

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 34

WEDNESDAY, 24 AUGUST 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 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
    - Mr Bowen, Mr Hurford, Mr McLeay, Mr Neil, Dr Richardson, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock and Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
    - Mr Dobie, Mr Jones, Mr Martin, Mr Neil, Mr Newman and Mr Ruddock—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 Baume, Dr Edwards, Mr Graham and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions be reversed.
    - Dr Jenkins—from certain students in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
    - Mr Bowen, Mr Dobie, Mr Neil, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Sainsbury—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 Aldred, Mr Groom 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 Sinclair and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.
    - Mr Falconer—from certain electors of the Division of Casey in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
    - Mr Connolly and Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the part of a deceased person's estate which passes to the surviving spouse be free from federal estate duty.
    - Mr Anthony—from certain members of the Order of the White Cross praying that action be taken to facilitate the release of Rudolf Hess from prison.
    - Mr Braithwaite—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 Brown—from certain citizens praying that whale killing be stopped in 1977 and that Albany whaling station be converted to a research station.
    - Dr J. F. Cairns—from certain citizens praying that rent increases for Defence Forces Married Quarters be reversed and certain other action be taken in connection with service provided married quarters.
    - Mr Chapman—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.

Mr Fry—from certain members of the Australian Society of Archivists and others praying that construction of an archives repository at Mitchell, A.C.T., be commenced immediately and that a prestige National Archives building be constructed.

Mr Haslem—from certain citizens of the Australian Capital Territory praying that certain action be taken to maintain and extend children's library facilities in the A.C.T.

Mr Holten—from certain citizens of Mansfield, Vic., praying that television reception in the Shire of Mansfield be improved.

Mr L. R. Johnson—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 its resolutions.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the income tax law be amended to allow for claims for sullage removal expenses.

Dr Klugman—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 E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that Government funding of Access Radio 3ZZ be continued.

Mr Wilson—from certain electors of the Division of Sturt praying that recipients of unemployment benefits be required to be available for a period of community service.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Administrator:

Australian LANDSAT facilities—

LANDSAT—Paper on relevance to Australia.

Statement by Senator Webster (Minister for Science), dated 23 August 1977.

Australian National Commission for UNESCO—Biennial Report, for 1975 and 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Corporation—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreement, dated 3 May 1977, relating to financial assistance to Victoria for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes (Yellingbo).

Tobacco Marketing Act—Australian Tobacco Board—11th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1976.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—Report on packaging and labelling laws in Australia, dated 30 June 1977.

5 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr Kelly (Chairman) presented the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the proposed development of the military area, Randwick, N.S.W. (5th report of 1977).

Report relating to the proposed development of RAAF Base, Edinburgh, S.A. (6th report of 1977).

Report relating to the proposed construction of an animal quarantine station, Wallgrove, N.S.W. (7th report of 1977).

Severally ordered to be printed.

- 6 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:  
19 August 1977—Message No. 65—Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) 1977.  
23 August 1977—Message No. 66—International Development Association (Further Payment) 1977.
- 7 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:  
19 August 1977—Message No. 44—Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) 1977.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ARBITRATION COMMISSION—REJECTION OF WAGE FREEZE ARGUMENTS: 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 Arbitration Commission’s decisive rejection of the Fraser Government’s arguments for a wage freeze”.  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Willis addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
- 9 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), for Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, government business take precedence of general business on each day of sitting until the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1977–78 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1977–78 have passed all stages in the House.  
Question—put and passed.
- 10 AIR NAVIGATION 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.  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), the Bill was read a third time.
- 11 NORTH WEST SHELF GAS FIELDS—DEVELOPMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government’s policy on development of the North West Shelf gas fields, and, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following paper:  
North West Shelf gas fields—Development—Ministerial statement, 24 August 1977.  
Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House take note of the paper.  
Debate ensued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr D. M. Cameron), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 WOOL INDUSTRY 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 Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

13 ASEAN MEETING—POST SUMMIT TALKS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPERS NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 17 August 1977*), viz.:

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—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

14 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1977–78—BUDGET DEBATE: 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.

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

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bonnett, Dr Cass, Mr Ellicott, Mr Fife, Mr Fry, Mr Katter, Mr Nicholls, Mr Peacock and Mr Wentworth.

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