

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 1976

1 The House met, at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Fisher and Mr Garrick—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Dr Klugman and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the introduction of television and radio licence fees, the imposition of a tax levy for Medibank and the introduction of higher charges for drugs dispensed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be prevented.

Mr McVeigh and Mr Millar—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.

Mr Baume—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, W.A. (4) ban the import of all whale products and (5) encourage the end of whaling throughout the world.

Mr Baume—from certain citizens of Australia praying that all current woodchip export licences be cancelled, more funds be provided for research into the recycling of used packaged material and future applications for woodchip leases be preceded by an environmental inquiry.

Mr Baume—from certain residents of Australia praying that the House maintain the ban on the export of kangaroo products, encourage the States to have government fauna officers carry out any necessary culling of wildlife, establish kangaroo sanctuaries and provide for scientific research into wildlife populations.

Mr Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that mining lease applications by Darra Explorations Pty Ltd be rejected in respect of the East End and Bracewell areas of Mount Larcom, Qld.

Mr Fry—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government demand a ceasefire in East Timor and the withdrawal of Indonesian troops, supply medical and humanitarian aid to Fretilin-controlled areas and withdraw all military aid to Indonesia.

Mr Garrick—from certain citizens of Australia praying that any proposal to build an Omega station on Australian soil be rejected.

Mr Moore—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the export of mineral sands from Fraser Island be prohibited and the Queensland Government and other bodies be assisted to develop and conserve the natural environment of the Island.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Grimwade House—Copy of minute, dated 11 March 1975, from a First Assistant Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to the Prime Minister concerning the renovation and extension of Grimwade House.

International Trade Law—Second meeting of lawyers and businessmen sponsored by Attorney-General's Department, Canberra, 22–23 March 1975—Papers and summary of discussions.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Development Assistance Agency Act—Australian Development Assistance Agency—First Annual Report and financial statement, for year 1974–75.

Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act—Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

Broadcasting and Television Act—Australian Broadcasting Commission—Forty-third Annual Report and financial statement, for year 1974–75.

Canned Fruits Export Marketing Act—Australian Canned Fruits Board—Forty-ninth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1974.

Darwin Reconstruction Act—Darwin Reconstruction Commission—First Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 28 February to 30 June 1975.

Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—Twelfth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

Immigration (Education) Act—Migrant Education Program—Report for year 1974–75.

Tobacco Industry Act—Twentieth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

5 REPATRIATION SYSTEM—REPORT OF INDEPENDENT INQUIRY—PAPERS AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Newman (Minister for Repatriation), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Repatriation system—Report of independent inquiry by the Hon. Mr Justice P. B. Toose, C.B.E., dated June 1975—

Summary—

Volumes 1 and 2,

and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

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

6 PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act 1948–1973*, Mr Crean be appointed a trustee to serve on the Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MEDIBANK: Mr Speaker informed the House that Dr Cass had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “Conflicting statements by Government spokesmen on the future of Medibank and their failure to specify how the scheme will continue to operate”.
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Dr Cass addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 8 AUSTRALIA–JAPAN FOUNDATION BILL 1976: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish a Foundation for encouraging a closer Relationship between the Peoples of Australia and Japan, and to Provide for related Matters.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Fraser moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr E. G. Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 1 TO 6 (1976): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (1976). Mr Young, by leave, made a statement with reference to the proposals.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Young), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant Financial Assistance to the States in connexion with Expenditure of a Capital Nature and to Authorize the Borrowing of Certain Moneys by the Commonwealth.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 LOANS (QANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED) BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to authorize the Borrowing by the Commonwealth of a certain sum of Money and to authorize the Commonwealth to make certain Moneys available to Qantas Airways Limited, and for purposes connected therewith.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 LOANS (AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRLINES COMMISSION) BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to authorize the Borrowing by the Commonwealth of a certain sum of Money and to authorize the Commonwealth to make certain Moneys available to the Australian National Airlines Commission, and for purposes connected therewith.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 AIR NAVIGATION (CHARGES) BILL 1976: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Air Navigation (Charges) Act 1952–1974*.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Morris), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION BILL 1976: Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act 1956-1973* in relation to the office of Director-General of Security, and with respect to certain formal matters.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr E. G. Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL 1976: Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to permit an additional Judge to be appointed to the Australian Industrial Court.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr E. G. Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 NATIONAL HEALTH BILL 1976: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953-1975*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Dr Cass), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—SALES TAX BILLS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in relation to the proceedings on any Sales Tax Bills, so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent—
 (a) the presentation and the first readings of the Bills together;
 (b) one motion being moved and one question being put in regard to, respectively, the second readings, the committee's report stage, and the third readings, of all the Bills together, and
 (c) the consideration of all the Bills as a whole together in a committee of the whole.
 Question—put and passed.
- 18 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 the Commonwealth 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.
 Mr Innes, by leave, moved—That Mr Armitage be granted an extension of time of 5 minutes.
 Question—put and passed.
 Debate continued.
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- Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) asked leave to present certain documents relating to official residences.
 Objection being raised, leave not granted.
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- Debate continued.
 Mr D. M. Cameron addressing the House—
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