

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 41

THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1977

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 PETITIONS: The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Cadman, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Lucock, Mr J. L. McMahon, Sir William McMahon and 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 Cadman and Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

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

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic action be taken concerning the death, while in detention in South Africa, of Mr Steve Biko, President of the Black Peoples Convention.

Mr P. F. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission report on clothing not be implemented.

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 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 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.

titions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

Department of Construction—Report for year 1976-77.

- 5 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION ACT—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of proposed amendments to the Industries Assistance Commission Act, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
 Industries Assistance Commission Act—Proposed amendments—Ministerial statement, 15 September 1977.  
 Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 6 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:  
 14 September 1977—Message—  
 No. 76—Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Amendment 1977.  
 No. 77—Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment 1977.  
 No. 78—Postal and Telecommunications Commissions (Transitional Provisions) Amendment 1977.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—COAL RESOURCES—FOREIGN EQUITY AND CONTROL: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Keating 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, Mr Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Keating, namely, “The alarming growth of foreign equity and control in Australia’s coal resources”.  
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
 Mr Keating addressed the House.  
 Discussion ensued.  
 Discussion concluded.
- 8 OFFICE OF NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS BILL 1977: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an Office of National Assessments and for related purposes.  
 Bill read a first time.  
 Mr Fraser moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
 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.
- 9 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—PROPOSALS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPERS NOTED: Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
 Australian Capital Territory—Proposals for constitutional development.  
 Mr Staley, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
 Australian Capital Territory—Proposals for constitutional development—Ministerial statement, 15 September 1977.  
 Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) moved—That the House take note of the papers.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and passed.
- 10 APPROPRIATION (URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT) BILL 1977: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate moneys out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the Loan Fund for the purpose of urban public transport and to authorize the borrowing of certain moneys by the Commonwealth.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nixon 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 STATES GRANTS (ROADS) BILL 1977: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to the States in relation to national roads and other roads.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Nixon 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.

- 12 CUSTOMS TARIFF (COAL EXPORT DUTY) AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) presented a Bill for an Act to reduce the export duty on coal.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Howard 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.

- 13 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) presented a Bill for an Act relating to duties of Excise.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Howard 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.

- 14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS (LOANS GUARANTEE) BILL 1977: Message No. 75, dated 14 September 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to authorize the giving of guarantees on behalf of the Commonwealth in respect of certain loans made to non-government schools in the States, and for purposes related thereto*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Education) 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.

- 15 TELEPHONE SWITCHING EQUIPMENT—MODERNISATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to approve the acceptance of a tender for the modernisation of telephone switching equipment, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Telephone switching equipment—Modernisation—Ministerial statement, 15 September 1977—

and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Mr Jones asked leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Debate continued.

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

- 16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 17 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.

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) speaking for a period not exceeding 45 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

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

- 18 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) 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 by Mr Hurford who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the second reading of the Bill, the House is of the opinion that:

- (a) it reduces in real terms the funds available to the States,
- (b) it increases the States’ borrowing costs,
- (c) it forces the States to reduce the services they provide and/or to impose additional taxes and charges, and
- (d) it leads to increased unemployment”.

Debate continued.

Mr Crean addressing the House—

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

Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr Bryant rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr Bourchier moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—was put accordingly, and passed.

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

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 50, dated 30 August 1977, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 19 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr FitzPatrick addressing the House—

*Closure:* Mr Bourchier moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and passed. And then the House, at 11.50 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

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**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 September 1977, pursuant to statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—1977—No. 4—Survey of tradesmen and apprentices.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Crown Lands Ordinance—Statement of reasons by Minister for revocation of land reserved near Pine Creek, N.T.

Nursing Homes Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 113.

Student Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 147.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Chapman, Mr Chipp, Mr Drummond, Mr Fife, Mr Fry, Mr Garland, Mr Garrick, Mr Giles, Mr Gillard, Mr Holten, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kelly, Mr Lusher, Mr Nicholls, Dr Richardson, Mr Scholes and Mr Wallis.

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D. M. BLAKE,

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives