

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 57

TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 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 Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Armitage, Mr Baume, Mr Bradfield, Mr Dobie, Mr Ellicott, Mr Fife, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Gillard, Mr Graham, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Neil and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying for a guarantee of interim funding for, and a review of the position of, non-State business colleges and the reversal of the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of such colleges.

Mr Baume, Mr Fife, Mr FitzPatrick and Mr Morris—from certain volunteer firemen of the New South Wales Fire Brigade Service praying that income tax relief be provided on the earnings of N.S.W. volunteer firemen.

Mr Armitage—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that expenditure on welfare, health and public education be maintained or increased.

Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that the mining, selling and export of uranium be not permitted.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not 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 Wentworth—from certain electors praying that all matters of importance before the House be determined before its dissolution.

Mr Wentworth—from certain electors praying that the House facilitate action to restore to the Notice Paper the notice of motion given on 6 May 1976 by the honourable Member for Mackellar, and that the matter be dealt with before the forthcoming dissolution of the House.

Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the responsibility to export uranium be emphasised, uranium be made available to those countries which need it and meet requirements and radical minorities be not permitted to over-rule government decisions.

Petitions received.

Mr Wentworth informed the House that he proposed to take action in connection with the petition relating to the notice of motion given by him on 6 May 1976, which he had lodged, and moved—That the petition lodged by the honourable Member for Mackellar relating to the notice of motion given by him on 6 May 1976 be printed.

Question—put and passed.

3 GENERAL ELECTION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement confirming that all States were in agreement with the timetable announced in the House on 27 October for the general election to be held on 10 December 1977.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—102nd meeting, Alice Springs, N.T., 1–2 August 1977.

Australian Dairy Corporation—Interim report for year 1976–77.

Australian Wine Board—Interim report for year 1976–77.

Trade and economic relations with the European Communities—Copy of note, dated 27 October 1977, together with Annexures.

Pursuant to statute:

Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations Act—Advisory Council for Inter-governmental Relations—1st Annual report for period 23 November 1976 to 31 August 1977.

Dried Fruits Export Control Act—Australian Dried Fruits Control Board—53rd Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Director of Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Prices Justification Act—Prices Justification Tribunal—4th Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

Report on price increases for period 1 January to 30 June 1977.

Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation—7th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

6 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:

27 October 1977—Message No. 69—

Loan 1977.

States Grants (Housing Assistance) 1977.

28 October 1977—Message—

No. 70—Remuneration and Allowances Amendment 1977.

No. 71—

Oilseeds Levy 1977.

Oilseeds Levy Collection and Research 1977.

7 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr C. R. Cameron be appointed a member of the Committee of Privileges in the place of Mr M. H. Nicholls.
Question—put and passed.

8 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Ruddock (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs:

Alcohol problems of Aboriginals—Final Report, dated October 1977, together with extracts of the minutes of proceedings of the Committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Ruddock, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Calder, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

9 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT (UNFINISHED INQUIRY): Mr Ruddock (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs:

Report, dated 1 November 1977, that the Committee had been unable to complete its inquiry into health problems of Aboriginals.

Ordered to be printed.

- 10 ROAD SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT (UNFINISHED INQUIRY)—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Katter (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Road Safety:

Report, dated 26 October 1977, that the Committee had been unable to complete its inquiry into safety aspects of motorcycles and bicycles, together with extracts from the transcript of evidence of the Committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Katter, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

- 11 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—SPECIAL REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Connolly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:

Special report—Proceedings of the Conference of Commonwealth and State Public Accounts Committees, 9–10 June 1977.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Connolly, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

- 12 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 a beef cattle research laboratory, Rockhampton, Qld. (10th report of 1977).

Report relating to the proposed development of Headquarters Operational Command, R.A.A.F. Glenbrook, N.S.W. (11th report of 1977).

Severally ordered to be printed.

- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC INSTABILITY—EXPORT OF FUNDS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hayden, Mr Connolly and Mr Neil had each 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 instability caused by the massive export of funds by overseas-owned firms".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hayden addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 COAL RESEARCH ASSISTANCE BILL 1977: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish a Coal Research Trust Account and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 15 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1977: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources) presented a Bill for an Act relating to duties of Excise on coal.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 16 STATES GRANTS (COAL MINING INDUSTRY LONG SERVICE LEAVE) AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Coal Mining Industry Long Service Leave) Act 1949*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 17 **APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1977:** Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Act 1971*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 **APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1977:** Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Export Duty Act 1971*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 19 **APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1977:** Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Export Duty Collection Act 1971*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 **COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1977:** Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the membership of the Commonwealth Grants Commission.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Street moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 21 **HOMELESS PERSONS ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1977:** Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Homeless Persons Assistance Act 1974*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 **POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES:** Ordered—That notices Nos. 6 and 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 23 **QUEENSLAND GRANT (SPECIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1977:** Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to Queensland.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 **TASMANIA GRANT (THE MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED) BILL 1977:** Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), for Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to Tasmania in relation to The Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company Limited.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Newman moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 25 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY ACTS (TERMINATION) 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 26 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY CHARGE (TERMINATION) 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 27 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEVY 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 28 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY LEVY COLLECTION 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 29 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY FINANCE COMMITTEE 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.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 72, dated 20 October 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 30 CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.
- 31 PORT STATISTICS 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 Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.

