

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 9

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 1977

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 Braithwaite, Mr Carige, Mr Chapman, Mr Groom, Mr Katter and Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.

Mr Fry, Dr Klugman and Mr MacKenzie—from certain members of the Service Station Association of N.S.W. Ltd and others praying that in implementing the findings of the Royal Commission on Petroleum the needs of the motoring public and retail petroleum industry be given every consideration.

Mr Graham and Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that increases in the Consumer Price Index be applied to pensions and that future pensions not be reduced as a result of any revision of the Index.

Mr Bradfield—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 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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be financed on a national basis and administered by State Governments.

Mr Ellicott—from Danny Sankey of Vacluse, N.S.W., solicitor, praying that the House (1) grant leave to the petitioner, his legal representatives, the presiding Magistrate and the legal representatives for the defendants appearing at the Queanbeyan Court of Petty Sessions to look at and have marked for identification the documents already produced to that Court on 21 December 1976 by the then Clerk of this House and otherwise to use and deal with those documents in order to establish as a fact that such documents were tabled in this House on 9 July 1975 and are copies of original documents now held in the custody of the Commonwealth Crown and (2) grant leave to the petitioner and his legal representatives to issue and serve subpoenae for the attendance at the Queanbeyan Court of Petty Sessions to give evidence, of all those persons who took the official record of that part of the proceedings of this House on 9 July 1975 where the Honourable Edward Gough Whitlam, Q.C., and the Honourable Reginald Francis Xavier Connor stated the purposes of the proposed overseas borrowing and in particular to give evidence of the matters stated by those two honourable Members as appear in the House of Representatives Weekly *Hansard* No. 12, 1975 at pages 3595-6, 3598-9 and 3611-2.

Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that any legislation to extend the power to compulsorily retire Australian Government employees be rejected unless it has the approval of staff representatives.

Mr Gillard—from certain citizens praying that the decision to cut the 1975–76 Overseas Development Assistance vote be reversed and other action be taken concerning overseas development assistance.

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the petrol price equalisation scheme be restored.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPER: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

International Trade Law—3rd meeting of lawyers and businessmen sponsored by Attorney-General's Department, Canberra, 19–20 June 1976—Papers and summary of discussions.

5 MEMBER FOR HOTHAM (MR CHIPP)—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Chipp, by leave, made a statement with respect to his resignation from the Liberal Party of Australia.

6 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Connolly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

162nd Report—Financial administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Connolly, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

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

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

7 COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT PRINTER (MR F. D. ATKINSON)—RESIGNATION: Mr Speaker informed the House of the resignation of the Commonwealth Government Printer, Mr F. D. Atkinson, and, after referring to Mr Atkinson's service to the Parliament, wished him well in his new employment.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) and Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) supported the remarks of Mr Speaker.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—REFERENDUM (CONSTITUTION ALTERATION) MODIFICATION BILL 1977: Message No. 2, dated 23 March 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to modify the application of section 16 of the 'Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Act 1906'*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

9 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BILL 1977: Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Investigation of Offences against the Laws of the Commonwealth and of the Internal Territories by Members of the Commonwealth Police Force, and for Purposes connected therewith.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

10 LAW COURTS (SYDNEY) BILL 1977: Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Transfer of certain Land in Sydney to Law Courts Limited and the exemption of that Company from certain Taxation. Bill read a first time.

Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

11 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Ordered—That notice No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

12 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.

Mr Hurford moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Speech among other things—

- (a) fails to outline the Government's program for economic management;
- (b) thereby adds to the mounting uncertainty and concern in the community;
- (c) accordingly leads to the belief that the Government's policies will be totally inadequate to contend with worsening inflation, post-war record unemployment, business stagnation and declining living standards for millions of Australians, and
- (d) neglects to outline details of social reforms which are essential to reduce inequalities and to overcome hardships being suffered by so many in need”.

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

13 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS 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 Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented this day*), viz.:

Public Accounts Committee—162nd Report—Financial administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs—

Ordered—That Mr Bryant be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Papers: Mr Bryant, by leave, presented the following papers:

Public Accounts Committee—Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report on the financial administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs—

Copy of letter, dated 16 March 1977, from Mr Bryant to Mr Connolly (Chairman of the Committee).

