

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 75

FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER 1976

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), Mr Abel, Mr Connolly, Mr Hurford, Mr P. F. Johnson and Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson, 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 E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr L. R. Johnson—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 Garrick and Mr L. R. Johnson—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 E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications)—from certain citizens praying that the decision to cut Australian Broadcasting Commission funds be reversed and the independence of the A.B.C. and controls on commercial radio and television remain.
 - Mr E. L. Robinson—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 world energy resources.
 - Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that representatives of listeners be included on the proposed Broadcasting Council.
 - Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that all present services provided by the Australian Broadcasting Commission be continued.
 - Mr Jones—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.
 - 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 McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the petrol price equalisation scheme be restored immediately.
 - 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 Moore—from certain citizens praying that the Queensland Symphony Orchestra be continued.

Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued as recommended in the report tabled in Parliament on 4 March 1976.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Department of Industry and Commerce—Report for year 1975–76.

Pursuant to statute:

Postal Services Act—Direction by Minister to Australian Postal Commission under sub-section 8 (1) of the Act, dated 11 November 1976.

5 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

2 December 1976—Message—

No. 154—Nauru (High Court Appeals) 1976.

No. 155—

Federal Court of Australia 1976.

Remuneration and Allowances Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

Judiciary Amendment 1976.

Cconciliation and Arbitration Amendment (No. 3) 1976.

Bankruptcy Amendment 1976.

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Amendment 1976.

Northern Territory Supreme Court Amendment 1976.

Federal Court of Australia (Consequential Provisions) 1976.

Income Tax Assessment Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) 1976.

Patents Amendment 1976.

Trade Marks Amendment 1976.

6 ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Monday next at 2.15 p.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE UNIONS—GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE:

Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Innes had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The campaign by the Federal Government to denigrate the trade union movement and deny it its right to be involved in matters of legitimate trade union interest".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Innes addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Message No. 153, dated 2 December 1976, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "An Act to make provision for a Defence Service Homes Corporation, and for related purposes".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Newman (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—PRIMARY SCHOOL, KATHERINE SOUTH, N.T. : Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a proposed primary school at Katherine South, N.T.

Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (No. 4) 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.

Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 11 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 4, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 12 HOMES SAVINGS GRANT 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 Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading the House is of the opinion that this scheme does not recognise that each household in Australia is entitled to adequate and conveniently located accommodation at a price which does not impose too great a strain on household resources, rather it perpetuates existing inequalities".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 139, dated 18 November 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976 [No. 2]—PROPOSED GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning proposed Government amendments to the Broadcasting and Television Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976 [No. 2].

14 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

3 December 1976—Message—

No. 156—Nitrogenous Fertilizers Subsidy Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

No. 157—Queensland Grant (Special Assistance) 1976.

No. 158—States Grants (Nature Conservation) Amendment 1976.

No. 159—Softwood Forestry Agreements 1976.

15 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 6, government business, be postponed until the next sitting.

16 SEAMEN'S COMPENSATION 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.

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

17 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 4.28 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2.15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Anthony*, Mr Birney, Mr Burr, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Ellicott, Mr Garland, Mr Garrick, Mr Giles, Mr Hayden, Mr Katter, Dr Klugman, Mr MacKenzie, Mr McLean, Mr Nicholls*, Mr Nixon, Mr Ruddock, Mr Viner and Mr Wallis.

* On leave

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