

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 99

THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 1975

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- 1 The House met, at ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable G. G. D. Scholes) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Dr J. F. Cairns, Mr Hewson, Mr Jarman and Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that (1) the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and (2) the Government take urgent steps to cause the traditional and familiar units to be restored in those areas where the greatest inconveniences and distress are occurring.
- Mr Corbett and Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House either decrease or reject proposed increases in postal and telephone charges.
- Mr McLeay and Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that no further measures be taken which will make home ownership unattractive to those who have a home and unachievable for those who have not.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House reject the Australian Government Insurance Office Bill.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government remove or substantially increase the \$300 limit on income tax deductibility on personal residential land and water rates.
- Dr Forbes—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government (1) suspend mining, enrichment and selling of uranium until an inquiry is made into its effect on the environment and (2) begin research into alternative sources of energy.
- Dr Forbes—from certain citizens of Australia praying that financial assistance be increased to students required to leave home for their education.
- Mr Lamb—from certain residents of Australia praying that the House (1) support a moratorium on whaling, (2) support research into marine biology and alternatives to whale products, (3) close down whaling operations at Cheynes Beach, Western Australia, (4) ban the import of all whale products and (5) encourage the end of whaling throughout the world.
- Mr Lamb—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government (1) cease the mining and export of uranium until safe disposal methods have been guaranteed, (2) increase expenditure on research into clean and inexhaustible sources of energy and (3) aid underdeveloped countries in their plea for a share of world energy resources.
- Mr Lucock—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the cadet corps be continued.
- Mr Lusher—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the terms "post office" and "postmaster", the range of postal services and the grading of post offices be retained.

Mr Thorburn—from certain citizens of Australia praying that (1) pensions be related to average weekly earnings and (2) no charge be made for the installation or rental of telephones for pensioners.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

Australian Advisory Committee on the Environment—Report No. 5, dated July 1975—Coastal land.

Australian Housing Corporation—Interim statement on operations, other than the Defence Service Homes Scheme, for period 24–30 June 1975.

Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund—Report for June 1975.

Defence Service Homes—Interim report of Director on operations, other than insurance, for year 1974–75.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Dried Fruits Export Control Act—Australian Dried Fruits Control Board—Fifty-first Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

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

1 October 1975—Message—

No. 270—Excise Tariff 1975 (*without requests*).

No. 273—Railways Agreement (South Australia) 1975.

6 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being fifteen minutes to one o'clock p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS TARIFF (COAL EXPORT DUTY) BILL 1975: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 271

MR SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to an Export Duty on Coal*", and requests the House to amend the Bill as set forth in the annexed Schedule.

JUSTIN O'BYRNE,
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 1 October 1975

Ordered—That the amendments requested by the Senate be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE REQUESTS BY THE SENATE FOR AMENDMENTS

No. 1—Page 2, clause 5, sub-clause (1), line 1, after "sub-section (2)", insert "and section 7".

No. 2—Page 2, after clause 6 add the following new clause:

"7. (1) Where a Collector is satisfied that—

(a) if coal were subjected to proximate analysis, on an air-dried Exemption.
basis, it would be classified as coal having an ash content greater than 14%; and

(b) the crucible swelling number of the coal is not greater than 3,
the coal is exempt from the duty of Customs imposed by this Act.

“(2) For the purposes of sub-section (1), the crucible swelling number of coal is the number which, if the coal were subjected to a test made for the purpose of determining the crucible swelling number of coal, being a test approved in writing by the Minister, would be that number.”

On the motion of Mr Enderby (Minister representing the Minister for Police and Customs), the requested amendments were made, after debate.
Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Enderby, the House adopted the report.

- 8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CUSTOMS BILL (No. 2) 1975: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 272

MR SPEAKER,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the law relating to Duties of Customs*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendment indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

JUSTIN O’BYRNE,
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 1 October 1975

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE

Page 2, clause 4, line 22, at end of proposed sub-section (3) add “or for the purposes of section 7 of that Act”.

On the motion of Mr Enderby (Minister representing the Minister for Police and Customs), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.
Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed, Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Enderby, the House adopted the report.

- 9 MARITIME COLLEGE BILL 1975: Mr Beazley (Minister for Education), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for the Establishment of an Australian Maritime College.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Beazley moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Wilson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 NAVIGATION BILL 1975: Mr Jones (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Navigation Act 1912–1973*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Jones moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Nixon), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 NAVAL TRANSMITTER BUILDING AND POWER CENTRE, HUMPTY DOO, N.T.—APPROVAL OF WORK: Mr Riordan (Minister for Housing and Construction) moved, pursuant to notice—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969–1974*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was

referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of naval transmitter building and power centre, Humpty Doo, N.T.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—DEVELOPMENT ROADS, N.T.: Mr Riordan (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: Three year program for construction of development roads in the Northern Territory.

Mr Riordan presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1975–76: Message No. 200, dated 2 October 1975, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending that the purposes of the appropriation of revenue proposed by the *Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1975–76* be varied in accordance with the following amendment to be moved by a Minister: “Page 110, Division 590/3/04, omit ‘(for payment to the Post Office Trust Account)’, substitute ‘(for payment to the Australian Postal Commission and the Australian Telecommunications Commission)’”.

- 14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1975–76: The order of the day having been read for the further consideration of the Bill in committee, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Environment, \$7,703,000—

Department of Tourism and Recreation, \$15,040,000—

together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Foreign Affairs, \$439,640,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Health, \$119,963,000—

Department of Repatriation and Compensation, \$260,254,000—

Department of Social Security, \$1,706,890,000—

together—

On the motion of Mr Stewart (Minister assisting the Treasurer), the following amendment was made: Page 110, Division 590/3/04, omit “(for payment to the Post Office Trust Account)”, substitute “(for payment to the Australian Postal Commission and the Australian Telecommunications Commission)”.

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditures, as amended, agreed to.

Ordered—That the order for the consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to by the committee on 4 September be varied by postponing the consideration of the proposed expenditure for the Department of Housing and Construction.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Services and Property, \$70,150,000—debated and agreed to.

It being half-past ten o'clock p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.

15 ADJOURNMENT: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at two minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at fifteen minutes past two o'clock p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 2 October 1975, 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 D. M. Cameron, Mr Connor, Mr England, Mr Fairbairn, Mr Giles, Mr Graham, Mr Hurford, Mr Luchetti and Mr Ruddock.

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