

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 149

WEDNESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 1972

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- 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 **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the following delegation leaders attending the South Pacific Forum were present in the gallery: The Honourable Albert Henry, Premier of the Cook Islands; the Honourable Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, K.B.E., Prime Minister of Fiji; His Excellency President Hammer De Roburt, O.B.E., President of the Republic of Nauru; His Royal Highness Prince Tu'ipelehake, O.B.E., Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Tonga; the Honourable Tupua Tamasese Lealofi IV, Prime Minister of the Sovereign State of Western Samoa, and the Right Honourable Sir Keith Holyoake, G.C.M.G., C.H., Minister for Foreign Affairs, New Zealand. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a warm welcome.
  - 3 **PETITIONS:** Mr Enderby presented a petition from certain citizens of the community of the Australian National University praying that the Government take immediate action to introduce in order of priority (1) universal Commonwealth scholarships, (2) Commonwealth scholarships on the basis of need rather than academic ability and (3) the abolition of tertiary fees.  
Mr Kelly presented a petition from certain electors of the Division of Wakefield praying that section twenty-six of the National Service Act be repealed.  
Petitions severally received.
  - 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
  - 5 **PAPER—CALL FOR TABLING:** Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), in accordance with standing order 321, having required that a letter quoted from by Mr McMahon (Prime Minister) yesterday be laid on the Table, and Mr McMahon having stated that the letter was of a private and confidential nature and not having tabled the letter—  
Mr Whitlam claimed that the document concerned public affairs and that under the standing order he was entitled to require that the document be tabled.  
*Speaker's ruling:* Mr Speaker stated that the matter should have been raised at the time when the document was quoted and that the rule for the laying of cited documents could not be held to apply to private letters or memoranda. He ruled that there could be no requirement to table the document.  
*Dissent from ruling moved:* Mr Whitlam moved—That the ruling be dissented from.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr C. R. Cameron 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.

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

## AYES, 56

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

*Tellers:*

Mr Fox  
Sir W. Turnbull

## NOES, 52

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Hurford	Mr Patterson
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jacobi	Mr Reynolds
Mr Bennett	Mr Daly	Mr Jenkins	Mr Scholes
Mr Berinson	Mr Davies	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Sherry
Mr Birrell	Mr Enderby	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Stewart
Mr Bryant	Mr Everingham	Mr Jones	Mr Uren
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr Calwell	Mr Foster	Mr Kennedy	Mr Webb
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Fulton	Mr Keogh	
Mr Cass	Mr Garrick	Mr Kirwan	
Mr Cohen	Mr Grassby	Mr Klugman	
Mr Collard	Mr Gun	Mr Luchetti	
Mr Connor	Mr Hansen	Mr Martin	
Mr Cope	Mr Hayden	Mr Nicholls	

*Tellers:*

Mr Duthie  
Mr James

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the ruling be dissented from—being accordingly put—  
The House divided (the Speaker, Sir William Aston, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 53

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Hurford	Mr Patterson
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jacobi	Mr Reynolds
Mr Bennett	Mr Daly	Mr Jenkins	Mr Scholes
Mr Berinson	Mr Davies	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Sherry
Mr Birrell	Mr Enderby	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Stewart
Mr Bryant	Mr Everingham	Mr Jones	Mr Uren
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr Calwell	Mr Foster	Mr Kennedy	Mr Webb
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Fulton	Mr Keogh	Mr Whitlam
Mr Cass	Mr Garrick	Mr Kirwan	
Mr Cohen	Mr Grassby	Mr Klugman	
Mr Collard	Mr Gun	Mr Luchetti	
Mr Connor	Mr Hansen	Mr Martin	
Mr Cope	Mr Hayden	Mr Nicholls	

