

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 42

FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST 1970

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

2 PETITIONS: Mr Stewart presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that this House take immediate steps to increase the base pension rate to 30 per cent of average weekly male earnings.

Petition received and read.

Similar petitions were presented by Mr Armitage, by Mr Scholes and Mr Whittorn, from certain citizens of Victoria, and by Mr Hurford, from certain citizens of South Australia, and were severally received.

Mr Fox presented a petition from certain residents of Victoria praying that the export of products made from kangaroos be banned and that legislation be passed to make the kangaroo a protected animal throughout Australia.

Petition received and read.

Mr Hamer presented a petition from certain residents of Victoria praying that this House (1) immediately ban the export of products made from kangaroos, (2) strongly urge the State governments to ban the shooting of kangaroos for commercial purposes until the select committee has made its recommendations and (3) add to the Constitution a clause empowering the Commonwealth Government to act to safeguard any species of wildlife that is endangered through any cause.

Petition received.

Mr Kennedy presented a petition from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that this House make legal provision for (1) a joint Commonwealth-State inquiry into inequalities in Australian education, (2) the immediate financing of special programmes for low income earners and others and (3) the provision of pre-school opportunities for all children.

Mr Enderby presented a petition from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that this House make legal provision for (1) the allowance of personal education expenses as a taxation deduction, (2) the removal of the present age limit in respect of the deduction for education expenses, (3) an increase in the deduction allowable for tertiary education expenses, (4) an increase in the maintenance allowance for students and (5) the exemption of non-bonded scholarships for part-time students from income tax.

Petitions severally received and read.

A similar petition to that presented by Mr Enderby was presented by Mr Reynolds, and was received.

Mr Berinson presented a petition from certain citizens of Western Australia praying that the House consider the hardship caused to home buyers in that State by the increased interest rates on mortgage contracts which result from the recent increase in the interest rate on Government bonds.

Petition received and read.

Petitions from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that the House give consideration to the reduction of the interest rate on Government bonds to six per cent and the introduction of legislation to protect present and future home buyers were presented by Mr Bennett and Mr Garland.

Petitions severally received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPER: The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Trade Practices Act—Commissioner of Trade Practices—Third Annual Report, for year 1969–70.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING AGREEMENT 1971—NEED FOR JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “ The urgent need to appoint a joint select committee to inquire into and report upon the grants and conditions which the Housing Agreement 1971 should provide for housing, land development and urban environment ”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

7 STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—REPORT DATED 10 JUNE 1970: The order of the day having been read for the further consideration of the report of the Standing Orders Committee brought up on 18 August 1970—

Mr Bryant moved—That a new standing order 29A be inserted, viz.:

“29A.—(a) The following standing committees shall be appointed as early as possible after the adoption of this standing order and at the commencement of each subsequent Parliament:

- (i) The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence;
 - (ii) The Standing Committee on Finance and Trade;
 - (iii) The Standing Committee on Health and Welfare;
 - (iv) The Standing Committee on Primary Industry and National Development;
 - (v) The Standing Committee on Transport and Communications;
 - (vi) The Standing Committee on Education, Science and the Arts; and
 - (vii) The Standing Committee on Legal, Home and Internal Territory Affairs,
- to which the House may refer, on motion, for inquiry and report, any Bill, motion, vote or expenditure, message, petition, report or other matter which has come before the House or any other matter coming within the field of Commonwealth Government responsibility.

(b) Each committee shall consist of a Chairman, appointed by the Prime Minister, and a nucleus of eleven Members, six to be appointed by the Prime Minister and five to be appointed by the Leader of the Opposition.

(c) By agreement between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, up to six additional Members may, having regard to their special knowledge and qualifications, be appointed to a committee during the consideration of a particular matter.

(d) Every appointment of a member of a committee shall be forthwith notified in writing to the Speaker.

(e) The Chairman shall have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, also have a casting vote.

(f) The Chairman of a committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the committee to be Deputy Chairman, and the member so appointed shall act as Chairman of the committee at any time when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee.

(g) In a committee appointed under this standing order, five shall form a quorum, unless otherwise ordered.

(h) Each committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members; and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine. The quorum of a sub-committee shall be a majority of the members appointed to the sub-committee.

(i) Each committee, or any sub-committee, shall have power to send for persons (excepting Ministers of State), papers and records, to move from place to place, and to sit during any recess of the Parliament.

(j) Each committee shall have leave to report from time to time its proceedings with or without the evidence, or the evidence only.

(k) Except where otherwise provided in this standing order, the standing orders relating to select committees shall apply to a committee appointed under this standing order."

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

8 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—NEW DELHI CONFERENCE, 1969—REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION—PAPER NOTED: Mr Birrell, by leave, presented the following paper:

Inter-Parliamentary Union—Fifty-seventh Conference, New Delhi, India, October–November 1969—Report of the Australian Delegation—
and moved, by leave—That the House take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

9 ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN TELESCOPE AGREEMENT BILL 1970: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Forbes (Acting Minister for Education and Science), the Bill was read a third time.

10 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos 3 and 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

11 BOOK BOUNTY BILL 1970: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

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

12 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Hughes (Attorney-General) moved—That the House do now adjourn. Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-nine minutes to four 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 Adermann, Mr Barnard, Mr Barnes, Mr N. H. Bowen, Mr Buchanan, Mr Chipp, Mr Connor, Mr Fulton, Mr Hulme, Mr Jarman, Mr Jess, Mr Katter, Mr Kirwan and Mr Nicholls.

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