

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 35

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 1977

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- 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 **DISTINGUISHED VISITORS:** Mr Speaker informed the House that a delegation from the Legislative Assembly of Sabah, led by the Honourable Lau Pui Keong, M.L.A., Assistant Minister of Local Government and Housing, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz :
 - Mr Armitage, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Hurford, Mr James, Mr Jones, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Scholes, Mr Stewart, Mr Wallis and Mr Young—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 Chipp, Mr Jarman, Sir William McMahon and Mr Martin—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 Falconer, Mr McLeay, Sir William McMahon, Mr Millar and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Dr J. F. Cairns, Dr Klugman and Mr Newman—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 - Mr Brown and Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that current private hospital and nursing home subsidies not be withdrawn.
 - Mr Jones 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 C. R. Cameron—from certain electors praying that education expenditure be increased and certain other action be taken in connection with student assistance.
 - Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that representatives of the Rhodesian Government be invited to Australia.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that abortion on demand be prevented in the Australian Capital Territory and that abortions not be Government financed.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
 - 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 Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic action be taken to ensure that the rights of the citizens of Vietnam not be violated.

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that a gambling casino not be established in the Australian Capital Territory.

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 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 E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that increases in postal charges be restrained.

Mr Short—from certain electors of the Division of Ballarat praying that Government guidelines for the Schools Commission not be implemented.

Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that funds for government schools be increased.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Papers: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following papers:

Building and construction industry—Industrial disputes—Minister's notes, together with attachments.

Questions without notice continued.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Administrator:

Antarctica—Increases in Australia's activity—Statement by Senator Webster (Minister for Science).

Australian Housing Corporation—Interim report, for year 1975–76—Report.

Statement by Senator Durack (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), dated 25 August 1977.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Production of gold, dated 29 April 1977.

Northern Territory public electricity supply—Report of inquiry, dated 24 June 1977.

Self-regulation for broadcasters—Report by Australian Broadcasting Tribunal, dated July 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Trade Union Training Authority Act—Australian Trade Union Training Authority—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

6 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 6 September, at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

7 RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORTER (MR G. R. FRASER):

Mr Speaker referred to the retirement this day of the Assistant Principal Parliamentary Reporter, Mr G. R. Fraser, and, after referring to Mr Fraser's valuable service to the Parliament, wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr Speaker also informed the House that, consequent upon Mr Fraser's retirement, Mr J. F. Kerr would be Assistant Principal Parliamentary Reporter and Mr J. P. Dulihunty would be a Leader of Staff.

- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RURAL INDUSTRIES NEGLECT: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Scholes had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Fraser Government's neglect of rural industries".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Scholes addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING) AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act 1976*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Viner 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.
- 10 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1977: Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to the States in connexion with expenditure of a capital nature and to authorize the borrowing of certain moneys by the Commonwealth.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Viner 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.
- 11 URANIUM—AUSTRALIAN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement announcing the Government's decision to proceed with further expansion and development of Australia's uranium industry.
- 12 URANIUM—DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the details of the Government's decisions on uranium development and the background to them.
- 13 URANIUM—INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Sinclair (Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the international implications of the Government's decision to develop new uranium deposits for export.
- 14 URANIUM—IMPACTS ON ABORIGINAL SOCIETY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decisions relating to Aboriginal interests following the decision to proceed with uranium mining.
- 15 URANIUM—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), by leave, made a ministerial statement announcing the decisions taken by the Government to protect the Australian public and the environment as a result of uranium mining.
- 16 URANIUM—HEALTH ASPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's health protection measures for those involved in, and living in proximity to, the mining and milling of uranium.
- 17 URANIUM—AUSTRALIAN POLICY—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by command of His Excellency the Administrator, presented the following papers:
Uranium—Australian policy—
Background papers—
Health and safety aspects of nuclear power generation.
History of uranium development in Australia.
Impact on Aboriginal society.

Kakadu National Park.
 Mining, milling—Safety.
 New bodies to administer development.
 Nuclear safeguards.
 Other information sources.
 What uranium means for Australia and the world.
 Your questions answered.

Copy of note issued by Mr Fraser (Prime Minister).

Hansard extracts—Speeches—

Government policy on nuclear safeguards—
 Mr Anthony (Acting Prime Minister), 2 June 1977.
 Mr Fraser, 24 May 1977.

Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry—Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), 11 November 1976.

Kakadu National Park—Notes and photographs.

