

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 106

WEDNESDAY, 18 AUGUST 1971

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

2 PETITIONS: Mr Klugman presented a petition from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that the sales tax and customs duties on all forms of contraceptive devices be removed, and that all contraceptive devices be placed on the National Health Scheme Pharmaceutical Benefits list.

Petition received and read.

A similar petition was presented by Mr Calwell, and was received.

Mr Reynolds presented a petition from certain electors of Australia praying that the Government revise its interpretation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 relating to chemical agents of warfare, and declare that it regards all chemical substances employed for their toxic effects on man, animals or plants, as being included in the prohibitions laid down by that Protocol.

Petition received and read.

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

Mr Enderby presented a petition from certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory praying that a Committee of Inquiry, on which are represented the Department of Education and Science, institutions of tertiary education, practising educators, and the Canberra community, be instituted to inquire into the form that an Australian Capital Territory Education Authority should take, the educational principles and philosophy that should underly it, and its mode of operation and administration.

Mr Barnard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) 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.

Similar petitions to that presented by Mr Barnard were presented by Mr Crean, Mr Webb and Mr Keating, and were severally received.

Mr Hamer presented a petition from certain residents of Victoria praying that the Commonwealth Government will take immediate steps to include qualified psychologists in the National Health Scheme.

Mr Cass 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.

Petitions severally received.

Mr Scholes presented a petition from certain citizens of Victoria 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.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: Mr Speaker presented, pursuant to statute:

Audit Act—Finance—Report of the Auditor-General for year 1970–71, accompanied by the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Speaker presented the following papers:

Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Parliaments of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Papua and New Guinea and Western Samoa—Report of Fourth Conference, Parliament Chamber, Fiji, 22 to 24 June 1971.

Australian Parliamentary Mission—Report of visit to the Council of Europe, Turkey, France, Belgium, Britain and Yugoslavia of mission led by the Hon. Sir William Aston, K.C.M.G., M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Senator the Hon. Sir Kenneth Anderson, Minister for Supply, 9 January to 12 February 1971.

The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Dairy Produce Board—Interim Annual Report, for year 1970–71.

Australian Meat Research Committee—Interim Annual Report, for year 1970–71.

Department of Supply—Report for year 1970–71.

New Guinea—Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on administration of New Guinea for year 1969–70.

Papua—Report for year 1969–70.

United Nations—General Assembly—Twenty-fifth Session, New York, 15 September to 17 December 1970—Report of the Australian Delegation.

The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—Twenty-third Annual Report, for year 1969–70.

Wheat Research Act—Thirteenth Annual Report, for 1970.

5 ADVANCE TO THE TREASURER 1970–71—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE: Mr Snedden (Treasurer), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Advance to the Treasurer for year 1970–71—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act* 1901–1969.

Ordered—That the statement be taken into consideration in committee of the whole House at the next sitting.

6 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

7 May 1971—Message No. 155—Northern Territory Railway Extension 1971.

11 May 1971—Message—

No. 156—International Development Association (Further Payment) 1971.

No. 157—Pig Industry Research 1971.

No. 158—Pig Slaughter Levy 1971 (*without requests*).

No. 159—Pig Slaughter Levy Collection 1971.

No. 160—Loans (Qantas Airways Limited) 1971.

No. 161—Loan 1971.

No. 162—Papua and New Guinea Loan (International Bank) 1971.

12 May 1971—Message—

No. 163—Ministers of State 1971.

No. 164—International Tin Agreement 1971.

No. 165—Supply (No. 1) 1971–72 (*without requests*).

No. 166—Export Payments Insurance Corporation 1971.

No. 167—International Wheat Agreement 1971.

No. 168—States Grants (Pre-school Teachers Colleges) 1971.

No. 169—States Grants (Technical Training) 1971.

No. 170—States Grants (Universities) 1971.

- 13 May 1971—Message—
 No. 171—States Grants (Housing Assistance) 1971.
 No. 172—Supply (No. 2) 1971–72.
 No. 173—Customs Tariff 1971 (*without requests*).
 No. 174—Customs Tariff (Validation) 1971 (*without requests*).
- 14 May 1971—Message No. 176—States Grants (Rural Reconstruction) 1971.
- 18 May 1971—Message—
 No. 177—Loan (Farmers' Debt Adjustment) 1971.
 No. 178—Stevedoring Industry Charge Assessment 1971.
 No. 179—Papua and New Guinea 1971.
 No. 180—Income Tax Assessment (No. 2) 1971.
 No. 181—Income Tax (Withholding Tax Recoupment) 1971 (*without requests*).
 No. 182—Income Tax (Bearer Debentures) 1971 (*without requests*).
 No. 183—States Grants 1971.
- 19 May 1971—Message—
 No. 184—Trade Practices 1971.
 No. 185—Wool Industry 1971.
 No. 186—States Grants (Science Laboratories) 1971.
 No. 187—Victoria Grant (Shepparton Preserving Company Limited) 1971.
- 20 May 1971—Message—
 No. 188—Compensation (Commonwealth Employees) 1971.
 No. 189—United States Naval Communication Station (Civilian Employees) 1971.
 No. 190—Air Accidents (Commonwealth Liability) 1971.
 No. 191—Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement 1971.
 No. 192—Seamen's Compensation 1971.
 No. 193—Superannuation 1971.
 No. 194—Defence Forces Retirement Benefits 1971.

