

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 48

TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1976

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr Lucock) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 DEATH OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (MAO TSE-TUNG): Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) referred to the death of the Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China (Mao Tse-tung), and moved—That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, expresses to the people of China profound regret and tenders its deep sympathy to his family in their bereavement.
And Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr Anthony (Leader of the National Country Party of Australia) and other honourable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—
Question—passed.
 - 3 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR E. J. HARRISON): Mr Acting Speaker informed the House of the death, on 9 September 1976, of Mr Eli James Harrison, a Member of this House for the Division of Blaxland from 1949 to 1969.
As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.
 - 4 PETITIONS: The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Beazley, Dr Cass, Mr Cotter, Mr Hyde, Dr Jenkins and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.
 - 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 Bradfield, Mr Hamer, Mr Innes and Mr Young—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 Bryant, Dr Klugman, Mr Morris and Mr Wallis—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 - Mr Bryant and Mr Hamer—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)—from certain citizens in the Divisions of Warringah and Berowra praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory)—from certain citizens praying that the Government reverse the decision to cut 1975–76 overseas development assistance and send some of our more productive cows to the Indian sub-continent.

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.

Dr Cass—from certain citizens 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 Cotter—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.

Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.

Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the principles of Medibank be strengthened and extended from general revenue.

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.

Petitions received.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

6 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE: Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Government in the Senate had nominated Senator Young to be a member of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence in the place of Senator Durack (Minister for Repatriation).

7 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence for 1 month be given to the honourable Member for Maranoa (Mr Corbett) on the ground of Parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER: Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for 1 month be given to the honourable Member for Robertson (Mr Cohen) on the ground of Parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ABORIGINAL PEOPLE—GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES: Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that both Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Neil 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 L. R. Johnson, namely, "The failure of the Government to honour its promises and fulfil its obligations to the Aboriginal people".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr L. R. Johnson addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 TELECOMMUNICATIONS 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 by Mr Hurford who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not opposing the second reading of the Bill the House is of the opinion that the Government should be condemned—

(a) for stressing the importance of the magnitude of the deficit instead of the importance of the method of financing the deficit, and

(b) for alleging that the deficit had been reduced by \$200 million when that sum was being borrowed directly by Telecom from the Australian capital market”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 11 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.

Papers: Mr W. McMahon, by leave, during his speech, presented the following papers:
Income and taxation—

Graph of effect of inflation and taxation on average weekly earnings, 1969-76.

Table showing taxation rates for various incomes for 1974-75 (indexed) and 1976-77.

Debate continued.

Mr Sullivan addressing the House—

12 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.10 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 14 September 1976, pursuant to statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—1976—No. 2—Survey of Stocks.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 195.

- Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1976—
- No. 222—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.†
 - No. 223—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.†
 - Nos. 233 to 238—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 - No. 239—Australian Journalists Association.
 - No. 240—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 - Nos. 241 and 242—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
 - No. 243—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
 - Nos. 244 and 245—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - Nos. 246 and 247—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
 - No. 248—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
 - No. 249—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
 - No. 250—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
 - No. 251—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.
 - No. 252—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - No. 253—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.
 - No. 254—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - No. 255—Australian Journalists Association.
 - No. 256—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
 - No. 257—Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemmen.
 - No. 258—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
 - No. 259—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
 - No. 260—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
 - No. 261—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 - No. 262—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
 - Nos. 263 and 264—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 - No. 277—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers) and Federated Clerks Union of Australia.†
 - No. 286—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
 - No. 293—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - No. 294—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
 - No. 295—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 - No. 296—Meat Inspectors Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.†
 - No. 297—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.†
 - No. 298—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
 - No. 299—Australian Workers' Union.
 - No. 300—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 - No. 305—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
 - No. 306—Australian Journalists Association.
 - No. 307—Professional Musicians Union of Australia.
 - No. 308—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 - No. 309—Australian Journalists Association.
 - No. 310—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.

- No. 311—Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers.
No. 312—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia and others.†
No. 313—Transport Workers' Union of Australia and others.†
No. 314—Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees Association.
No. 315—Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association of Australia.
No. 316—Professional Para-Medical Officers Association (Commonwealth Public Service).
No. 317—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
No. 319—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
No. 320—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
Nos. 321 and 322—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
Nos. 323 and 324—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
No. 325—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia and another.
No. 326—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
No. 327—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.
No. 328—Federal Firefighters' Union.
No. 329—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
No. 330—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
No. 331—Australian Workers' Union.†
No. 332—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.†
No. 333—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.†
No. 334—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia.†
No. 335—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†
No. 336—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.†
Nos. 337 and 338—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
Nos. 339 and 340—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
No. 356—Australian Workers' Union.†
No. 357—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.†
No. 358—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.†
No. 359—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia.†
No. 360—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union of Australia.†
No. 361—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.†
No. 362—Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Australasia.†
No. 363—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.†
No. 364—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
No. 365—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.†
No. 366—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.†
No. 367—Australian Workers' Union.†
Nos. 368 and 369—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†
No. 370—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.†
No. 371—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
No. 372—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
No. 373—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
No. 374—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
No. 375—Association of Railway Professional Officers of Australia and another.

Nos. 376 and 377—Australian Workers' Union.

(† Not accompanied by statement)

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement of particulars of direction given by Minister under sub-section 33 (4) of the Act.

Telecommunications Act—

Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 4.

Telecommunications (Staff)—Amendment No. 9.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 194.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bonnett, Mr Brown, Mr Bungey, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Chipp, Mr Cohen*, Mr Connolly, Mr Corbett*, Mr Cotter, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Innes, Mr Jull, Mr Lloyd, Mr Martin, Mr Nicholls, Mr Scholes, Mr Snedden and Mr Thomson.

* On leave

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