

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 83

TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 1977

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 Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), Mr Dobie and Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.

Mr Chapman, Mr Drummond and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Australian Council of Local Government Associations for the allocation of funds for roads be adopted and the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of all funds for roads.

Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources) and Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads for the funding of local roads in New South Wales be adopted.

Mr Staley and Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that an organisation concerned with better quality television for Australian children be created.

Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory)—from certain employees of the electrical power industry in Darwin praying that the present radio system used by the Electrical Supply Department be replaced.

Mr C. R. Cameron—from certain citizens and residents from overseas praying that political asylum be granted to Mr Hishamuddin Rais.

Mr FitzPatrick—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—from certain citizens praying that increases in the Consumer Price Index be applied to age and invalid pensions and that any revision of the Consumer Price Index will not result in reductions in the value of future pensions.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund—Reports—1976—

July.

August.

September.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Calcium carbide, dated 15 December 1976.

Commercial motor vehicles, parts and accessories: Short term assistance—

Interim report dated 30 November 1976.

Electric motors, generators and rotary converters, dated 7 October 1976.

Soaps and detergents, etc., dated 30 September 1976.

Watt hour meters—(Developing country preferences), dated 4 January 1977.

Interpreters and Translators—Report of Interdepartmental Working Party, dated February 1977.

Schools Commission—Role and composition—

Copy of letter from Minister for Education to Dr K. R. McKinnon, Chairman, Schools Commission, dated 8 February 1977.

Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education).

Pursuant to statute:

Health Insurance Commission Act—Health Insurance Commission—Second Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975-76.

Hospitals and Health Services Commission Act—Hospitals and Health Services Commission—Third Annual Report and financial statement, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975-76.

Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the report of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund for September 1976.

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

Mr Adermann made a further statement on the matter.

5 AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION AGENCY—WITHDRAWAL FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the withdrawal from Papua New Guinea of the Construction Agency of the Department of Construction.

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

17 February 1977—Message—

No. 203—Defence Amendment 1976.

No. 204—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Amendment 1976.

7 HANSARD—PRICE REDUCTION—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER: Mr Speaker made a statement informing the House of a reduction in price of the weekly *Hansard*.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COST OF LIVING: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hurford had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The actions of the Fraser Government which have increased the cost of living".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1977: 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 Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, made a statement concerning the future progress of the Bill.

Debate resumed.

Mr Sainsbury addressing the House—

10 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 11.01 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 February 1977, pursuant to statute:

- Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—S. R. Spotswood.
- Currency Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 17.
- Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 13.
- Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 14.
- Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 16.
- Lands Acquisition Act—
  - Land acquired for—
    - Lightstation purposes—Highfield Point, Tas.
    - Telecommunications purposes—
      - Coonamble, N.S.W.
      - Lauderdale, Tas.
  - Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act.
- Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—
  - No. 4—Magistrates 1976.
  - No. 5—Justices 1976.
- Public Service Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 15.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Innes, Mr MacKellar, Mr Nicholls and Mr Viner.

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