

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 26

WEDNESDAY, 5 MAY 1976

1 The House met, at 2.15 p.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 Connolly, Mr Cotter, Mr Fife, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Garland, Mr Hayden, Mr Hodges, Mr Jones, Mr Jull, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKenzie, Mr W. McMahon, Mr Neil, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Short, Mr Thomson and Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a Commission of Inquiry be initiated into the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act, no mining take place on the Aurukun Aboriginal Reserve until a full environmental impact study has been made and an export licence to the consortium concerned be refused until negotiations are held with the Aurukun people and an agreement has been reached.

Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), Mr Bonnett, Mr Cadman, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Fife, Mr Hurford, Dr Richardson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Scholes and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government reverse the decision to cut 1975-76 overseas development assistance, reaffirm Australia's commitment of assistance of a minimum of 0.7% of G.N.P. and establish an independent statutory authority to administer such assistance.

Mr Armitage, Mr Crean, Mr FitzPatrick, Dr Jenkins, Mr Jones, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris, Mr Nicholls, Mr Scholes and Mr Stewart—from certain citizens of Australia praying that milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits.

Mr Cadman, Mr Fry, Mr Haslem, Mr Neil, Mr Ruddock, Mr Stewart and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the right of all trade union members to participate in ballots be guaranteed, voting in union elections be made compulsory and re-introduction of the collegiate system of union elections be resisted.

Mr Bonnett, Mr Chapman, Dr Jenkins and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

Mr Bouchier—from certain members of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club and North Central Environment Council; Mr Hamer—from certain members of the Mordialloc-Beaumaris Coastline Conservation League; Mr Jones—from certain members of the Newcastle East Residents' Group; and Mr Simon—from certain members of the La Trobe Valley Field Naturalists Club, in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Chipp and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens of Australia praying that no measures be taken to interfere with the Schools Commission.

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

Mr Bonnett—from certain members of the staff of Pimlico State High School, Qld, praying for continuing financial support from the Commonwealth Government for education.

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

Mr Carige—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued as a longer term program on a regional basis.

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.

Mr Connolly—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 Connolly—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that Federal funds for education be continued, without further cutbacks, particularly in the provision for capital works and special grants.

Mr Falconer—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued as recommended in the report tabled in Parliament on 4 March 1976.

Mr Haslem—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian National Library be accessible to readers from 9.30 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily.

Dr Klugman—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 J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens of Australia praying that at least 0.55% of Australia's G.N.P. be provided in the next Budget for aid to poor countries.

Mr Nicholls—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Health Insurance Act be not amended.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens of Australia praying that NEAT system students be allowed to earn additional income and the \$6.00 per week earning ceiling be revoked.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Consumer preferences in urban buses and bus services—Report by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport—Part A: Main report, dated December 1975.

North-South Highway connecting Darwin to Melbourne via Mount Isa and Broken Hill—Report by Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, dated 8 April 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian National Railways Act—Australian National Railways Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974-75.

States Grants (Science Laboratories) Act—Statement of schools assisted by grants for year 1974-75.

5 LAVERTON AREA—INCIDENTS INVOLVING ABORIGINES—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPERS NOTED: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Laverton area—Incidents involving Aborigines—Report of Royal Commission, dated 13 April 1976.

Mr Viner, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Laverton area—Incidents involving Aborigines—Report of Royal Commission—
Ministerial statement, 5 May 1976.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—DECENTRALIZATION: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The necessity for the Government to make a prompt commitment to selective decentralization".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Uren addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 3) 1975-76: 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.

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

- 8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

5 May 1976—Message No. 40—Superannuation Amendment 1976.

- 9 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Standing Committee on Expenditure:

Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr Fife, Mr Garland, Mr Lusher, Mr Macphee and Mr Sullivan had been nominated by the Prime Minister and Mr Crean, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi, Dr Jenkins and Mr Stewart had been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

- 10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations) moved—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11.00 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Holten, Mr King, Mr Martyr and Mr Peacock.

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