Copy of memorandum, dated 24 January 1973, from Mr Bryant to Mr B. G. Dexter, Secretary, Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Extracts (2) from the report of the Auditor-General upon the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, dated March 1974.

Newspaper cuttings (11).

Submissions by Mr Bryant tendered to the Committee on—

6 December 1974—

Part I—Submission.

Part II—Attachments.

4 November 1976.

Mr Lusher asked leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Debate continued.

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

- 14 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Hurford, viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Speech among other things—

- (a) fails to outline the Government's program for economic management;
- (b) thereby adds to the mounting uncertainty and concern in the community;
- (c) accordingly leads to the belief that the Government's policies will be totally inadequate to contend with worsening inflation, post-war record unemployment, business stagnation and declining living standards for millions of Australians, and
- (d) neglects to outline details of social reforms which are essential to reduce inequalities and to overcome hardships being suffered by so many in need”—

Debate resumed.

Mr J. L. McMahon addressing the House—

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

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

And the question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Snedden, in the Chair)—

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Mr Armitage	Mr Connor	Dr Klugman	Mr A. P. Whitlam
Mr Beazley	Mr Crean	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Willis
Mr Bowen	Mr Garrick	Mr Martin	
Mr Bryant	Mr Hayden	Mr Morris	
Dr J. F. Cairns	Mr Hurford	Mr Scholes	
Mr C. R. Cameron	Dr Jenkins	Mr Stewart	<i>Tellers:</i>
Dr Cass	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Uren	Mr James
Mr Cohen	Mr Jones	Mr Wallis	Mr L. R. Johnson

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Mr Abel	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Aldred	Mr Drummond	Mr Kelly	Mr Porter
Mr Anthony	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Dr Richardson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Falconer	Mr King	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Baume	Mr Fife	Mr Lucock	Mr Ruddock
Mr Birney	Mr Garland	Mr Lusher	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bonnett	Mr Giles	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bouchier	Mr Gillard	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Bradfield	Mr Goodluck	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Graham	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Brown	Mr Groom	Mr McLeay	Mr Street
Mr Bungey	Mr Haslem	Mr W. McMahan	Mr Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr Hodges	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodgman	Mr Macphee	Mr Viner
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Holten	Mr Martyr	Mr Wentworth
Mr Calder	Mr Howard	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr Carige	Mr Hunt	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Neil	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr Jarman	Mr Newman	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Cotter	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Nixon	Mr Fisher

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the Address be agreed to—put and passed.

Presentation of Address in Reply: Mr Speaker informed the House that he had ascertained that His Excellency the Governor-General would be pleased to receive the Address in Reply to the Opening Speech of Her Majesty The Queen at Government House at 5.45 p.m. this day. Mr Speaker said he would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other honourable Members, would accompany him to present the Address.

- 15 ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations, the appointment of members to the Council and the appointment of Professor R. Mathews as its Chairman.

Suspension of sitting: At 5.09 p.m., Mr Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting: At 8 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

- 16 PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY: Mr Deputy Speaker reported that, accompanied by honourable Members, Mr Speaker had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to the Speech of Her Majesty The Queen on the Opening of the Second Session of the Thirtieth Parliament, agreed to by the House this day, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:

Mr Speaker,

In the name, and on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen, I accept the Address in Reply.

It will be my pleasure and my duty to convey to Her Majesty the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives, to which the Address gives expression.

- 17 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented this day*), viz.:

Public Accounts Committee—162nd Report—Financial administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 18 COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF ROADS (REPEAL) BILL 1977: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal the *Commonwealth Bureau of Roads Act 1964*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 19 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 20 DEFENCE AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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—Debate resumed.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION) 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—

Debate resumed.

Mr McLean addressing the House—

- 22 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 Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 32.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 33.

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

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 35.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Corbett, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Katter, Mr Nicholls and Mr Peacock.

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