

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 89

WEDNESDAY, 31 MARCH 1971

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- 1 The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Sir William Aston) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 PETITIONS: Mr Daly presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House take immediate steps to ensure that emergency finance from the Commonwealth will be given to the States for their public education services which provide schooling for 78 per cent of Australia's children.
Mr Foster presented a petition from certain citizens of South Australia praying that the export of all kangaroo products, including pet foods and furs, be banned immediately.
Petitions severally received and read.
Similar petitions to that presented by Mr Foster were presented by Mr Birrell and Mr Jacobi, and were severally received.
Mr FitzPatrick presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that, in respect of taxation concessions, the Government will take immediate steps to (1) investigate the location of Zone A and Zone B areas so that towns of equal isolation and cost factor will receive the same Zone concession, (2) investigate with a view to increasing the amount of concession entitlement for Zone B and (3) amend the Income Tax Assessment Act so that travel and accommodation expenses be allowable deductions when there is a requirement to travel from isolated areas to cities for specialist medical treatment.
Petition received and read.
 - 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
 - 4 PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
Teaching of Asian languages and cultures in Australia—Report of Commonwealth Advisory Committee.
Mr Fairbairn (Minister for Education and Science), by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report.
Mr Beazley, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
 - 5 WODEN VALLEY FLOOD—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—PAPER NOTED: Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the inquiries and reports which followed the flood in the Woden Valley of the Australian Capital Territory on the night of 26 January 1971, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Woden Valley flood, 26 January 1971—Ministerial statement, 31 March 1971—and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Hunt, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, also presented the following papers:

Woden Valley flood, 26 January 1971—

Coroner's statement and findings.

Report by the Department of the Interior, and Report by the National Capital Development Commission.

Mr Enderby, by leave, made a statement with reference to the ministerial statement.

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

6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

30 March 1971—Message No. 137—Loan (Australian Wheat Board) 1971.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—THE ENVIRONMENT: 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 Government's delay in acting on recommendations it has received and undertakings it has given to safeguard the environment".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Mr Foster rising to address the House—

Mr Giles moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

8 COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL BILL 1971: Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918–1966.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

9 SENATE ELECTIONS BILL 1971: Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Form of Nomination of Senators.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

10 REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) BILL 1971: Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act* 1906–1966.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

11 SOCIAL SERVICES BILL 1971: 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 by Mr Hayden who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof: "while not opposing the Bill, the House is of the opinion that—

(1) the increases proposed are inadequate,

(2) social service payments generally are inadequate to maintain an acceptable standard of living,

- (3) steps should be taken immediately to eliminate poverty,
- (4) a national superannuation system should be established and the means test eliminated,
- (5) pension payments should be a proportion of average weekly earnings adjusted annually and
- (6) the subject of social services should be referred to a select committee of this House".

Debate continued.

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

12 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Wentworth (Minister for Social Services) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

THURSDAY, 1 APRIL 1971

Debate continued.

Mr Daly rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until this day at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 March 1971: by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Treaties—Text of—

- (1) Sixth Proce-Verbal extending the Declaration on the Provisional Accession of Tunisia to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, drawn up at Geneva on 16 December 1969 and signed for Australia on 11 March 1970.
- (2) Fifth Proce-Verbal extending the Declaration on the Provisional Accession of the United Arab Republic to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, drawn up at Geneva on 16 December 1969 and signed for Australia on 11 March 1970.
- (3) Agreement between Australia and the European Space Research Organisation for the provision and operation of trials facilities at Woomera for launching Skylark rockets, signed at Paris on 13 October 1970.
- (4) Exchange of Notes amending the Agreement between Australia and France relating to air transport, signed at Paris on 7 January 1971.
- (5) Protocol extending the Arrangement regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles (1962), signed at Geneva on 15 June 1970—Instrument of Acceptance deposited by Australia on 21 October 1970.
- (6) Asian-Oceanic Postal Convention and Protocol, signed at Kyoto on 17 November 1970.

Pursuant to statute:

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for defence purposes—Canungra, Queensland.

Papua and New Guinea Act—Ordinance—1971—No. 13—Appropriation (No. 2) 1970-71.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bonnett, Mr Calwell, Mr Corbett, Mr A. D. Fraser, Mr McIvor and Mr Sherry.

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