

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 2

WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 1977

1 The House met, at 2.30 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 Braithwaite, Mr Burr, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Carige, Mr Corbett, Mr Drummond, Mr Giles, Mr Hyde, Mr Kelly, Mr Porter, Dr Richardson, Mr Thomson, Mr Wallis and Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.

Mr Fisher, Mr Holten, Mr King, Mr Lynch, Mr Scholes, Mr Short and Mr Simon—from certain citizens praying that the Government totally finance national highways and provide half the cost of all other public roads.

Mr Fife, Mr Hunt, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Sullivan—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 Dobie—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.

Mr Fry—from certain citizens of Canberra, A.C.T., praying that section 107, Ainslie, be gazetted as parkland.

Mr Gillard—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting Tribunal hear an application for a radio station licence by the Nepean Community Radio Society.

Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that those sections of the Criminal Code prohibiting the practice of homosexual and incestuous acts be upheld.

Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Libraries be implemented.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that the House call on Sir John Kerr to resign as Governor-General.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that an organisation concerned with better quality television for children be created.

Mr Wallis—from certain citizens of Eyre Peninsula, S.A., praying that an automatic telephone service be introduced to the area.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory), Senator Webster (Minister for Science) would act as Minister for the Northern Territory and Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) would represent the Acting Minister for the Northern Territory in this House.

4 **OPPOSITION WHIP:** Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) informed the House that Mr L. R. Johnson had been appointed Opposition Whip.

5 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Industries Assistance Commission—Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Bench or pedestal drilling machines not power fed, dated 24 December 1976.
United Nations—Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, Fifth Session, New York, 2 August to 17 September 1976—Report of Australian Delegation.

Pursuant to statute:

International Monetary Agreements Act—Report on operations of the Act, and in so far as they relate to Australia, of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for year 1975–76.

7 **REFERENDUM PROPOSALS AND POLL FOR NATIONAL SONG—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that, following the passage through both Houses of the Constitution Alteration (Simultaneous Elections) Bill, the Constitution Alteration (Senate Casual Vacancies) Bill, the Constitution Alteration (Retirement of Judges) Bill and the Constitution Alteration (Referendums) Bill, the Government would recommend to His Excellency the Governor-General that the writs for the referendums in relation to these Bills be issued on 27 April and that the referendums would be held on 21 May.

Mr Ellicott also informed the House that concurrently with the referendums all electors would be asked to express on a voluntary basis their preferences for the tune of a national song to be played on occasions other than Regal and Vice-Regal occasions.

8 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WAGE AND SALARY LEVELS:** 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 Government's policy of substantially reducing real wage and salary levels".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 **ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN:** Mr Groom brought up the Address in Reply to Her Majesty's Speech, prepared by the committee appointed at the previous sitting, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

The presence in Australia of Your Majesty and of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh has once again brought the greatest pleasure to Your Australian people. We, their representatives in this House, are grateful for the opportunity to re-affirm our allegiance to you as our Queen.

Mr Groom moved—That the Address be agreed to.

Mr MacKenzie seconded the motion.

Debate continued.

Mr Hodgman was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Mr Staley moved—That the question be now put.

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

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed.

And then the House, at 11.01 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 9 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Brown, Mr Connor and Mr Nicholls.

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