*Tellers:*

Mr Duthie  
Mr James

## NOES, 57

Sir C. Adermann	Mr G. D. Erwin	Mr Jarman	Mr Reid
Mr Barnes	Mr Fairbairn	Mr Jess	Mr Robinson
Mr Bate	Mr Forbes	Mr Katter	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bonnett	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Kelly	Mr Snedden
Mr Brown	Mr Garland	Mr Killen	Mr Solomon
Mr Buchanan	Mr Giles	Mr King	Mr Street
Mr Bury	Mr Gorton	Mr Lloyd	Mr Swartz
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Hallett	Mr Lynch	Mr Turner
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hamer	Mr Maisey	Mr Wentworth
Mr Chipp	Mr Holten	Mr McLeay	Mr Whittorn
Mr Corbett	Mr Howson	Mr McMahon	
Sir J. Cramer	Mr Hughes	Mr Nixon	
Mr Dobie	Sir A. Hulme	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr Drury	Mr Hunt	Mr Peacock	
Mr England	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Pettitt	

*Tellers:*

Mr Fox  
Sir W. Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

- 6 PAPERS: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
- Marine Science in Australia—Report of the Interim Council of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, dated July 1971.
- The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:
- Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act—Report of the Commonwealth Actuary on the Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Fund as at 30 June 1970.
- Superannuation Act—Superannuation Board—Forty-eighth Annual Report, for year 1969–70.
- 7 HIGH DUTY GOODS—PRE-BUDGET SPECULATIVE CLEARANCES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Chipp (Minister for Customs and Excise), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning pre-budget speculative clearances of high duty goods, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
- High duty goods—Pre-budget speculative clearances—Ministerial statement, 23 February 1972.
- Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
- Debate ensued.
- Question—put and passed.
- 8 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPERS NOTED: Mr Howson (Minister for the Environment, Aborigines and the Arts), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning Aboriginal land rights, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
- Australian Aborigines—Commonwealth Policy and Achievements—Statement by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable William McMahon, C.H., M.P., 26 January 1972.
- Aboriginal land rights—Ministerial statement, 23 February 1972.
- Mr Garland (Minister for Supply) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
- Debate ensued.
- Ordered—That Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.
- Ordered—That Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior) be granted an extension of time.
- Debate continued.
- Question—put and passed.
- 9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: Message No. 271, dated 22 February 1972, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the resignation of Senator Cant from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.
- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—POST OFFICE CLOSURES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Bate had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The urgent need for the Postmaster-General's Department to discontinue the closure of small post offices, except where no replacements can be found for resignations, until a parliamentary committee examines the whole question".
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
- Mr Bate addressed the House.
- Discussion ensued.
- Suspension of standing orders moved—Motion without notice:* Mr Patterson moved—
- That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a motion being moved that the closure of small post offices be discontinued until a select parliamentary committee inquires into and reports upon the issue.
- Debate ensued on the motion to suspend the standing orders.
- Closure:* Sir Alan Hulme (Postmaster-General) moved—That the question be now put.
- Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.
- And the question—That the motion for the suspension of the standing orders be agreed to—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 49			
Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Hayden	Mr Patterson
Mr Bate	Mr Cross	Mr Hurford	Mr Reynolds
Mr Barnard	Mr Daly	Mr Jacobi	Mr Scholes
Mr Bennett	Mr Davies	Mr Jenkins	Mr Sherry
Mr Berinson	Mr Enderby	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Stewart
Mr Birrell	Mr Everingham	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Uren
Mr Bryant	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Jones	Mr Wallis
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr Foster	Mr Keating	Mr Webb
Mr Cass	Mr Fulton	Mr Kennedy	
Mr Cohen	Mr Garrick	Mr Keogh	
Mr Collard	Mr Grassby	Mr Kirwan	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Gun	Mr Klugman	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr Hansen	Mr Luchetti	Mr James
NOES, 54			
Sir C. Adermann	Mr England	Mr Jess	Mr Reid
Mr Anthony	Mr G. D. Erwin	Mr Katter	Mr Robinson
Mr Barnes	Mr Fairbairn	Mr Kelly	Mr Sinclair
Mr N. H. Bowen	Mr Forbes	Mr Killen	Mr Snedden
Mr Brown	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr King	Mr Solomon
Mr Buchanan	Mr Garland	Mr Lloyd	Mr Street
Mr Bury	Mr Hallett	Mr Lucock	Mr Swartz
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Hamer	Mr Lynch	Mr Turner
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Holten	Mr Maisey	Mr Wentworth
Mr Chipp	Mr Howson	Mr McLeay	Mr Whittorn
Mr Corbett	Mr Hughes	Mr Nixon	
Sir J. Cramer	Sir A. Hulme	Mr O'Keefe	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Dobie	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Peacock	Mr Fox
Mr Drury	Mr Jarman	Mr Pettitt	Sir W. Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