7 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

- 13 May 1971—Message No. 135—
 Northern Territory Railway Extension 1971.
 Public Order (Protection of Persons and Property) 1971.
 Papua and New Guinea Loan (International Bank) 1971.
- 17 May 1971—Message No. 136—
 Pig Slaughter Levy 1971.
 Pig Slaughter Levy Collection 1971.
 Pig Industry Research 1971.
 International Tin Agreement 1971.
 States Grants (Pre-school Teachers Colleges) 1971.
 Export Payments Insurance Corporation 1971.
 International Development Association (Further Payment) 1971.
 Loans (Qantas Airways Limited) 1971.
 Loan 1971.
- 18 May 1971—Message No. 137—
 States Grants (Technical Training) 1971.
 Customs Tariff 1971.
 International Wheat Agreement 1971.
 States Grants (Housing Assistance) 1971.
 Supply (No. 1) 1971–72.
 Supply (No. 2) 1971–72.
 Ministers of State 1971.
 States Grants (Universities) 1971.
- 20 May 1971—Message No. 138—Customs Tariff Validation 1971.

25 May 1971—Message No. 139—

- Superannuation 1971.
- Defence Forces Retirement Benefits 1971.
- Compensation (Commonwealth Employees) 1971.
- United States Naval Communication Station (Civilian Employees) 1971.
- Air Accidents (Commonwealth Liability) 1971.
- Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement 1971.
- Seamen's Compensation 1971.
- Wool Industry 1971.
- Income Tax Assessment (No. 2) 1971.
- Income Tax (Bearer Debentures) 1971.
- Income Tax (Withholding Tax Recoupment) 1971.
- Trade Practices 1971.
- Papua and New Guinea 1971.
- Stevedoring Industry Charge 1971.
- Stevedoring Industry Charge Assessment 1971.
- States Grants (Rural Reconstruction) 1971.
- Loan (Farmers' Debt Adjustment) 1971.
- Victoria Grant (Shepparton Preserving Company Limited) 1971.
- States Grants 1971.
- States Grants (Science Laboratories) 1971.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NEW SOUTH WALES GRANT (FLOOD MITIGATION) BILL 1971: The following message from the Senate was reported:

MR SPEAKER,

Message No. 175

Pursuant to a Resolution passed this day the Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolution agreed to by the Senate on 16 March 1971 during consideration of the Bill for "*An Act to grant Financial Assistance to the State of New South Wales for the purpose of Flood Mitigation Works in relation to certain Rivers*":

"That this Bill be now read a second time, but the Senate whilst welcoming the proposal for the purpose of flood mitigation works in New South Wales, is of the opinion that the assistance offered is inadequate and should form part of a larger scheme to deal with national disasters and that, accordingly, a joint select committee of the Parliament should be appointed to inquire into the practicability of the establishment of a national disaster organisation."

T. L. BULL,
Deputy President

The Senate,
Canberra, 13 May 1971

Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) and Mr Patterson, by leave, made statements concerning the procedure to be followed in dealing with the message.

Suspension of standing orders moved—Motion without notice: Mr Whitlam moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent him moving forthwith a motion that a joint select committee be established to inquire into and report upon the practicability of the establishment of a national disaster organisation, and the House voting thereon without adjournment.

Debate ensued.

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

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 61

Sir C. Adermann	Mr Drury	Mr Jarman	Mr Reid
Mr Anthony	Mr England	Mr Jess	Mr Robinson
Mr Barnes	Mr G. D. Erwin	Mr Katter	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bate	Mr Fairbairn	Mr Kelly	Mr Snedden
Mr Bonnett	Mr Forbes	Mr Killen	Mr Solomon
Mr N. H. Bowen	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Lloyd	Mr Staley
Mr Brown	Mr Garland	Mr Lucock	Mr Street
Mr Buchanan	Mr Giles	Mr Lynch	Mr Swartz
Mr Bury	Mr Gorton	Mr Mackay	Mr Turner
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr MacKellar	Mr Wentworth
Mr Calder	Mr Hallett	Mr Maisey	Mr Whittorn
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hamer	Mr McMahon	
Mr Chipp	Mr Howson	Mr Nixon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Corbett	Mr Hughes	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Fox
Sir J. Cramer	Sir A. Hulme	Mr Peacock	Mr Turnbull
Mr Dobie	Mr Hunt	Mr Pettitt	