- 32 INCOME TAX (RATES) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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 declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that the Bill (a) contains changes to the personal tax system which are regressive in nature and which will have little effect in stimulating economic activity, (b) repudiates the Government’s commitment to full tax indexation, (c) fails to take measures to alleviate the increase in family tax burdens which have arisen as a result of the Government’s failure to index family allowances, and (d) contains insufficient measures to counter tax avoidance practices”.

Debate continued.

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

- 33 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 103: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That standing order 103 (11 o’clock rule) be suspended for this sitting.
Question—put and passed.

- 34 STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) BILL 1977: Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Education), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the grant of financial assistance to the States for and in relation to schools.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner 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.

- 35 ADJOURNMENT NEGATIVED: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

- 36 STATES GRANTS (TERTIARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) BILL 1977: Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Education), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the grant of financial assistance to the States in connexion with universities, colleges of advanced education and technical and further education institutions.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner 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.

- 37 INCOME TAX (RATES) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Hurford, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that the Bill (a) contains changes to the personal tax system which are regressive in nature and which will have little effect in stimulating economic activity, (b) repudiates the Government’s commitment to full tax indexation, (c) fails to take measures to alleviate the increase in family tax burdens which have arisen as a result of the Government’s failure to index family allowances, and (d) contains insufficient measures to counter tax avoidance practices”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Bouchier 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

38 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 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—

Mr Wentworth addressing the House—

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

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

And the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—was put accordingly, 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.

Proposed new clause—

Mr Wentworth moved—That the following new clause be inserted in the Bill:

“16A. Section 159j of the Principal Act is amended—

Rebates for
Dependants

(a) by omitting from sub-section (1A) ‘class 3 or’;

(b) by omitting from column 2 of the table in sub-section (2) ‘(not being a student)’; and

(c) by omitting from column 3 of the table in sub-section (2):

‘In respect of 1 such child—\$226

In respect of each other such child—\$170’

and substituting:

‘In respect of each such child—\$50’.”

Debate ensued.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the committee—

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

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

And the question—That the new clause proposed to be inserted be so inserted—was put accordingly, and negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr I. L. Robinson reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the House adopted the report.

Mr Viner asked leave to move—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Mr Viner, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

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

39 INCOME TAX (INDIVIDUALS) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 40 INCOME TAX (COMPANIES AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) 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.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.
Mr Wentworth rising to address the committee—
Closure: Mr Bouchier moved—That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.
And the question—That the Bill be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the House adopted the report.

Mr Viner, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—
Closure: Mr Bouchier moved—That the question be now put.
Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.
And the question—That the Bill be now read a third time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a third time.

- 41 HEALTH INSURANCE LEVY 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 42 INCOME TAX (FILM ROYALTIES) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 43 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 44 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 15 to 24, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 45 INCOME TAX (INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

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

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after 12 midnight—

WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 1977

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.02 a.m., adjourned until this day at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 1 November 1977, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—W. B. Woolley.

Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 192.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1977—

No. 47—Real Property (Amendment).

No. 48—Real Property (Conversion of Titles) (Amendment).

No. 49—Registration of Deeds (Amendment).

No. 50—Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Amendment).

No. 51—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 5).

No. 52—Motor Traffic (Alcohol and Drugs) (Amendment).

No. 53—Liquor (Amendment).

No. 54—Legislative Assembly (Amendment).

No. 55—Legal Practitioners (Amendment) (No. 2).

Regulations—1977—

No. 22 (Adoption of Children Ordinance).

No. 23 (Legislative Assembly Ordinance).

No. 24 (Health Commission Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Chipp, Mr Garrick, Mr Graham, Mr Hyde, Mr Jacobi, Mr Kelly, Mr MacKenzie, Mr McLean, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Dr Richardson, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Short, Mr Simon, Mr Stewart, Mr Sullivan, Mr Wallis and Mr A. P. Whitlam.

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