

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 55

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER 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 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER (MR D. E. COSTA): Mr Speaker informed the House of the death, on 23 September 1976, of Mr Dominic Eric Costa, a Member of this House for the Division of Banks from 1949 to 1969.
As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.
Mr Bryant paid tribute to Mr Costa.
- 3 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Bryant, Mr Crean, Dr Klugman, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris, Mr Wallis and Mr A. P. Whitlam—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 J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.
 - Mr Armitage and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the 1976-77 Budget be re-drafted to provide for economic recovery within the guidelines laid down in the 1975-76 Budget.
 - Dr J. F. Cairns and Mr McVeigh—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
 - Mr Innes and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.
 - Mr Jacobi and Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that support for child care be continued and expanded.
 - Mr Fraser (Prime Minister)—from certain citizens praying that whales be protected by law.
 - 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 Armitage—from certain citizens praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Australian shipbuilding industry.
 - Mr Bouchier—from certain citizens of the Shires of Newham and Woodend, Vic., praying that financial assistance be given for the building of additional pre-school facilities in those Shires.
 - Mr Cadman—from certain residents 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 Cadman—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.

Mr Cadman—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 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.

Mr Hayden—from certain citizens praying that grants to institutions for the aged be restored.

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

Mr King—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Broadcasting Commission be encouraged to present programs which comply with the Broadcasting and Television Act.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the previous Government's undertaking on the taxation of moneys due to the Thalidomide Foundation Limited be honoured.

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 Scholes—from certain citizens and certain residents from overseas praying that tertiary fees be not introduced for overseas students, the concept of free education be upheld and Australia's commitment of overseas development assistance of a minimum of 0.7% of G.N.P. be reaffirmed.

Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Morris, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport)—

Mr Nixon laid upon the Table the following paper:

Industrial dispute between Connair Pty Ltd and the Australian Federation of Air Pilots—Question and notes.

Questions without notice continued.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Dairy Corporation—Interim report for year 1975–76.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Crude oil pricing, dated 30 September 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Industries Assistance Commission Act—

Industries Assistance Commission—Report for year 1975–76, accompanied by a statement by the Minister pursuant to sub-section 45 (5) of the Act.

Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Paper, dated 25 August 1976.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE: Mr 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 failure of the Government to provide for the needs of young people seeking employment".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEMES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Education), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of changes to be made in the rates and conditions of several student assistance schemes.
Mr Bowen, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 8 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1976–77: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Capital Territory, \$64,304,000—
Department of the Northern Territory, \$59,599,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of National Resources, \$47,647,000—
Department of Overseas Trade, \$65,299,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Industry and Commerce, \$164,833,000—
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, \$94,519,000—
together debated and agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr I. L. Robinson reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 9 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 6 October 1976, pursuant to statute:

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Brown*, Mr Bungey*, Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Chipp*, Mr Connolly*, Mr Corbett*, Mr FitzPatrick*, Mr Fry*, Mr Garrick, Mr Giles, Mr Hunt, Mr Innes*, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Lynch, Mr Martin*, Mr Nicholls*, Mr Peacock and Mr Street.

* On leave

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