

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 22

TUESDAY, 24 MAY 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 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) had been appointed as a Minister Assisting the Prime Minister, to assist him in all areas not covered by other Ministers Assisting the Prime Minister.
- 3 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Brown, Mr Garrick, Mr Lynch, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Peacock and Mr Ruddock—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 Braithwaite, Mr Carige and Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that private clinics be prevented from performing abortions in the A.C.T. and that abortions not be financed through Medibank.
 - Mr Hayden and Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying that any legislation to extend the power to retire compulsorily Australian Government employees be rejected unless it has the approval of staff representatives.
 - Mr Morris and Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Libraries be implemented.
 - Mr Adermann—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.
 - Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that education expenditure be increased and certain other action be taken in connection with student assistance.
 - Mr Cadman—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 the retail petroleum industry be given every consideration.
 - Mr Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained and certain other action be taken in connection with the A.B.C. and broadcasting.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the income tax law be amended to allow for claims for sullage removal expenses.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes not be introduced.
 - Mr Simon—from certain citizens of the Division of McMillan praying that estate duty be phased out over the next 5 years.

Petitions received.

4 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS MOVED: Mr Neil having given a notice of motion of censure of the honourable Members for Hawker and Scullin—

Mr Scholes moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent immediate debate of the notice given by the honourable Member for St George.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 31

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

NOES, 86

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

And so it was negatived.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Administrator:

Official Establishments—Interim report of Committee on Official Establishments, dated April 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Development Assistance Agency Act—Australian Development Assistance Agency—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, for year 1975–76.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Commonwealth Arbitration Inspectorate—Report on the operation of s. 125 for year 1975–76.

Fishing Industry Act—20th Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

7 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY—ALLEGED ACTIVITIES IN AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to allegations of activities in Australia by the United States Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Martin asked leave to make a statement in connection with the matter.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.

- 8 NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's nuclear safeguards policy, and, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:

Nuclear safeguards policy—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1977.

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

Mr Keating 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.

- 9 UNITED NATIONS—GENERAL ASSEMBLY—31ST SESSION—REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:

United Nations—General Assembly—31st Session, New York, 22 September to 22 December 1976—Report of Australian Delegation—

and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report.

Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

- 10 REFUGEE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the Government's refugee policy and the establishment of administrative machinery for its implementation, and, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:

Refugee policy—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1977.

Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS No. 14 (1977): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 14 (1977).

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

- 12 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Connolly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

163rd Report—Expenditure from the Advance to the Treasurer (Appropriation Acts 1975–76).

Ordered to be printed.

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

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

Report relating to the proposed development of R.A.A.F. Base, Point Cook, Vic. (3rd report of 1977).

Ordered to be printed.

- 14 MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Administrator were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, has assented to the following Bills:

5 May 1977—Message—

No. 12—Australian Development Assistance Agency (Repeal) 1977.

No. 13—

Tertiary Education Commission 1977.

Commonwealth Teaching Service Amendment 1977.

16 May 1977—Message No. 14—

Commonwealth Bureau of Roads (Repeal) 1977.

Automatic Data Processing Equipment Bounty 1977.

Bed Sheeting Bounty 1977.

Agricultural Tractors Bounty Amendment 1977.

18 May 1977—Message No. 15—

Insurance Amendment 1977.

Life Insurance Amendment 1977.

States Grants (Dwellings for Pensioners) Amendment 1977.

New Zealand Re-exports (Repeal) 1977.

15 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF CEILINGS:

Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Scholes and Mr Birney had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, Mr Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Scholes, namely, "The reduction and delays in services to the public caused by public service staff ceilings".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Scholes addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

16 MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—WHITE PAPER—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—

MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Howard (Minister representing the Minister for Industry and Commerce), by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:

Manufacturing industry—White paper, dated May 1977.

Mr Howard, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper, and, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:

Manufacturing industry—White paper—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1977.

Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

17 MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR SERVICE OF THE YEAR, 1977-78—INTERIM PROVISION—SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) 1977-78: Message No. 16, dated 24 May 1977, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced—

(a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1978, for which interim provision is necessary, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly, and

(b) recommending to the House of Representatives an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1978, for the payment of such increases in salaries and wages and payments in the nature of salary, for which provision is made in the attached particulars of proposed expenditure as have become payable or become payable, or have commenced or commence to be paid, during that year in accordance with any law, or in accordance with an award, order or determination made under a law.

Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1978.

Bill read a first time.

Mr E. L. Robinson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 18 MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR, CERTAIN PROPOSED EXPENDITURE, 1977-78—INTERIM PROVISION—SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 1977-78: Message No. 17, dated 24 May 1977, from His Excellency the Administrator was announced transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of certain proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1978, for which interim provision is necessary, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1978.

Bill read a first time.

Mr E. L. Robinson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 19 HOUSING LOANS INSURANCE 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that the Government by reducing the present and future capital available to the Corporation has ignored the opportunities available to it to influence the policies of lending institutions in the housing and land fields”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), the Bill was read a third time.

- 20 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—Debate resumed.

Mr Shipton addressing the House—

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

Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Shipton continued his speech.

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

- 21 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—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.

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

Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 56.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired for—

Aerodrome extension purposes—Archerfield, Qld.

Defence purposes—St Kilda, S.A.

Statements (2) of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 58.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 37 (*In substitution for the paper presented on 29 March 1977*).

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 12—Workmen's Compensation.

No. 13—Fisheries.

Postal Services Act—By-laws—Postal—1977—Amendment No. 1.

Public Service Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 57.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1977—

No. 171—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

No. 176—Merchant Service Guild of Australia.

No. 177—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.

No. 181—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.†

No. 193—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.

No. 194—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

No. 195—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.

No. 196—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

No. 214—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.

No. 215—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 216—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 217—Australian Workers' Union.

No. 218—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

No. 219—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.†

No. 220—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service and another.

No. 221—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 222—Australian Journalists Association.

No. 223—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 225—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†

(†Not accompanied by statement)

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1977/3—

Holders of public offices on the Australian National Gallery and other bodies.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinance—1977—No. 11—Money Lenders (Amendment).

Regulations—1977—

No. 9 (Parole Ordinance).

No. 10 (Canberra Commercial Development Authority Ordinance).

No. 11 (Health Commission Ordinance).

Telecommunications Act—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 11.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bryant, Mr Connor, Mr Nicholls* and Dr Richardson.

* On leave

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