

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 31

WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST 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 Abel, Mr Armitage, Mr Bouchier, Mr Bradfield, Mr Dobie, Mr Gillard and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions be reversed.

Mr Yates—from certain students in the same terms.

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Giles, Mr Kelly, Mr McLeay, Mr Porter, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr Short and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Mr Anthony, Mr Armitage, Mr Bradfield, Mr Morris and Mr Stewart—from certain citizens praying that private nursing homes be subsidised to allow pensioner patients to retain \$6 per week for personal use and that certain other action be taken in connection with pensioner benefits.

Mr Jones, Mr MacKellar and Mr Morris—from certain members of the Australian Association for Better Hearing and others praying that consideration be given to waiving costs for special telephone equipment required by hearing impaired members of the public.

Mr Kelly, Mr Lynch and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that payments of abortion claims under the Medical Benefits Schedule cease except for those abortions carried out in hospitals as a certified medical procedure to prevent the death of the mother and certain other action be taken in connection with pregnancy help services.

Mr Hodgman and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.

Mr Macphee and Mr Short—from certain citizens praying that current private hospital and nursing home subsidies not be withdrawn.

Mr Macphee and Mr Short—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 Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

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

Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying for the implementation of the recommendations of the Nimmo Report which relate to assistance for air passengers travelling to and from King Island.

Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying that any ordinance to authorise the establishment of a gambling casino in Canberra be disallowed.

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that immediate steps be taken to provide humanitarian aid to refugees from South Africa.

Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.

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

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that public debate on a replacement constitution be encouraged, a directly elected constitutional convention be convened and a referendum be conducted on any of its resolutions.

Mr Neil—from certain members of the Brighton-le-Sands Progress Association praying that the Major Airport Needs of Sydney Study be directed to delete from its considerations the proposal to site a new runway through the suburb of Kyeemagh.

Mr Newman—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Broadcasting Commission television service to Derby and district, Tas., be improved.

Mr Porter—from certain parents of pupils of Strathalbyn Primary School, S.A., praying that the standard of children's television programs be improved.

Mr Porter—from certain electors and residents of South Australia praying that advertising on television be eliminated between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that there be no increase in telephone charges and that postage rates be reduced.

Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that radio station 3ZZ not be closed and that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained.

Mr Thomson—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 ADVANCE TO THE TREASURER 1976-77—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Advance to the Treasurer for year 1976-77—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act* 1901.

Ordered—That the statement be taken into consideration in committee of the whole House at the next sitting.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Cocos (Keeling) Islands—Report for 1976.

Industries Assistance Commission—Interim reports—

Plywood and veneer (thick plywood), dated 10 March 1977.

Review inquiry No. 12—Clothing: children's knitted tracksuits, playsuits, rompersuits and like garments: Tariff quotas, dated 18 March 1977.

Short term assistance for room air conditioners, dated 2 June 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Police Act—Commonwealth Police Force—Reports for year—
1975-76.

1976-77.

Industries Assistance Commission Act—Temporary Assistance Authority—
Reports—

Carpets, dated 23 May 1977.

Ceramic floor and wall tiles, dated 4 April 1977.

Tyre cord fabrics, dated 26 May 1977.

Vices, dated 9 June 1977.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—

Determinations—

1977/4—Holders of public offices on the Tertiary Education Commission and other bodies.

1977/11—Holders of public offices in the Office of National Assessments and other bodies.

1977 Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Review—

Determination 1977/5—Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory of Australia.

Statement.

1977 Review—

Determinations—

1977/6—Ministers of State.

1977/7—Office Holders of the Parliament.

1977/8—Members of Parliament.

1977/9—Entitlements of Members of Parliament.

1977/10—Holders of offices in the First Division of the Australian Public Service and others.

Reports—

1977/1—Ministers of State.

1977/2—Judges.

Statement.

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes to Tasmania—

Asbestos Range (Supplementary agreement), dated 31 May 1977.

Three Hummock Island, dated 16 June 1977.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance to—

Queensland for—

Area improvement, dated 13 May 1977.

Flood mitigation, dated 13 May 1977.

National estate, dated 13 May 1977.

Sewerage, dated 13 May 1977.

Tasmania for urban expansion and redevelopment—

Inveresk urban renewal, dated 9 June 1977.

Tamar Valley open space acquisition, dated 10 June 1977.

- 7 WATER RESOURCES—ASSISTANCE TO THE STATES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of Government measures to assist the States in the development of their water resources, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Water resources—Assistance to the States—Ministerial statement, 17 August 1977.

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

Question—put and passed.

- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT: 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 Fraser Government's failure to take adequate action to reduce unemployment and to relieve the plight of the unemployed".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 9 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS No. 25 (1977): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 25 (1977).
Debate adjourned (Mr Innes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (FURTHER PAYMENT) 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 42, dated 16 August 1977, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 11 INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 43, dated 16 August 1977, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT 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 Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 2 June 1977*), viz.:
Middle East—Focal point of conflict—Interests of the powers—An Australian perspective—Report, dated 26 April 1977, together with extracts from the transcript of evidence of the sub-committee on the Middle East—
Debate resumed.
Mr Neil 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 a later hour this day.
- 13 ASEAN MEETING—POST SUMMIT TALKS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to talks held in Kuala Lumpur following the meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
ASEAN meeting—Post summit talks—
Joint statement issued on 7 August 1977 at conclusion of meeting of ASEAN Heads of Government and Prime Minister of Australia.
Ministerial statement, 17 August 1977.
Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Debate adjourned (Mr E. G. Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—
MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF STATEMENT: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the Government's policies towards the textiles, clothing and footwear industries, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Short term assistance to certain fabrics of acetate yarn, dated 29 April 1977.

Textiles, clothing and footwear: Review of quotas—Interim report, dated 31 May 1977.

Textiles, clothing and footwear industries—Ministerial statement, 17 August 1977.
Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) moved—That the House take note of the statement.

Debate ensued.

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

- 15 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 2 June 1977*), viz.:

Middle East—Focal point of conflict—Interests of the powers—An Australian perspective—Report, dated 26 April 1977, together with extracts from the transcript of evidence of the sub-committee on the Middle East—

Debate resumed.

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

Debate continued.

Mr Beazley 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 Special Trade Negotiations) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Beazley continued his speech.

Question—put and passed.

- 16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.53 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 August 1977, pursuant to statute:

Australian National Railways Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 133.

Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 134.

Public Service Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 135.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Cass, Mr Connor, Mr Ellicott, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Nicholls, Mr Peacock, Mr Ruddock and Mr Wentworth.

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