Maps showing location of proposed national park, portion of Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve, and major uranium deposits.

Ministerial statements, 25 August 1977—

Australian policy—Mr Fraser.

Development decisions—Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources).

Environmental protection—Mr Newman.

Health aspects of development—Mr Hunt (Minister for Health).

Impacts on Aboriginal society—Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).

International implications—Mr Sinclair (Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs).

Pamphlets entitled—

Basis of the Government's decision.

Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry—Principal findings and recommendations.

What the Government has decided.

and moved—That the House take note of the ministerial statements.

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

18 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 26 (1977): Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 26 (1977).

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

19 NATIONAL HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the payment of benefits in respect of the provision of nursing home care.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

20 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—14TH REPORT: Mr Gillard presented the 14th Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

14TH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommends that the following be printed.

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.

- Board of Inquiry into the fire at the Naval Air Station, Nowra, N.S.W. on 4 December 1976—Conclusions.
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands—Report for 1976.
- Commonwealth Police Act—Commonwealth Police Force—
Reports for year—
1975-76.
1976-77.
- Commonwealth Teaching Service Act—Commonwealth Teaching Service Commissioner—Report for 1976.
- Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Corporation—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975-76.
- Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—29th Annual Report, for year 1974-75.
- Export Market Development Grants Act—Export Development Grants Board—2nd Annual Report, for year 1976-77.
- Industries Assistance Commission—
Reports—
Batteries Part B: Primary batteries, dated 15 October 1976.
Electrical control apparatus and insulating fittings, dated 2 March 1977.
Financing promotion of rural products, dated 30 August 1976.
Financing rural research, dated 25 June 1976.
Malleable cast iron fittings (developing country preferences), dated 17 June 1977.
Measuring, checking, precision instruments and apparatus, lenses, etc.; cine cameras, projectors, etc., dated 20 November 1976.
Motor vehicles—Extension of import restrictions, dated 16 November 1976.
Pharmaceutical and veterinary products, dated 2 August 1976.
Plywood and veneer (thick plywood), dated 10 March 1977.
Production of gold, dated 27 April 1977.
Pumps and compressors, dated 10 February 1977.
Review inquiry No. 12—Clothing: children's knitted tracksuits, playsuits, rompersuits and like garments: Tariff quotas, dated 18 March 1977.
Short term assistance to certain fabrics of acetate yarn, dated 29 April 1977.
Short term assistance for room air conditioners, dated 2 June 1977.
Textiles, clothing and footwear: Review of quotas—Interim report, dated 31 May 1977.
- 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.
- Life Insurance Act—Life Insurance Commissioner—31st Annual Report, for 1976.
- National Training Council—3rd Annual Report, for 1976.
- Public electricity supply in the Northern Territory—Report of inquiry, dated 24 June 1977.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—
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.

Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Self regulation for broadcasters—Report of Public Inquiry into concept of self regulation for Australian broadcasters, dated July 1977.

Ship Construction Bounty Act—Return for year 1976–77.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement of financial assistance granted to each State in 1976.

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.

Trade Union Training Authority Act—Australian Trade Union Training Authority—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

25 August 1977

R. GILLARD,
for Chairman

Mr Gillard, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

- 21 BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 22 TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES 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—

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 23 POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSIONS (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 24 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—

Mr Wallis 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.

25 URANIUM—AUSTRALIAN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: 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 papers (*presented this day, see entry No. 17, pages 243 and 244*)—

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), 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 45 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate resumed by Mr E. G. Whitlam who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “this House rejects the Government’s precipitate decision, without sufficient public debate in Australia and negotiation overseas, to renew the mining and export of uranium by Australia in the absence of:

- (a) commitments by customer countries to apply effective and verifiable safeguards against the diversion of Australian uranium from peaceful nuclear purposes to military nuclear purposes,
- (b) international safeguards which will ensure that the export of Australian uranium will not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increased risk of nuclear war,
- (c) procedures for the storage and disposal of radio-active wastes which will eliminate any danger posed by such wastes to human life and the environment, and
- (d) adequate measures to safeguard the environment and national parks and protect Aboriginal rights and interests”.

Ordered—That Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Dr Edwards addressing the House—

26 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, 6 September, at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 25 August 1977, by command of His Excellency the Administrator:

Interpreters and Translators—Report of Interdepartmental Working Party, dated February 1977 (Corrigendum).

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

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives