

1968

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 7

TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 1968

- 1 The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable W. J. Aston) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 3 HELICOPTER ACCIDENT AT BARRACOUTA OFF-SHORE OIL RIG, NEAR SALE, VICTORIA—  
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Swartz (Minister for Civil Aviation), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to an accident which had occurred to Bell 204B Helicopter VH-UTW on 22 March at Barracouta off-shore oil rig, near Sale, Victoria, and informed the House that officers of the Air Safety Investigation Branch of his Department had commenced an investigation into the circumstances of the accident. Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Mackay and Mr Uren, by leave, also made statements with reference to the accident.
- 4 HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA—TRANSFER TO CANBERRA OF PRINCIPAL SEAT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that the Government had approved in principle the transfer to Canberra of the principal seat of the High Court of Australia and had given instructions for the preparation of plans for a prestige building. Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 5 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.  
Question—put and passed.  
*Presentation of Address in Reply:* Mr Speaker informed the House that he had ascertained that His Excellency the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply at Government House at half-past five o'clock p.m. on Thursday, 4 April. Mr Speaker said he would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other honourable Members, would accompany him to present the Address.
- 6 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the House discussing a definite matter of public importance proposed to the Speaker by Mr Barnard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).  
Question—put and passed.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—REPATRIATION BENEFITS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Barnard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's permitting repatriation benefits to fall to their lowest value in history".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Barnard addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, 26 MARCH 1968, AND PAPERS—  
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Hasluck (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement on international affairs with particular reference to Vietnam, the British withdrawal from Malaysia and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

International Affairs—Ministerial statement, 26 March 1968.

Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons—

Draft treaty.

Draft resolution which the United States of America, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom will propose for adoption by the Security Council—

and moved—That the House take note of the papers.

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) speaking without limitation of time.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hughes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Fairhall (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 March 1968, pursuant to statute:

High Commissioner (United Kingdom) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1968, No. 21.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Post Office purposes—Epping, Tasmania.

Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1968, Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42.

Public Service Act—

Appointment—Department of Trade and Industry—T. Watson.

Regulation—Statutory Rules 1968, No. 22.

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

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