

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 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 PETITIONS: The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Armitage, Sir William McMahon and Mr Neil—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 Cohen, Dr Klugman and Mr MacKenzie—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 Chapman—from certain citizens praying that the Family Law Act be amended to enable the enforcement of warrants for the return of children to the parent having lawful custody.
 - Mr Cohen—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.
 - Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Mr Falconer—from certain citizens praying that federal funding for education through the Schools Commission be maintained at a growth rate of 2% and that certain other action be taken in connection with education expenditure.
 - Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain residents of Sydney praying that the interest rate on loans to State housing organisations not be increased.
 - Mr Short—from certain citizens praying for legislation forbidding the performance of abortions in the A.C.T.
- Petitions received.
- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources and Minister for Overseas Trade), Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport) would act as Minister for National Resources and Senator Cotton (Minister for Industry and Commerce) would act as Minister for Overseas Trade. Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) would represent the Acting Minister for Overseas Trade in this House.
- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—
- Paper:* Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
- Royal Australian Air Force—List of V.I.P. flights for period 28 January to 1 March 1974.
- Questions without notice continued.

5 PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—LEAVE TO MAKE NOT GRANTED: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Shippers' Council—5th Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

Bureau of Meteorology—Report of Committee of Inquiry—
Report, dated 14 December 1976.

Statement by Senator Webster (Minister for Science).

Housing industry—Indicative Planning Council—Report for 1977–78 to 1979–80.

OMEGA Navigation Facility—Copy of Note from Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport) regarding the establishment of an OMEGA Navigation Facility in Australia.

Trade Union Training—Report of Committee of Inquiry, dated August 1977.

Women's Advisory Body Working Party—Report, dated July 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—Report No. 7—
Human tissue transplants, dated 30 June 1977.

Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) asked leave to make a ministerial statement in connection with the report of the Women's Advisory Body Working Party.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

6 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 4 October next, 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 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

21 September 1977—Message—

No. 79—States Grants (Capital Assistance) 1977.

No. 80—National Health Acts Amendment 1977.

No. 81—National Health Amendment 1977.

8 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE UNION LEADERS—ACTIONS:

Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Neil and Mr Hurford 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 Neil, namely, "The threat to the democratic process and the Australian economy by the actions of trade union leaders, particularly in the building industry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Neil addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 TOURISM—SELECT COMMITTEE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Bonnett (Chairman), by leave, made a statement concerning the attitude of the Select Committee on Tourism towards advance booking charter flights to and from Australia.

Mr Jones, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

- 11 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr L. K. Johnson (Vice-Chairman) presented the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
Report relating to the proposed construction of an analytical laboratory, Pymble, N.S.W. (8th report of 1977).
Report relating to the proposed construction of a new complex for the Antarctic Division Headquarters and for the Hobart Regional Laboratory of the Australian Government Analytical Laboratories, Kingston, Tas. (9th report of 1977).
Severally ordered to be printed.
- 12 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS: Ordered—That notice No. 1 and orders of the day Nos. 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 13 DEFENCE REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement with respect to contemporary and prospective defence issues, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Defence review—Ministerial statement, 22 September 1977.
Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
Debate ensued.
Ordered—That Mr Hayden be granted an extension of time.
Mr Hayden was granted leave to continue his speech for a further 5 minutes.
Debate adjourned (Mr Ruddock), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 FAMILY LAW 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 Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 27 AND 28 (1977): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 27 and 28 (1977).
Debate adjourned (Mr Young), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:
22 September 1977—Message—
No. 53—
Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Amendment 1977.
Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Amendment 1977.
Postal and Telecommunications Commissions (Transitional Provisions) Amendment 1977.
Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment 1977.
No. 54—States Grants (Capital Assistance) 1977.
- 17 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:
22 September 1977—Message—
No. 83—Appropriation (Urban Public Transport) 1977.
No. 84—States Grants (Roads) 1977.

- 18 BEEF INDUSTRY—ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of additional Government assistance to be provided to the beef industry, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Beef industry—Additional assistance—Ministerial statement, 22 September 1977—
and moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

- 19 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Tasmania—Report of inquiry into the structure of industry and the employment situation in Tasmania by Sir Bede Callaghan, C.B.E.—

Report, dated 30 June 1977.

Statement by Senator Cotton (Minister for Industry and Commerce), dated 22 September 1977.

- 20 DOMESTIC SATELLITE SYSTEM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to investigate the feasibility of a domestic satellite system to improve telecommunications and broadcasting facilities in rural and remote areas.

Mr Jones, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

- 21 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 Porter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—LANDS ACQUISITION AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Message No. 82, dated 21 September 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act providing for the extension of the ‘Lands Acquisition Act 1955’ to the external Territories and for purposes connected therewith*”.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services) moved—
That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 23 URANIUM—AUSTRALIAN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS—PAPERS NOTED: 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).

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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.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.
The House divided (the Speaker, Mr Snedden, in the Chair)—

AYES, 63

Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O’Keefe
Mr Baillieu	Dr Edwards	Mr Jull	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Ellicott	Mr Katter	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Birney	Mr Falconer	Mr Killen	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bonnett	Mr Fife	Mr King	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bouchier	Mr Fisher	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shipton
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Giles	Mr Lucock	Mr Short
Mr Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr MacKellar	Mr Simon
Mr Burr	Mr Graham	Mr McLeay	Mr Sinclair
Mr Cadman	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Hamer	Mr Macphee	Mr Wentworth
Mr Calder	Mr Haslem	Mr Martyr	Mr Wilson
Mr Carige	Mr Hodges	Mr Millar	Mr Yates
Mr Chapman	Mr Hodgman	Mr Moore	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr Hunt	Mr Neil	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Cotter	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	Mr Corbett

NOES, 25

Mr Armitage	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr A. P. Whitlam
Mr Bowen	Mr Hayden	Dr Klugman	Mr Willis
Dr J. F. Cairns	Mr Hurford	Mr J. L. McMahon	
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Innes	Mr Martin	
Mr Chipp	Mr Jacobi	Mr Morris	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Cohen	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Stewart	Mr James
Mr Crean	Mr Jones	Mr Uren	Mr L. R. Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the House take note of the papers—put and passed.

- 24 RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY—2ND REPORT—PAPER 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 paper (*presented on 25 May 1977*), viz.:

Ranger Uranium Environmental Inquiry—2nd report of Commission of Inquiry, dated 17 May 1977—

Question—put and passed.

- 25 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Member named and suspended: Mr Speaker named the honourable Member for Kennedy (Mr Katter) for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr Sinclair moved—That the honourable Member for Kennedy be suspended from the service of the House.

Question—put and passed.

The honourable Member was, therefore, suspended at 10.59 p.m. for 24 hours under standing order 305, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr James addressing the House—

Closure: Mr Sinclair 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 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 4 October next, 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.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 September 1977, pursuant to statute:

Australian National University Act—Statutes—

No. 122—Staff Superannuation Amendment No. 9.

No. 123—University House Amendment No. 7.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 43—Sewerage Rates (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 44—Rates (Amendment) (No. 3).

No. 45—Water Rates (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 46—Sewerage Rates (Amendment) (No. 3).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Bryant, Dr Cass, Mr Drummond, Mr Fry, Mr Garrick*, Mr Holten*, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kelly*, Mr Lusher, Mr Lynch, Mr McLean, Mr Nicholls, Dr Richardson, Mr Scholes and Mr Wallis.

* On leave

D. M. BLAKE,

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives