

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 40

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 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 Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Armitage, Mr Ellicott, Mr Graham, Dr Klugman, Mr Morris, Mr Ruddock and Mr A. P. Whitlam—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 Bowen, Mr Bradfield, Mr Connolly, Dr Edwards, Mr Jones, Mr Ruddock and Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Dr Edwards—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 Hodges—from certain citizens praying for the implementation of stricter control over television and radio programs.

Mr Jones—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 Jones—from certain electors of the Newcastle and Hunter region, N.S.W., praying for continued and expanded funding for the Hunter Region Working Women's Group.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the Council of the Australian National Gallery have the right to purchase major works of art without Cabinet intervention and that the decision to reject the Council's recommendation to purchase *Grand Nu* be revoked.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying for the reversal of the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions.

Mr Simon—from certain citizens praying that the final decision on the mining of uranium be made through a voluntary referendum after a 12 month program of public education and debate.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that a 5 year moratorium be agreed to and public discussions be promoted on the mining and export of uranium and a national energy policy be developed.

Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that there be no self-regulation in the broadcasting and television media and that the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal be dismissed.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

*Distinguished visitors:* Mr Speaker informed the House that the Swedish Parliament's Constitutional Committee, led by Mr Karl Boo, Chairman of the Committee, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

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Questions without notice continued.

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

Local Government Grants Commission, Queensland—1st Report 1977 on financial assistance for local government, dated 9 August 1977.

- 5 NORTHERN TERRITORY—SELF GOVERNMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Governments' proposals for the conferral of responsible self government on the Northern Territory, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Northern Territory—Self government—Ministerial statement, 14 September 1977.

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

Debate ensued.

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

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

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—WATER PROJECTS: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Wentworth 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, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr E. G. Whitlam, namely, "The Fraser Government's abdication of responsibility for water projects".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION, WALLGROVE, N.S.W.—APPROVAL OF WORK: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of an animal quarantine station, Wallgrove, N.S.W.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 PARLIAMENTARY ZONE—ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION—APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL: Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with section 5 of the *Parliament Act 1974*, the House of Representatives approves the following proposal: Construction of an electrical substation at the rear of Parliament House, Canberra.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 NATIONAL HEALTH ACTS 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.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 49, dated 7 September 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 Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.

10 NATIONAL HEALTH 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 Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.

11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

14 September 1977—Message No. 74—Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Amendment 1977.

12 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 on 25 August 1977*), viz.:

Uranium—Australian policy—Ministerial statements, 25 August 1977—

Australian policy—Mr Fraser (Prime Minister).

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

Environmental protection—Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing, and Community Development).

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)—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.—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”—

Debate resumed.

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

13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11.01 p.m., Mr Deputy 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 Chapman, Mr Drummond, Mr Fife, Mr Fry, Mr Garland, Mr Garrick, Mr Gillard, Mr Holten, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kelly, Mr Lusher, Mr Nicholls, Mr Scholes, Mr Sullivan and Mr Wallis.

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D. M. BLAKE,  
Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives