

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 70

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 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 Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), Mr Dobie, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the freeze on European claims to unalienated Crown lands of the Northern Territory be extended and the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976 be amended.

Mr Armitage, Mr Cohen, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the 1976-77 Budget be redrafted to provide for economic recovery within the guidelines laid down in the 1975-76 Budget.

Mr Armitage, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the House call on Sir John Kerr to resign as Governor-General.

Mr Garland and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.

Mr Graham and Mr Jacobi—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.

Mr Jones and Mr Morris—from certain citizens of the Hunter Valley Region, N.S.W., praying that funds be provided for the establishment and maintenance of a Hunter Symphony Orchestra.

Dr Cass and Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.

Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General)—from certain citizens praying that support for child care be continued and expanded.

Mr Armitage—from certain citizens praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Australian shipbuilding industry.

Mr Cohen—from certain electors in New South Wales praying that censorship standards on television programs be maintained and that the laws on pornography be tightened.

Mr Cohen—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 Connolly—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 Haslem—from certain citizens praying that land rights be granted now to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that the freeze on the alienation of vacant Crown land in the Northern Territory be extended and the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976 be amended.

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

Mr P. F. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the Government (1) cease the mining and export of uranium until safe disposal methods have been guaranteed, (2) increase expenditure on research into safe, clean and inexhaustible sources of energy and (3) aid underdeveloped countries in their efforts to secure a share of the world energy resources.

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that a Sunday be designated and publicised as a national day of prayer for the healing of the nation.

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.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Morris, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security)—

Mr Hunt laid upon the Table the following paper:

Pension entitlements—New income test—Briefing note for Minister.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs—Review of activities to 30 June 1976.

Norfolk Island—Royal Commission—Report on matters relating to Norfolk Island, dated October 1976.

Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Office—Report for year 1975–76.

Pursuant to statute:

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

5 QUARANTINE STATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), by leave, made a ministerial statement on the Government's decision to proceed with construction of a high security off-shore animal quarantine station on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Mr Bowen, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—REGIONAL CENTRES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Scholes had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The serious effects on regional centres of the Government's economic policy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Scholes addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Prime Minister had nominated Mr Bungey to be a member of the Standing Committee on Expenditure in place of Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity), resigned.

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

16 November 1976—Message No. 123—States (Personal Income Tax Sharing) 1976.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING)
BILL 1976: The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 124

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to Entitle Local Governing Bodies in the States to Share in the Personal Income Tax Collections of the Commonwealth*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendment indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

CONDOR L. LAUCKE
President

The Senate,
Canberra, 16 November 1976

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE

Page 2, clause 4, paragraph (b), sub-paragraph (ii), line 35, after "are", insert "ordinarily".

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson, the House adopted the report.

10 ABORIGINAL COUNCILS AND ASSOCIATIONS 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—

Statement by Minister: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a statement relating to proposed Government amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976 and related matters.

Debate resumed.

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

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr L. R. Johnson moved the following amendment: Clause 30, page 16, omit sub-clauses (5), (6) and (7).

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) 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—
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 129, dated 18 August 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
 The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clause 1—
 Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.
 Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 12 STATES GRANTS (ABORIGINAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976 [No. 2]: 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.
 The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.
 Mr L. R. Johnson moved the following amendment: Clause 7, page 2, at the end of sub-clause (2) add “and the purposes for which the amount was paid”.
 Debate continued.
 Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) addressing the committee—
 It being 10.30 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.
Adjournment negatived: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.
 Mr Viner requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—
 Question—put and negatived.
 The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Debate continued.
 Amendment negatived.
 Bill agreed to.
 Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr Viner, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.
 Debate ensued.
Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.03 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 17 November 1976, pursuant to statute:

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—Postal—1976—
Amendment No. 6.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony*, Mr Brown*, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Fife, Mr Garland and Mr Nicholls*.

* On leave

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