

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 4

TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 1977

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- 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 **DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR (THE HONOURABLE J. I. ARMSTRONG):** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) referred to the death of the Honourable J. I. Armstrong, and moved—That this House expresses its deep regret at the death on 10 March of the Honourable John Ignatius Armstrong, A.C., a Senator for New South Wales from 1938 to 1962, a Minister of the Crown from 1946 to 1949, Deputy Opposition Leader in the Senate from 1951 to 1956, Lord Mayor of Sydney from 1965 to 1967, and High Commissioner for Australia to the United Kingdom from 1973 to 1975; places on record its appreciation of his long and meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.  
And Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr Anthony (Leader of the National Country Party of Australia), Mr Speaker and other honourable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—  
Question—passed.
  - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
    - Mr Adermann, Mr Bonnett, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Carige, Mr Corbett, Mr Drummond, Mr Groom, Mr Hodges, Mr Hurford, Mr Hyde, Mr Kelly, Mr Porter, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr Wallis and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.
    - Dr Klugman, Mr MacKenzie, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that increases in the Consumer Price Index be applied to pensions and that future pensions be not reduced as a result of any revision of the Index.
    - Mr Bradfield and Mr MacKenzie—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 Anthony—from certain members of the Order of the White Cross praying that certain steps be taken to encourage afforestation.
    - Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished.
    - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the zone allowance provisions in the Income Tax Assessment Act be varied.
    - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that an Australian Broadcasting Commission television service be established at Moranbah, Qld.
    - Mr Haslem—from certain citizens praying that a Citizens Radio Service be allowed to function legally.

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

Mr King—from certain councillors and residents of the Shire of Kowree, Vic., praying that the Government totally finance national highways and provide half the cost of all other public roads.

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

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

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

Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPER: The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Sugar Agreement Act—Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee—45th Annual Report, and statement of receipts and expenditure certified by the Auditor-General, for year 1975-76.

6 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Message No. 1, dated 10 March 1977, 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.

7 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following nominations of Senators and Members to be members of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory:

Senators Bonner, Chaney and Kilgariff had been nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and Senators Cavanagh, Coleman and Robertson had been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

Mr Calder, Mr Drummond, Mr McLean, Mr Ruddock and Mr Wentworth had been nominated by the Prime Minister and Mr Beazley, Mr Bryant and Mr L. R. Johnson had been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

8 TOURISM—SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Select Committee on Tourism:

Mr Bonnett, Mr Jull, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Sainsbury and Mr Short had been nominated by the Prime Minister and Mr Cohen, Mr Stewart and Mr Young had been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.

9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Kelly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the proposed construction of a law courts building, Alice Springs, N.T. (2nd report of 1977).

Ordered to be printed.

10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS: 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, "Fraser Government Ministers' misleading statements on the economy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of Her Majesty The Queen be agreed to:

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.

Debate resumed.

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

- 12 FOREIGN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement with respect to the Government's foreign policy, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Foreign policy—Ministerial statement, 15 March 1977.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Sinclair, by leave, moved—

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 60 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Dr Klugman having been called to speak—

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- 13 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 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for telecommunications purposes—  
Edensor Park, N.S.W.  
Macclesfield, S.A.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—  
1976—

No. 807—Australian Workers' Union.

No. 808—Professional Para-Medical Officers Association (Commonwealth Public Service).

No. 809—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.

No. 810—Australian Broadcasting Commission Senior Officers' Association and another.

Nos. 811 and 812—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

Nos. 813 to 817—Royal Australian Nursing Federation and another.

No. 818—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.

- No. 819—Australian Broadcasting Commission Senior Officers' Association and another.
- No. 820—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 821—Clothing and Allied Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 822—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and another.†
- No. 823—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.
- No. 824—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 825—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- Nos. 826 and 827—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.
- No. 828—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 830—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
- No. 831—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
- No. 832—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 833—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.†
- No. 834—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
- No. 835—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 836—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
- No. 837—Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association of Australia.
- No. 838—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- Nos. 839 and 840—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
- No. 841—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.
- No. 842—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 843—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 845—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 846—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.
- No. 848—Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 852—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- († Not accompanied by statement).

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Falconer, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Nicholls and Dr Richardson.

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