

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 45

TUESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
- 2 **ABSENCE OF MR SPEAKER:** The Acting Clerk having informed the House that Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) was absent on Parliamentary business overseas, the Chairman of Committees (Mr Lucock) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.
- 3 **PETITIONS:** The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Bowen, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Sullivan—from certain citizens praying that social security payments be adjusted instantly and automatically with increases in the Consumer Price Index and certain other benefits be adjusted.
 - Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Stewart and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.
 - Mr Giles, Mr Lloyd, Mr McVeigh and Mr Sullivan—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
 - Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Garrick, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained, advertising on the A.B.C. be rejected, public funding of the Commission be developed and any general inquiries into broadcasting be conducted publicly.
 - Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), Mr Haslem and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that discrimination against people of Croatian origin in Australia be remedied.
 - Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), Mr Chipp and Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the indexed value of education spending be maintained and the recommendations of several reports on education be implemented.
 - Mr Falconer and Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the principles of Medibank be strengthened and extended from general revenue.
 - Dr Jenkins and Mr L. K. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.
 - Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.
 - Mr Abel—from certain citizens praying that a licence be granted to 2RDJ FM Community Radio to operate a public access radio station to service the mid-western suburbs of Sydney.
 - Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that further mining and export of uranium, except for bio-medical purposes, be banned and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission be transformed into an Australian Energy Commission.

- Mr Chapman—from certain citizens praying that subsidies for nursing home patients be increased.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that the Government remove or substantially increase the \$300 limit on income tax deductibility on personal residential land and water rates.
- Dr Edwards—from certain citizens praying that the Government call upon South Africa to eliminate racial discrimination and that it withdraw Australian Trade Commissioners from South Africa.
- Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.
- Mr Giles—from certain citizens 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 Giles—from certain citizens praying that the mining of uranium in Australia be restricted to that needed for physical and bio-medical research and medical diagnosis.
- Mr Hayden—from certain citizens praying that grants to institutions for the aged be restored.
- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the decision to curtail the home mortgage interest tax deduction scheme be reconsidered and the benefits be upgraded by indexation.
- Mr Moore—from certain residents of the Division of Ryan praying that medical insurance be optional.
- Mr Moore—from certain residents of "Southerden Lodge", Grange, Qld, praying that approval be given for the construction of further accommodation at "Southerden Lodge".
- Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Newcastle, N.S.W., praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Newcastle State Dockyard and implement the plan to build a graving dock in Newcastle.
- Mr Sullivan—from certain citizens 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.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Education Council—Report on meeting held at Cairns, Qld, 8–9 July 1976.

Human Relationships—Royal Commission—Interim Report, dated 30 January 1976.

Trade Practices Act Review Committee—Report, dated 20 August 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Public Service Act—Public Service Board—Fifty-second Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—Second Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Mr Armitage asked leave to present a paper.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

6 WAGE FIXING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning current attitudes to the fixing of wages, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Wage Fixing—Ministerial statement, dated 7 September 1976.

Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

7 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:

25 August 1976—Message No. 77—

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Financial Support Fund) 1976.

Psychotropic Substances 1976.

31 August 1976—Message—

No. 78—Broadcasting and Television Amendment 1976.

No. 79—Trade Practices Amendment 1976.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:

Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that Mr Willis had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The worsening employment prospects for young people”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—

Mr Bouchier moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

9 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1976-77—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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because—*

- (a) it pursues a policy of unemployment as a weapon to reduce real wages and salaries;
- (b) it abdicates federal government responsibilities and forces the State governments and local governments either to reduce their services or institute additional charges, or both;
- (c) it introduces an additional tax in the form of the Medibank levy, thus further reducing consumer spending;
- (d) it reduces the availability of services to the whole community but particularly to those most vulnerable to hardship, notably Aborigines, the unemployed and migrants, and
- (e) it fails to institute selective stimulatory expenditure to reduce unemployment and restore consumer confidence”—

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr Hayden be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

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

10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Acting Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 September 1976, pursuant to statute:

- Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 191.
- Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 174.
- Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—Population Survey, November 1976.
- Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 190.
- Christmas Island Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 3—Ordinances Citation.
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 3—Ordinances Citation.
- Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 187.
- Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 169, 186.
- Dairy Produce Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 175.
- Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 192.
- Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 170.
- Extradition (Foreign States) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 184, 185.
- Financial Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 168.
- Fisheries Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 173.
- Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 188.
- Lands Acquisition Act—Statements (2) of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act.
- Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 30—Local Government (Post-Cyclone Elections).
- Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 183.
- Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 178, 180, 181, 182.
- Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1976—
 - No. 341—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 - No. 342—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union of Australia and others.†
 - No. 378—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 - No. 379—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia and Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.
 - No. 380—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
 - No. 381—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
 - No. 382—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia and others.
 - No. 383—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - No. 384—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia.
 - No. 385—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 - No. 386—Customs Officers' Association of Australia, Fourth Division.
 - No. 387—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.†
 - No. 388—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
 - No. 389—Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association.
 - No. 390—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association and others.†
 - Nos. 391 and 392—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.†
 - No. 395—Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association.
 - No. 396—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.†
 - No. 397—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.†

Nos. 398 to 402—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

(† Not accompanied by statement)

Quarantine Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 193.

Remuneration and Allowances Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 179.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1976—

No. 36—Poisons and Dangerous Drugs.

No. 37—Meat.

No. 38—Stock Diseases.

No. 39—Cigarette Containers (Labelling).

No. 40—Medical Practitioners Registration (Amendment).

Stevedoring Industry (Temporary Provisions) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 189.

Trade Commissioners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 171, 172.

Wheat Industry Stabilization Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 176.

Wool Industry Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 177.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brown, Mr Cohen, Mr Corbett, Mr Cotter, Mr Jarman, Dr Klugman, Mr McLeay, Mr Nicholls, Mr Peacock and Mr Snedden.

J. A. PETTIFER,
Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives