

## AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 6

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 1973

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- 1 The House met, at ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable J. F. Cope) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  - 2 PETITION: The Clerk announced that Mr Nixon had lodged a petition for presentation from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that Australia's official development assistance in 1972-73 be increased to at least \$240 million, and that Australia's aid and trade policies be reviewed to benefit developing countries.  
Petition received.
  - 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
  - 4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:
    - Commonwealth Railways Act—Commonwealth Railways Commissioner—Report for year 1971-72.
    - Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—Ninth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1971-72.
    - Pig Industry Research Act—Australian Pig Industry Research Committee—First Annual Report, for year 1971-72.
    - Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Forces Veterans' Residences Trust—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1971-72.
  - 5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Lynch (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's attempt to misuse the allocation of Government contracts in a manner which is open to serious forms of bribery and corruption is an unwarranted attempt to force its will on individual contractors; to circumvent established conciliation and arbitration procedures; to destroy the concept that contracts should only be awarded on the basis of quality, performance and price and is contrary to the national interest".  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Lynch addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
  - 6 REPATRIATION BILL 1973: 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.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 2, dated 28 February 1973, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

- Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Barnard (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation), the Bill was read a third time.
- 7 REPATRIATION (SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE) BILL 1973: 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Barnard (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation), the Bill was read a third time.
- 8 REPATRIATION (FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE) BILL 1973: 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Barnard (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation), the Bill was read a third time.
- 9 INTERIM FORCES BENEFITS BILL 1973: 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Barnard (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation), the Bill was read a third time.
- 10 SEAMEN'S WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES BILL 1973: 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Barnard (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation), the Bill was read a third time.
- 11 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General to agreed to:  
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:  
We, the House of Representatives of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—  
Debate resumed.  
Debate adjourned (Dr Gun), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 12 NATIONAL REHABILITATION AND COMPENSATION SCHEME INQUIRY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Whitlam (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the appointment, membership and terms of reference of a committee of inquiry to advise the Government on an appropriate rehabilitation and compensation scheme for Australia, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
National rehabilitation and compensation scheme inquiry—Ministerial statement.  
8 March 1973.  
Mr Daly (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

- 13 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Sir John Cramer rising to address the House—

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

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

And the question—That the Address be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Mr Speaker informed the House that it would be ascertained when it would be convenient for His Excellency the Governor-General to receive the Address in Reply, and honourable Members would be informed accordingly.

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Morrison (Minister for Science) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at two o'clock p.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 March 1973, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff—Order—Less developed country—No. 4 (1972).

Papua New Guinea Act—Ordinances—1973—

No. 8—Public Officers (Air Insurance) Declaratory 1972.

No. 9—Public Service (Amendment) 1972.

No. 10—Electricity Supply (Administration Power Stations) (Amendment) 1972.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—National Memorials Ordinance—Determination naming a Division of the Australian Capital Territory, dated 1 March 1973.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Reynolds.

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