

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 28

TUESDAY, 18 MAY 1976

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- 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 Ellicott (Attorney-General), Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), Mr Baillieu, Mr Baume, Mr Brown, Mr Connolly, Mr Connor, Mr Crean, Mr Dobie, Mr Garland, Mr Gillard, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr W. McMahon, Mr Millar, Mr Moore, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Shipton—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) and Mr Simon—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 Fraser (Prime Minister)—from certain members of the Warrnambool Field Naturalists' Club; Mr Brown—from certain members of the Diamond Creek and District Environment Action Group; Mr Connolly—from certain members of the Bushwalkers Federation of N.S.W. and citizens of Australia; and Mr Drummond—from certain electors of Western Australia, in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Mr Crean, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Jull and Mr J. L. McMahon—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 Newman (Minister for Repatriation), Mr Chipp and Mr Simon—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 Aldred and Mr Chipp—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the conditions applying to NEAT system trainees approved prior to 1 March 1976 remain until these students complete their training.

Mr Baillieu and 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 Anthony (Minister for National Resources)—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian delegation to the fourth session of UNCTAD be instructed to support the principle of an integrated program of commodities and take certain other action.

- Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory)—from certain residents and lessees of the area adjacent to the public park bounded by Stokes Street, Monaro Crescent and Arthur Circle, Griffith, A.C.T., praying that no further encroachment on the park be approved and that the brethren of the Canberra Gospel Trust be offered a larger site in another area.
- 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 Carige—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.
- 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 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 Connor—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be supported.
- Mr Connor—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 Falconer—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Aboriginal Land Bill 1975 be re-introduced and passed, and that the administration of land rights remain the responsibility of the Australian Government, mining on Aboriginal lands without the consent of the Aboriginal communities concerned be not permitted, the work of the Aboriginal Legal Service be not impeded and the full purchasing power of assistance for Aboriginal welfare and advancement be maintained in the 1976-77 Budget.
- Mr Fry—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.
- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the decision to curtail the home mortgage interest tax deduction scheme be reconsidered and the benefits be upgraded by indexation.
- 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.
- Dr Klugman—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 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 Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain members of the Dutch Congregation in the Presbyterian Church of Australia praying that a Commission of Inquiry be initiated into the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act and an export licence to the consortium concerned be refused until a satisfactory agreement is negotiated with the Aurukun people.
- Mr Simon—from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that the level of overseas aid be not decreased because of financial problems in the Australian economy.

Petitions received.

- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence through illness of Senator Greenwood (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) would act as Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development and that the representation of Ministers in the Senate would be changed as follows:

Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Public Service Matters and Acting Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development	Senator Carrick
Attorney-General	Senator Withers
Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs ..	Senator Cotton

Mr Fraser also informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) 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 Water Resources Council—Minutes of Seventeenth Meeting held at Melbourne on 24 October 1975.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Footwear—Interim report, dated 31 October 1975.

Welding consumables and flux cored solder, dated 6 February 1976.

Royal Australian Air Force—List of V.I.P. flights for period 25 March 1975 to 8 February 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—First Annual Report, for period 7 March to 30 June 1975, and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 5 May to 30 June 1975.

- 6 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

7 May 1976—Message—

No. 45—

Superannuation 1976.

Superannuation Amendment 1976.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment 1976.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (Pension Increases) 1976.

No. 46—States Grants (Schools) 1976.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MEDIBANK: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Hodgman had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr E. G. Whitlam, namely, "The Government's failure to honour its election commitments on Medibank".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Dr Cass rising to address the House—

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

8 ADJOURNMENT DEBATE—TIME LIMITS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That, in lieu of the time limit specified in standing order 91 for speeches on the “Motion for adjournment of House to terminate the sitting—”, the following time limit shall operate:

“Each Member . . . 5 minutes (no extension of time to be granted):

Provided that, if no other Member rises to address the House, a Member who has already spoken to the motion may speak a second time for a period not exceeding 5 minutes”.

(2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this sessional order shall operate for the remainder of this period of sittings.

Question—put and passed.

9 ADJOURNMENT OF SITTING: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That, in lieu of the final proviso to the sessional order of 18 February 1976 relating to the adjournment of sittings, the following proviso be substituted:

“Provided further that, if at 11.00 p.m. the question before the House is—
That the House do now adjourn—the Speaker shall interrupt the debate, at which time—

(f) a Minister may require that the debate be extended until 11.10 p.m. to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised in the preceding adjournment debate; at 11.10 p.m., or upon the earlier cessation of the debate, the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting.

(g) if no action is taken by a Minister under paragraph (f), the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting.”

(2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this amendment of the sessional order of 18 February 1976 shall operate for the remainder of this period of sittings.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That notice No. 3, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 10 AND 11 (1976): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 10 and 11 (1976).

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

12 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 14 CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL 1976: 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 Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 FOREIGN TAKEOVERS AMENDMENT BILL 1976: 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 Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 5 to 14, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 17 PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES BILL 1976: 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 Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 18 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.
Privilege: Mr Neil, during the course of his speech, referred to a speech made by Mr James on 29 April and asked Mr Speaker to consider whether the honourable Member had conspired to deceive the House which would be a breach of privilege.
Mr Speaker stated that, on the material presented, he was not satisfied that a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege had been made out.
Debate continued.
- The House continuing to sit until 11.00 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 May 1976, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—S. Gaunt.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land, etc., acquired for—

Laboratory purposes—Hobart, Tas.

Telecommunications purposes—Wentworth Falls, N.S.W. (Corrigenda notice).

Television translator purposes—Table Cape, Tas.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Crown Lands Ordinance—Statement of reasons by Minister for revocation of land reserved at Darwin, N.T.
Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 17—Misrepresentation.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Burr, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Holten, Dr Jenkins, Mr Peacock and Mr I. L. Robinson.

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