs	Mr Lee	Mr Turner
Mr Bury	Mr Giles	Mr Lucock	Mr Wentworth
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Gorton	Mr Lynch	Mr Whittorn
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Graham	Mr Mackay	
Mr Chaney	Mr Hasluck	Mr McEwen	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Chipp	Mr Haworth	Mr McLeay	Mr G. D. Erwin
Mr Cleaver	Mr Holten	Mr McMahon	Mr Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-eight minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hallett.

A. G. TURNER,
Clerk of the House of Representatives