

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 162

TUESDAY, 11 APRIL 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 **PETITIONS:** Mr Katter (Minister for the Army), Mr Garland (Minister for Supply), Mr Street, Mr King, Mr Bonnett, Mr Brown, Mr A. D. Fraser, Sir Winton Turnbull, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Maisey, Mr Webb, Mr McIvor and Mr Grassby each presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House will take immediate steps to call a halt to the closing of post offices and the reorganisation of the Post Office and initiate a joint parliamentary inquiry into the Postmaster-General's Department.

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.

Petitions severally received.

Mr McIvor also presented a petition from certain citizens of Victoria praying that the House will direct the Department of the Army to take immediate steps to eradicate the infestation of snakes occurring on the Merrett Rifle Range, Kororoit Creek Road, in the City of Williamstown.

Petition received and read.

Mr Enderby also presented a petition from certain citizens of the Australian Capital Territory praying that the words "or for preventing conception" be deleted from subsection (1.) of section 46 of the A.C.T. Pharmacy Ordinance.

Mr Whittorn, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Reynolds and Mr McIvor each presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government will immediately enact legislation providing for a base pension rate of 30 per cent of average weekly male earnings and other health and social service changes and initiate a public inquiry into Australia's social welfare structure.

Petitions severally received.

3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

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

Papua New Guinea Loan (Asian Development Bank) Bill 1972—Text of letter of assurances given by the Commonwealth in connection with the loan.

United Nations—General Assembly—Twenty-sixth Session, New York, 21 September to 22 December 1971—Report of the Australian Delegation.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

River Murray Waters Act—River Murray Commission—Report for year 1970-71.

- 5 **NON-PAYMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PRESENTATION OF PAPER:** Mr Wentworth (Minister for Social Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement in answer to a question asked earlier by Mr Fox regarding authority for non-payment of unemployment benefits in certain circumstances associated with strikes, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
Copy of letter, dated 12 May 1948, from the then Minister for Social Services to the Director-General of Social Services.
- 6 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL:** A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:  
30 March 1972—Message No. 204—Australian Capital Territory Evidence (Temporary Provisions) 1972.

- 7 **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—SIXTEENTH REPORT:** Mr G. D. Erwin (Chairman) brought up the Sixteenth Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The Report is as follows:

#### SIXTEENTH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the meeting of the Committee on 9 March 1972, recommends that the following be printed:

Australian Defence Review.

Independent schools in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory—Statement of Commonwealth per capita grants payments for 1971.

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Chairman

Mr Erwin moved, by leave—That the report be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COMPANY TAKEOVERS:** Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Jones and Mr MacKellar had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Jones, namely, "The Government's failure to introduce laws with respect to the takeover of companies, particularly where such companies operate under government franchises and guarantees".  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Jones addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
- 9 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 10 **CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL (No. 2) 1972:** 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 Chipp (Minister for Customs and Excise), the Bill was read a third time.

11 ECONOMIC POLICY MANAGEMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Snedden (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the Government's economic policy management, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Economic policy management—Ministerial statement, 11 April 1972.

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

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

12 INCOME TAX (REDUCTION OF ADDITIONAL TAX) BILL 1972: Mr Snedden (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend sections 8 and 12 of the *Income Tax Act* 1971. Bill read a first time.

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

Debate, by leave, ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Snedden, the Bill was read a third time.

13 DEFENCE—FUTURE PROGRAMME—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr N. H. Bowen (Minister for Foreign Affairs)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 28 March 1972*), viz.:

Defence—Future programme—Ministerial statement, 28 March 1972.

Australian Defence Review—

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Barnard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 45 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Mackay—Minister for the Navy), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at two minutes to 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 11 April 1972, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment Certificate—D. M. Synnot.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—

Defence purposes—Canungra, Queensland.

Post office purposes—Rockhampton, Queensland.

Television translator purposes—Nyngan, New South Wales.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Crown Lands Ordinance—Statement of reasons by Minister for revocation of reserves in the Northern Territory at Darwin.

Papua New Guinea Act—Ordinances—1972—

No. 23—Business Licences 1971.

No. 24—Land (Determination of Trusts) 1971.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations—  
1972—

- Nos. 43 and 44—Amalgamated Engineering Union and others.
- No. 52—Common Rule *re* Sick Leave.
- No. 53—North Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 54—Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 55—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 56—North Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 57—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers' Union of Australia.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1972—

- No. 10—Motor Traffic (No. 2).
  - No. 11—Real Property.
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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birrell, Mr Bury\*, Mr Cass, Mr Hayden, Sir Alan Hulme, Mr Jess and Mr Nixon.

\* On leave

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