Discussion of the matter of public importance concluded.

- 11 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 1 TO 3 (1972): Mr Chipp (Minister for Customs and Excise) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 to 3 (1972).

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

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

Tariff Board—Reports—

Diacetone alcohol and certain derivatives thereof (Dumping and Subsidies Act).

Mining, metallurgical etc., machinery.

Polyester yarn and tow (Dumping and Subsidies Act).

Shotgun and rim-fire cartridges (Dumping and Subsidies Act).

Steam engines, boilers and power units.

Tetraethyl-lead, tetramethyl-lead and anti-knock preparations based on tetraethyl-lead or tetramethyl-lead.

Yeast.

Severally ordered to be printed.

- 13 DISCHARGE OF TARIFF PROPOSALS: Mr Chipp (Minister for Customs and Excise) moved, by leave—That the following Tariff Proposals, constituting part of order of the day No. 58, government business, be discharged—

Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 11 to 17 (1971); and

Excise Tariff Proposals No. 1 (1971).

Question—put and passed.

- 14 CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL 1972: Mr Chipp (Minister for Customs and Excise) presented a Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Customs.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 15 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1972 [No. 2]: Mr Snedden (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Law relating to Income Tax in respect of a Special Deduction for Investment in Manufacturing Plant.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Snedden moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Crean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1972: Mr Swartz (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Promotions Appeals in the Public Service of the Commonwealth.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Swartz moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Crean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION BILL 1972: Sir Alan Hulme (Postmaster-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Broadcasting and Television.  
Bill read a first time.  
Sir Alan Hulme moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES BILL 1972: Sir Alan Hulme (Postmaster-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Act 1964–1966*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Sir Alan Hulme moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 19 TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES BILL 1972: Sir Alan Hulme (Postmaster-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Television Stations Licence Fees Act 1964–1966*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Sir Alan Hulme moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 STATES GRANTS (INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS) BILL 1972: Mr J. M. Fraser (Minister for Education and Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Grant of Financial Assistance to the States in relation to Independent Schools.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Fraser moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 21 COMMONWEALTH TEACHING SERVICE BILL 1972: Mr J. M. Fraser (Minister for Education and Science), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish a Commonwealth Teaching Service.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Fraser moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: Message No. 272, dated 23 February 1972, from the Senate was reported acquainting the House of the appointment of Senator Poyser to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

23 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Chipp (Deputy Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 February 1972, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—G. A. J. Langshaw.

Lands Acquisition Act—Easement acquired for civil aviation purposes—Flakney, New South Wales.

Papua New Guinea Act—Ordinances—1972—

No. 6—Public Service (Further Amendment) 1971.

No. 7—Papua New Guinea Harbours Board (Property) 1971.

No. 8—Superannuation (Amendment) 1971.

No. 9—Teaching Service 1971.

No. 10—Public Service (Teaching Service) 1971.

No. 11—Public Service (Promotion and Recruitment Procedures) 1971.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Mr L. F. Bowen, Mr Calder, Mr Graham, Mr Mackay, Mr MacKellar and Mr Morrison.

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N. J. PARKES,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives