

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 79

THURSDAY, 9 DECEMBER 1976

- 1 The House met, at 10.30 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 Abel, Mr Connolly, Mr Connor, Mr Dobie, Mr Graham and Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.
- Mr Keating, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris 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 Jones and Mr J. L. McMahon—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 Ellicott (Attorney-General)—from Danny Sankey of Vacluse, N.S.W., solicitor, praying that the House grant leave to the petitioner and his legal representatives to adduce into evidence in order to prove as a fact what was said in the House on 9 July 1975 by the Honourable Edward Gough Whitlam, Q.C. and by the Honourable Reginald Francis Xavier Connor, recorded on pages 3556-3601 inclusive and pages 3610-3625 inclusive of the House of Representatives weekly *Hansard*, No. 12, 1975, or alternatively the relevant pages reporting these statements made by these honourable Members and contained in the House of Representatives daily *Hansard* of that date.
- Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs)—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.
- Mr Abel—from certain citizens praying that the standard of the Hungarian language program broadcast on Radio Station 2EA be raised after consultation with the Hungarian-speaking community.
- Mr Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
- Mr Carige—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.
- Mr Connor—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 Fry—from certain citizens praying that a government primary school be provided in Fraser, A.C.T.
- Mr Hamer—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 the vacant land bounded by Fitchett Street, Kitchener Street and Yamba Drive, Garran, A.C.T., be left as an open area and made safe for community use.

Mr Haslem—from certain citizens of Canberra praying that the Wireless Telegraphy Act be amended to allow for the use of citizen's band radio by children.

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that the nomination of Ms Elizabeth Reid to the United Nations Secretariat for the Social and Economic Development Council be supported.

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 House call on Sir John Kerr to resign as Governor-General.

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 Macphee (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Women's Affairs)—

Mr Macphee laid upon the Table the following paper:

Women's Film Fund—Minister's notes.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Second Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 26 June 1976.

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of Nineteenth Meeting held at Perth on 27 September 1976.

Copyright Law Committee on Reprographic Reproduction—Report dated October 1976.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Report for year 1975–76.

Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development—First Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Freedom of information legislation—Policy proposals—Report of Interdepartmental Committee, dated November 1976.

Intersystem railway freight rating practices (with particular reference to the Riverina area of New South Wales)—Report of study by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated November 1976.

Labour Productivity—Measurement—Report of Working Party, dated November 1975.

National Estate—Supplement, dated August 1976, to the Report of the Interim Committee.

Petroleum—Royal Commission—Sixth Report—Use of liquified petroleum gas in Australia, dated 1 November 1976.

Poverty—Commission of Inquiry—Fifth Main Report—Poverty and Education in Australia by Dr R. T. Fitzgerald, dated December 1976.

Teaching of Migrant Languages in Schools—Report of Committee—Report, dated March 1976.

Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education).

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—First Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Australian National Airlines Act—Australian National Airlines Commission—Thirty-first Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Australian War Memorial Act—Board of Trustees of the Australian War Memorial—Thirteenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Canned Fruits Export Marketing Act—Australian Canned Fruits Board—Fiftieth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1975.

Dairy Adjustment Act—Dairy Adjustment Programs—Further Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and New South Wales, dated 3 December 1976.

Dairying Research Act—Dairying Research Committee—Fourth Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Export Market Development Grants Act—Export Development Grants Board—First Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Film and Television School Act—Council of the Film and Television School—First Annual Report, for year 1973–74, and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 25 March to 30 June 1974.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Director of Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 13 March 1975 to 30 June 1976.

Racial Discrimination Act—Commissioner for Community Relations—First Annual Report, for period 31 October 1975 to 30 June 1976.

States Grants (Technical and Further Education) Act—Statement of financial assistance granted to the States for year 1975–76.

Wheat Industry Stabilization Act—Australian Wheat Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 30 November 1975.

Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the report of the Interdepartmental Committee on policy proposals for freedom of information legislation.

Mr Ellicott, by leave, also made a ministerial statement in connection with the report of the Copyright Law Committee on Reprographic Reproduction.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the First Annual Report of the Commissioner for Community Relations.

Mr Innes, by leave, also made a statement relating to the First Annual Report of the Commissioner for Community Relations.

5 RETIREMENT OF MR N. J. PARKES, C.B.E., CLERK OF THE HOUSE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the forthcoming retirement of Mr N. J. Parkes, Clerk of the House, and, after referring to Mr Parkes' distinguished contribution to the House over many years, expressed the hope that he would have a long and enjoyable retirement.

Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Sinclair (Deputy Leader of the National Country Party of Australia) and other honourable Members associated themselves with the remarks of Mr Speaker.

6½ SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent a definite matter of public importance being submitted to the House and discussed at a later hour this day.

Question—put and passed.

7 ELECTORAL MATTERS—PROPOSED SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and report on—
- (a) the conduct of elections for the Australian Parliament;
 - (b) the role of the Australian Electoral Office;
 - (c) the extent to which political party organisations should be recognised and made accountable in electoral legislation;
 - (d) the funding of political parties and candidates, and
 - (e) the funding and recognition of political parties and laws relating to political parties in countries comparable to Australia.

- (2) That the committee consist of 10 members, 5 to be nominated by the Prime Minister and 5 to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the Speaker.
- (4) That the committee elect as Chairman of the committee one of the members nominated by the Prime Minister.
- (5) That the committee elect a Deputy Chairman who shall perform the duties of the Chairman of the committee at any time when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are not present at a meeting of the committee, the members present shall elect another member to perform the duties of the Chairman at that meeting.
- (6) That the committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of 3 or more of its members, to appoint the Chairman of each sub-committee, and refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (7) That 5 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, and a majority of the members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee.
- (8) That members of the committee who are not members of a sub-committee may take part in the public proceedings of that sub-committee but shall not vote or move any motion or constitute a quorum.
- (9) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.
- (10) That the committee have power to move from place to place.
- (11) That any sub-committee have power to move from place to place, adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment.
- (12) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to authorise publication of any evidence given before it and any document presented to it.
- (13) That in matters of procedure the Chairman or Deputy Chairman presiding at the meeting have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of voting, have a casting vote, and that, in other matters, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman have a deliberative vote only.
- (14) That the committee be provided with necessary staff, facilities and resources.
- (15) That the committee in selecting particular matters for investigation take account of the investigations of other Parliamentary committees and avoid duplication.
- (16) That the committee report as soon as possible and that any member of the committee have power to add a protest or dissent to the committee's report.
- (17) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Mr Young addressing the House—

It being 2 hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109.

Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notice No. 1 be extended until 12.45 p.m. Debate continued.

Closure: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—was put accordingly, and negatived. The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, government business was called on.

8 ROYAL COMMISSION ON AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning Government decisions following consideration of recommendations of the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration.

- 9 TRADING STOCK VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning Government decisions relating to the system of trading stock valuation adjustments foreshadowed in the budget speech.
Mr Hurford, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—STANDARDS OF LIVING: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The fall in the standards of living under the Fraser Government”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 11 COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION—3RD AUSTRALASIAN PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Lucock, by leave, presented the following paper:
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association—Summary report of proceedings of the 3rd Australasian Parliamentary Seminar, September 1976—
and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
Dr Jenkins, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.
- 12 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Shipton brought up the following report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:
Torres Strait Boundary—
Vol. I—Report, excluding Appendix IX.
Vol. II—Appendix IX to report—Historical documents relating to the maritime boundary of Queensland.
Ordered to be printed.
Mr Shipton, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 13 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT COMMITTEE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Connolly (Chairman), by leave, made a statement concerning the activities of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts.
- 14 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—MADRID CONFERENCE, 1976—REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr FitzPatrick, by leave, presented the following paper:
Inter-Parliamentary Union—63rd Conference, Madrid, 23 September to 1 October 1976—Report of the Australian Delegation.
Ordered to be printed.
Mr FitzPatrick and Mr Chipp, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.
- 15 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—SUPREME COURT, ALICE SPRINGS, 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 Supreme Court at Alice Springs, N.T.
Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
- 16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) BILL 1976 [No. 2]: The following message from the Senate was reported:
Mr Speaker, Message No. 173
The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act providing for the granting of Traditional Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory for the benefit of Aboriginals, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the

Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Canberra, 9 December 1976

C. L. LAUCKE
President

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

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE

- No. 1—Page 2, clause 3, sub-clause (1), line 32, after “includes”, insert “a prospecting authority and also”.
- No. 2—Page 23, clause 40, at end of clause, add the following new sub-clause:
“(7) Sub-section (1) does not apply in relation to the land described in Schedule 3, being the land known as the Eastern Areas on Groote Eylandt.”
- No. 3—Page 24, clause 43, sub-clause (2), line 19, leave out “or (6)”, insert “, (6) or (7)”.
- No. 4—Page 24, clause 43, sub-clause (2), line 23, leave out all words after “an”, insert “agreement under seal with the Land Council containing such terms and conditions as are agreed on by the parties having regard to the effect of the grant of the mining interest on Aborigines, which terms may include a requirement for the payment to the Land Council by the applicant of an amount or amounts specified in, or calculated in accordance with, the agreement”.
- No. 5—Page 44, after Schedule 2, add the following new Schedule:

“SCHEDULE 3

Section 40

EASTERN AREAS ON GROOTE EYLANDT

All those pieces of land in the Northern Territory of Australia containing an area of 43.96 square kilometres more or less;

Firstly

Commencing at the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 01 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 01 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 32 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 03 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 32 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 03 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes 45 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 02 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 01 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes 30 seconds.

Secondly

Commencing at the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 04 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 28 minutes 45 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 04 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 31 minutes thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 04 minutes 30 seconds with longitude 136 degrees 31 minutes thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 04 minutes 30 seconds with longitude 136 degrees 34 minutes 15 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 06 minutes 30 seconds with longitude 136 degrees 31 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 06 minutes 30 seconds with longitude 136 degrees 31 minutes 30 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 06 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 05 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 30 minutes thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 05 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 28 minutes 45 seconds thence proceeding to the intersection of latitude 14 degrees 04 minutes with longitude 136 degrees 28 minutes 45 seconds.”

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), the amendments were agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Jarman reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner, the House adopted the report.

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

9 December 1976—Message—

No. 174—Aboriginal Councils and Associations 1976.

No. 175—States Grants (Aboriginal Assistance) 1976.

18 GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the Government's management of the economy.

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

19 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Hodges (Chairman) brought up the following report from the Publications Committee:

REPORT

The Publications Committee, having considered Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommends that the following be printed:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 26 June 1976.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Australian National Airlines Act—Australian National Airlines Commission—Thirty-first Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Australian War Memorial Act—Board of Trustees of the Australian War Memorial—Thirteenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Canned Fruits Export Marketing Act—Australian Canned Fruits Board—Fiftieth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1975.

Commissioner for Community Relations—First Annual Report, for period 31 October 1975 to 30 June 1976.

Copyright Law Committee on Reprographic Reproduction—Report dated October 1976.

Dairying Research Act—Dairying Research Committee—Fourth Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Report for year 1975–76.

Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development—Report for year 1975–76.

Export Market Development Grants Act—Export Development Grants Board—First Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Film and Television School Act—Council of the Film and Television School—Report, for year 1973–74, and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 25 March to 30 June 1974.

Intersystem railway freight rating practices—Report of study by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport.

National Estate—Supplement, dated August 1976, to the Report of the Interim Committee.

National Parks and Wildlife Service—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 13 March 1975 to 30 June 1976.

Policy proposals for freedom of information legislation—Report of Inter-departmental Committee, dated November 1976.

Poverty—Commission of Inquiry—Fifth Main Report—Poverty and Education in Australia.

States Grants (Technical and Further Education) Act—Statement of financial assistance granted to the States for year 1975–76.