NOES, 53

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Hurford	Mr Patterson
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jacobi	Mr Reynolds
Mr Beazley	Mr Daly	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Scholes
Mr Bennett	Mr Davies	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Sherry
Mr Berinson	Mr Enderby	Mr Jones	Mr Stewart
Mr Birrell	Mr Everingham	Mr Keating	Mr Uren
Mr L. F. Bowen	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Kennedy	Mr Wallis
Mr Bryant	Mr Foster	Mr Keogh	Mr Webb
Mr Calwell	Mr A. D. Fraser	Mr Kirwan	Mr Whitlam
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Garrick	Mr Klugman	
Mr Cohen	Mr Grassby	Mr Luchetti	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Collard	Mr Griffiths	Mr Martin	Mr Duthie
Mr Connor	Mr Gun	Mr McIvor	Mr James
Mr Cope	Mr Hansen	Mr Morrison	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 54

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Hurford	Mr Nicholls
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jacobi	Mr Patterson
Mr Beazley	Mr Daly	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Reynolds
Mr Bennett	Mr Davies	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Scholes
Mr Berinson	Mr Enderby	Mr Jones	Mr Sherry
Mr Birrell	Mr Everingham	Mr Keating	Mr Stewart
Mr L. F. Bowen	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Kennedy	Mr Uren
Mr Bryant	Mr Foster	Mr Keogh	Mr Wallis
Mr Calwell	Mr A. D. Fraser	Mr Kirwan	Mr Webb
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Garrick	Mr Klugman	Mr Whitlam
Mr Cohen	Mr Grassby	Mr Luchetti	
Mr Collard	Mr Griffiths	Mr Martin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Gun	Mr McIvor	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr Hansen	Mr Morrison	Mr James

NOES, 61

Sir C. Adermann	Mr Drury	Mr Jarman	Mr Reid
Mr Anthony	Mr England	Mr Jess	Mr Robinson
Mr Barnes	Mr G. D. Erwin	Mr Katter	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bate	Mr Fairbairn	Mr Kelly	Mr Snedden
Mr Bonnett	Mr Forbes	Mr Killen	Mr Solomon
Mr N. H. Bowen	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Lloyd	Mr Staley
Mr Brown	Mr Garland	Mr Luccock	Mr Street
Mr Buchanan	Mr Giles	Mr Lynch	Mr Swartz
Mr Bury	Mr Gorton	Mr Mackay	Mr Turner
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr MacKellar	Mr Wentworth
Mr Calder	Mr Hallett	Mr Maisey	Mr Whittorn
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hamer	Mr McMahan	
Mr Chipp	Mr Howson	Mr Nixon	
Mr Corbett	Mr Hughes	Mr O'Keefe	
Sir J. Cramer	Sir A. Hulme	Mr Peacock	
Mr Dobie	Mr Hunt	Mr Pettitt	

Tellers:

Mr Fox
Mr Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr Kelly (Chairman) brought up the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Final report relating to the proposed construction of a Community College at Darwin (Sixth report of 1971).

Final report relating to the proposed redevelopment of Alice Springs Hospital, N.T. (Seventh report of 1971).

Report relating to the proposed construction of Northern Territory development roads (1971 reference) (Eighth report of 1971).

Report relating to the proposed construction of a tactical trainer building at H.M.A.S. *Watson*, South Head, Sydney (Ninth report of 1971).

Report relating to the proposed construction of a communications building at Bendigo, Vic. (Tenth report of 1971).

Severally ordered to be printed.

10 FOREIGN AFFAIRS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr N. H. Bowen (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement on foreign affairs, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Foreign Affairs—Ministerial statement, 18 August 1971.

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

Debate adjourned (Mr Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 JERVIS BAY NUCLEAR POWER STATION PROJECT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Swartz (Minister for National Development), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's deferment of a decision on the proposal to construct Australia's first nuclear power station at Jervis Bay, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Jervis Bay nuclear power station project—Ministerial statement, 18 August 1971.

Mr Garland (Minister for Supply) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Stewart moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof: "a select committee of this House be appointed to inquire into and report on the uses of nuclear power in relation to—

(a) the projected power needs of the Commonwealth,

(b) the comparative advantage derived from generating power in this way as against all other sources now being employed,

(c) the effects of the establishment of a nuclear power station upon the environment,

- (d) administrative procedures and regulations adopted elsewhere to lessen any undesirable effects of the operation of such a station to ensure the utmost protection of members of the public and the national interest,
- (e) the desirability of establishing a nuclear power station at this time pending the outcome of further technological developments taking place elsewhere and
- (f) any related matter".

Debate continued.

Mr Bate was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

- 12 AUSTRALIAN FORCES IN VIETNAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr McMahon (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement regarding the future of Australian forces in Vietnam, proposed changes in the national service scheme, and the strength of the full-time Army, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Australian forces in Vietnam—Ministerial statement, 18 August 1971.

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

During the speech by Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) Mr McMahon, by leave, made reference to a letter referred to by Mr Whitlam.

Ordered—That Mr Whitlam be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PEACE IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT—NEED FOR AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Beazley had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The need for Australian initiatives to assist the cause of peace in the Indian sub-continent".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Beazley addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr N. H. Bowen (Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

THURSDAY, 19 AUGUST 1971

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. F. Cairns, Mr Fulton, Mr Hayden, Mr Jenkins and Mr King.

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