

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 18

TUESDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 1974

1 The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable J. F. Cope) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Crean (Treasurer), Mr Bouchier, Mr Connolly, Mr Erwin, Mr Kerin and Mr Staley—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government increase child endowment in the September Budget.

Dr Klugman, Mr Morris and Mr Mulder—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government hasten to introduce a universal health scheme so that health care services in Australia can function efficiently and economically.

Mr Drury and Mr Hodges—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House urge the Government to amend the Family Law Bill in certain respects and provide funds for family life education, programs preparing people for marriage, the decentralisation of approved guidance facilities and education in marriage courses for young married couples.

Dr Forbes and Mr McLeay—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the existing national health scheme.

Dr Forbes—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House reverse the Government's decision to recognise the sovereignty of the Soviet Union over the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Mr Giles—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House disallow the Government's recognition of the annexation by the Soviet Union of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Dr Gun—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House ensure that the Government rejects the recommendations of the Report of the Australian Wool Corporation.

Dr Gun—from certain citizens of Australia praying that Parliament disapprove the Prime Minister's decision to recognise the annexation by the Soviet Union of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Mr Staley—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House urge the Government (1) to grant at least \$10 million immediate emergency aid to the Sahelian region of Africa and continue to assist in the long term agricultural and social development of the region and (2) to take a leading part in initiatives to set up world food and fertilizer funds at the World Food Conference in November.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Whitlam (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Senator Willesee (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Dr Patterson (Minister for Northern Development and Minister for the Northern Territory), he was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Bowen (Special Minister of State) was acting as Minister for Northern Development and Minister for the Northern Territory.

Mr Whitlam also informed the House that, during his forthcoming absence abroad, Mr Bowen would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

- Australian Dairy Produce Board—Interim Annual Report for year 1973–74.
- Australian Wool Corporation—Interim Annual Report for year 1973–74.
- Cities Commission—Occasional paper No. 1—Urban and regional development—Overseas experts' reports 1973.
- Department of Tourism and Recreation—Review of activities to 30 June 1974.
- Government education programs—Achievements and initiatives—Statement by Mr Beazley (Minister for Education).
- Hospitals and Health Services Commission—Reports—
 - Accreditation for pathology services in Australia, dated May 1974.
 - Hospitals in Australia.
- Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—
 - Gloves, mittens or mitts, dated 11 June 1974.
 - Industrial tractors, dated 4 June 1974.
 - Steam, gas and water fittings, dated 24 May 1974.
- International Bauxite Association Agreement 1974—
 - Agreement.
 - Statement by Dr J. F. Cairns (Minister for Overseas Trade).

The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

- Taxation—
 - Fifty-third Report of the Commissioner of Taxation, dated 1 September 1974.
 - Taxation Statistics 1972–73 (Supplement to the Fifty-second Report of the Commissioner of Taxation).

Severally ordered to be printed.

- Broadcasting and Television Act—Australian Broadcasting Control Board—
 - Twenty-sixth Annual Report and financial statement, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973–74.
- Export Payments Insurance Corporation Act—Export Payments Insurance Corporation—
 - Eighteenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973–74.
- Hospitals and Health Services Commission Act—Hospitals and Health Services Commission—
 - First Annual Report, for year 1973–74.
- Meat Industry Act—Australian Meat Board—
 - Thirty-ninth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973–74.
- National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—
 - Fifty-first Annual Report, for year 1973–74.
- National Fitness Act—Report for year 1973–74.
- Post and Telegraph Act—Postmaster-General's Department—
 - Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973–74.

6 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: 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 Bills:

- 20 September 1974—Message No. 29—
 - National Roads 1974.
 - Roads Grants 1974.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PRIMARY PRODUCERS—ECONOMIC POSITION: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Sinclair (Deputy Leader of the Australian Country Party) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's failure to concern itself with the deteriorating economic position of Australia's primary producers".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sinclair addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 8 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Ordered—That notice No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—REHABILITATION CENTRE, TOWNSVILLE, QLD: Mr L. R. Johnson (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved, pursuant to notice—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969–1974*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a rehabilitation centre, Townsville, Qld.

Mr Johnson presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 LIQUEFIED GAS (ROAD VEHICLE USE) TAX BILL 1974: 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 Dr J. F. Cairns (Minister representing the Minister for Customs and Excise), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 LIQUEFIED GAS (ROAD VEHICLE USE) TAX COLLECTION BILL 1974: 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 5, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 6 debated and agreed to.

Clause 7 debated and agreed to.

Proposed new clause—

Mr Wentworth moved—That the following new clause be inserted in the Bill:

"7A. When any person who is liable to pay tax under this Act has paid an amount of 30 dollars by way of tax in advance and has nominated a vehicle in respect of such payment, then, for the remainder of the financial year during which such advance payment has been made, he shall be exempt from obligation for further tax or return in relation to the use of liquefied gas in such vehicle."

Exemption
from
further tax.

Debate ensued.

Proposed new clause negatived.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Scholes reported accordingly.

On the motion of Dr J. F. Cairns (Minister representing the Minister for Customs and Excise), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 SEWERAGE AGREEMENTS BILL 1974: 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. 30, dated 15 July 1974, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr Uren (Minister for Urban and Regional Development) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 13 ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING: Mr Daly (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until three o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

Question—put and passed.

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

24 September 1974—Message—

No. 40—Papua New Guinea 1974.

No. 41—Petroleum (Submerged Lands) 1974.

No. 42—Broadcasting and Television 1974.

No. 43—Asian Development Fund 1974.

- 15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SERVICE AND EXECUTION OF PROCESS BILL 1974: Message No. 44, dated 24 September 1974, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Service and Execution of Process Act 1901-1973'*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 4 and 5, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

- 17 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1974-75—BUDGET DEBATE: 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 Snedden (Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "this House is of the opinion that the Budget fails to tackle Australia's economic crisis, in that:

- (1) unemployment is permitted to grow and the prospect for school leavers is prejudiced,
- (2) inflation is accelerated,

- (3) existing poverty is ignored and new poverty is created,
 - (4) personal income tax is increased 45 per cent,
 - (5) living standards will be lowered,
 - (6) private enterprise is stifled,
 - (7) Government power is further centralised,
 - (8) individual incentive and thrift is penalised, and
 - (9) a double tax is levied on estates;
- and because the Government:
- (a) has made the Budget a socialist vehicle to intensify the attack on the States and break down the free enterprise system,
 - (b) believes the absurdity that the Government can spend without people paying or can build without people producing, and
 - (c) has preached private restraint but has threatened its achievement by its own Government extravagance".

Debate continued.

Mr Scholes addressing the House—

18 ADJOURNMENT: It being half-past ten o'clock p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until eleven o'clock p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at three o'clock p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 24 September 1974, pursuant to statute:

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands, etc., acquired by agreement authorised under section 7 (1) of the Act.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Collard, Mr Corbett, Mr Enderby, Mr England, Mr Garland and Dr Patterson.

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