Wheat Industry Stabilization Act—Australian Wheat Board—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 30 November 1975.

J. C. HODGES,
Chairman

9 December 1976

Mr Hodges, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

20 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Message No. 176, dated 9 December 1976, from the Senate was reported concurring in the resolution of the House relating to the appointment of a Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory, and agreeing that the resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

21 NAVIGATION 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.

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.

On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), the following amendment was made, after debate: Clause 2, page 2, at the end of sub-clause (4) add “but the amendments made by sub-section 26 (1) and 29 (2) of this Act do not apply in relation to a wreck situated in waters (including waters above the continental shelf) adjacent to the coast of a State until the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976* applies in relation to those waters”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.

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

22 HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Clause 9—

Page 6, line 14, omit “ and ” (first occurring), substitute “ or ”.

Page 6, after sub-clause (4) insert the following sub-clause:

“(4A) It is a defence to a prosecution of a person for an offence against a provision of this section in relation to an article if the person proves—

(a) in the case of an offence against sub-section (1) or (2) in relation to an article in respect of which a notice was published in the *Gazette* under

section 5 or 6—that the person did not know, and had no reasonable grounds for believing, that the article was an article to which the notice related; or

(b) in the case of an offence against sub-section (3) or (4)—that the person did not know, and had no reasonable grounds for believing, that the article was a Dutch relic or a part of a Dutch shipwreck.”

Clause 17, page 10, line 29, after “proves” insert “, or proves that he had reasonable grounds for believing,”.

Clause 23, page 13, after sub-clause (5) insert the following sub-clause:

“(5A) It is a reasonable excuse for a person to fail to answer a question that he is required to answer under this section that the answer to the question may tend to incriminate him.”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.

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

- 23 SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 14 October 1976*), viz.: Specific Learning Difficulties—Select Committee—Report entitled “Learning difficulties in children and adults”—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Beazley), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 24 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

9 December 1976—Message No. 143—

Federal Court of Australia 1976.

Federal Court of Australia (Consequential Provisions) 1976.

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Amendment 1976.

Northern Territory Supreme Court Amendment 1976.

Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment (No. 3) 1976.

Bankruptcy Amendment 1976.

Patents Amendment 1976.

Trade Marks Amendment 1976.

Judiciary Amendment 1976.

Income Tax Assessment Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) 1976.

- 25 SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 14 October 1976*), viz.:

Specific Learning Difficulties—Select Committee—Report entitled “Learning difficulties in children and adults”—

Debate resumed.

Mr McVeigh addressing the House—

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

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Mr McVeigh continued his speech.

Question—put and passed.

- 26 **APPOINTMENT OF CLERK OF THE HOUSE:** Mr Speaker informed the House that on his recommendation the Governor-General in Council had appointed the Deputy Clerk, Mr J. A. Pettifer, to be Clerk of the House as on and from 1 January 1977.
- 27 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 Defence Report 1976.
 Ordered to be printed.
- 28 **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LEAVE TO MAKE NOT GRANTED:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) asked leave to make a ministerial statement concerning Defence Force retirement benefits legislation.
 Objection being raised, leave not granted.
- 29 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS MOVED:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—
 That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Minister for Defence making a statement regarding Defence Force retirement benefits legislation.
 Debate ensued.
 Motion withdrawn, by leave.
- 30 **DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT BENEFITS LEGISLATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning methods of annual adjustment to Defence Force retirement benefits.
 Mr Hayden, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 31 **VALEDICTORY STATEMENTS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a statement expressing thanks to the Parliamentary staff for their service throughout the year and wished Members and staff seasonal good wishes.
 Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, made similar statements.
 Mr Speaker also expressed his appreciation to the staff.
- 32 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 15 February next, at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.
 Question—put and passed.
- 33 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.
 Question—put and passed.
- 34 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.
 Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at 11.13 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday 15 February next at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 December 1976, pursuant to statute:

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

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1976—

No. 60—Seeds.

No. 61—Parole of Prisoners.

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

* On leave

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