

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 46

WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 1977

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
 - 2 **ABSENCE OF MR SPEAKER:** The Clerk having informed the House that Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) was absent on Parliamentary business overseas, the Chairman of Committees (Mr Lucock) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Gillard, Dr Klugman, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris, Mr A. P. Whitlam and Mr E. G. 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.
 - Dr Klugman, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr E. G. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying for the reversal of the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions.
 - Mr Katter and Mr E. G. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Mr Bouchier—from certain citizens praying that payments of abortion claims under the Medical Benefits Schedule cease except for those abortions carried out in hospitals as a certified medical procedure to prevent the death of the mother and certain other action be taken in connection with pregnancy help services.
 - Mr Bowen—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 any of its resolutions.
 - Mr Bradfield—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 J. L. McMahon—from certain residents of Sydney praying that the interest rate on loans to State housing organisations not be increased.
 - 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 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 steps be taken to end commercial whaling.
 - Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain delegates to the Australian Council of Trade Unions Congress praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be granted resident status and that immigration policy not be influenced by political bias.

Petitions received.

- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

- 5 PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
- Burdekin River Basin, Queensland—Resources and potential—Report of Commonwealth/State Burdekin Project Committee, dated June 1977.
- Medical fees for medical benefit purposes—1977 inquiry—Report by Mr Justice J. T. Ludeke, dated 22 September 1977.
- Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the 1977 inquiry on medical fees for medical benefit purposes.
- Dr Klugman, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 6 IMMIGRATION—ECONOMIC COSTS AND BENEFITS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the report by Associate Professor J. R. Wilson on the economic costs and benefits of immigration, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
- Immigration — Economic costs and benefits—Ministerial statement, 5 October 1977.
- Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
- Debate ensued.
- Mr Hayden moved—That Mr Innes be granted an extension of time.
- Question—put and negatived.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Graham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY: Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that both Mr Hayden and Mr K. M. Cairns 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 Hayden, namely, "The economic uncertainty caused by the comments of the Prime Minister about the economy and an early election".
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
- Mr Hayden addressed the House.
- Discussion ensued.
- Discussion concluded.
- 8 REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Macphee (Minister representing the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the remuneration and allowances payable to the holders of certain judicial and other offices, and for other purposes.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Macphee 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.
- 9 LOAN BILL 1977: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.
 Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Jarman reported accordingly.
 On the motion of Mr Garland (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the House adopted the report.

Mr Garland, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 10 NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS (LOANS GUARANTEE) 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 11 DRUGS—NATIONAL ROYAL COMMISSION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to establish a National Royal Commission into Drugs, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Drugs—National Royal Commission—Terms of reference.

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

Mr Fraser, by leave, made a further statement on the subject.

- 12 NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS (LOANS GUARANTEE) BILL 1977: The House, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Bill, as a whole—

Mr Bowen moved the following amendment: Clause 7, page 3, at the end of sub-clause (2) add “, but, where such higher amount is prescribed, the Minister shall table details of same within 3 sitting days”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Education), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1977-78: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, \$93,308,000—

Department of Administrative Services, \$273,583,000—

together debated and agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

14 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 Acting Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 5 October 1977, pursuant to statute:

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 43—Crown Lands (Validation of Leases).

No. 44—Church Lands Leases.

No. 45—Special Purposes Leases.

No. 46—Crown Lands.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Chipp, Mr Drummond, Mr Fisher, Mr Fry, Mr Garrick*, Mr Holten*, Mr Howard, Dr Jenkins, Mr Kelly*, Mr Lusher, Mr Lynch, Mr MacKenzie, Mr McLean, Mr McLeay, Mr Peacock, Dr Richardson, Mr Snedden, Mr Wallis and Mr Yates.

* On leave

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