

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 58

WEDNESDAY, 2 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 Bowen, Mr Connolly, Dr Edwards, Mr Ellicott, Mr Gillard, Sir William McMahon and Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens praying that that part of a deceased person's estate which passes to the surviving spouse be free from federal estate duty.

Mr Anthony, Mr Birney, Mr Bowen, Mr Connolly, Mr Hunt and Mr Keating—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 Jarman and Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

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

Mr Sinclair and Mr West—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.

Dr Edwards—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 Giles—from certain citizens praying that lone fathers receive a pension on the same basis as supporting mothers.

Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that financial assistance be granted to pregnancy help services, funds not be provided for services specialising in elective abortions and there be no payment of abortion claims under the Medical Benefits Schedule.

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

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the income tax law be amended to allow for claims for sullage removal expenses.

Sir William McMahon—from certain citizens praying that attention be given to the inadequate provision of English classes for migrants.

Mr Thomson—from certain Citizen Band radio operators praying for the relaxation of regulations governing the operation of Citizen Band radio.

Mr Wentworth—from certain electors praying that all matters of importance before the House be determined before its dissolution.

Petitions received.

Mr Wentworth informed the House that he proposed to take action in connection with the petition relating to the determination of all matters of importance before the House, which he had lodged, and moved—That the petition lodged by the honourable Member for Mackellar relating to the determination of all matters of importance before the House be printed.

Question—put and passed.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Defence Report 1977.

Foreign Investment Review Board—Report for period 8 April 1976 to 30 June 1977.

Solar observatory, Learmonth, W.A.—

Statement by Senator Webster (Minister for Science).

Treaty—Text of—Exchange of Notes, dated 14 and 27 October 1977, between Australia and the United States of America constituting an Agreement to establish, maintain and operate a solar observatory at Learmonth, W.A.

Pursuant to statute:

Taxation—56th Report of the Commissioner of Taxation, dated 27 October 1977.

Ordered to be printed.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—

Australian Bureau of Statistics—2nd Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

Australian Statistics Advisory Council—1st Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Grants for capital expenditure in respect of government and non-government schools—Statement of payments for year 1975–76.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—3rd Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

5 DAYS AND HOURS OF MEETING: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), by leave, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet on the following days and at the times specified:

Thursday, 3 November .. 11 a.m., or such time thereafter as Mr Speaker may take the Chair.

Friday, 4 November .. 10 a.m.

Monday, 7 November .. 11 a.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT (UNFINISHED INQUIRIES): Mr Hodges (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation:

Report, dated November 1977, that the Committee had been unable to complete its inquiries, together with extracts from the minutes of proceedings of the Committee and the sub-committee on Marine Oil Spills.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC POLICIES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), 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 E. G. Whitlam, namely, "The urgent need for new economic policies to reverse the present Government's deliberate creation of record unemployment".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 103 AND SESSIONAL ORDER: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), for Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That standing order 103 (11 o'clock rule), and the sessional order of 10 March relating to the adjournment of sittings, be suspended for the remainder of the session.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations), for Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That government business shall take precedence over general business tomorrow.

Debate ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

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

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 56

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mr Adermann | Mr Ellicott | Mr Katter | Mr I. L. Robinson |
| Mr Aldred | Mr Falconer | Mr Killen | Mr Ruddock |
| Mr Bonnett | Mr Fife | Mr King | Mr Sainsbury |
| Mr Bourchier | Mr Fisher | Mr Lusher | Mr Shipton |
| Mr Bradfield | Mr Garland | Mr MacKellar | Mr Sinclair |
| Mr Braithwaite | Mr Giles | Mr McLeay | Mr Thomson |
| Mr Brown | Mr Groom | Mr Macphee | Mr Viner |
| Mr Bungey | Mr Hamer | Mr Martyr | Mr Wilson |
| Mr Cadman | Mr Hodges | Mr Millar | Mr Yates |
| Mr K. M. Cairns | Mr Hodgman | Mr Moore | |
| Mr Calder | Mr Holten | Mr Neil | |
| Mr Chapman | Mr Howard | Mr O'Keefe | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Mr Connolly | Mr Hunt | Mr Peacock | Mr Corbett |
| Mr Drummond | Mr Jarman | Mr Porter | Mr Cotter |
| Dr Edwards | Mr Jull | Mr E. L. Robinson | |

NOES, 20

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|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| Mr Armitage | Mr FitzPatrick | Dr Klugman | |
| Mr Beazley | Mr Fry | Mr Scholes | |
| Mr Bowen | Dr Jenkins | Mr Uren | |
| Mr Bryant | Mr L. K. Johnson | Mr West | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Dr J. F. Cairns | Mr Jones | Mr Willis | Mr James |
| Dr Cass | Mr Keating | Mr Young | Mr L. R. Johnson |

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 58

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Mr Adermann | Mr Ellicott | Mr Jull | Mr Porter |
| Mr Aldred | Mr Falconer | Mr Katter | Mr E. L. Robinson |
| Mr Bonnett | Mr Fife | Mr Killen | Mr I. L. Robinson |
| Mr Bourchier | Mr Fisher | Mr King | Mr Ruddock |
| Mr Bradfield | Mr Garland | Mr Lusher | Mr Sainsbury |
| Mr Braithwaite | Mr Giles | Mr Lynch | Mr Shipton |
| Mr Brown | Mr Goodluck | Mr MacKellar | Mr Sinclair |
| Mr Bungey | Mr Groom | Mr McLeay | Mr Thomson |
| Mr Cadman | Mr Hamer | Mr Macphee | Mr Viner |
| Mr K. M. Cairns | Mr Hodges | Mr Martyr | Mr Wilson |
| Mr Calder | Mr Hodgman | Mr Millar | Mr Yates |
| Mr Carige | Mr Holten | Mr Moore | |
| Mr Chapman | Mr Howard | Mr Neil | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Mr Connolly | Mr Hunt | Mr Nixon | Mr Corbett |
| Mr Drummond | Mr Jarman | Mr O'Keefe | Mr Cotter |

NOES, 22

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Mr Armitage | Mr FitzPatrick | Mr Keating | Mr Willis |
| Mr Beazley | Mr Fry | Dr Klugman | Mr Young |
| Mr Bowen | Mr Hayden | Mr Scholes | |
| Mr Bryant | Dr Jenkins | Mr Uren | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Dr Cass | Mr L. K. Johnson | Mr Wentworth | Mr James |
| Mr Crean | Mr Jones | Mr West | Mr L. R. Johnson |

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 10 AUSTRALIAN RURAL BANK BILL 1977: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), for Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the proposed Australian Rural Bank to be established for the purpose of assisting in the financing of primary production.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Lynch 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.
- 11 CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Fife 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.
- 12 BRIGALOW LANDS AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Brigalow Lands Agreement Act 1962*.
 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.
- 13 BEEF INDUSTRY (INCENTIVE PAYMENTS) BILL 1977: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for incentive payments in respect of certain cattle kept for beef production.
 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.
- 14 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES: Ordered—That notices Nos. 6 and 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 15 AUSTRALIAN SHIPPING COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Shipping Commission Act 1956*.
 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.
- 16 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY SUPREME COURT AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Howard (Minister representing the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act 1933*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Howard moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr L. K. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 17 NORTHERN TERRITORY SUPREME COURT AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Howard (Minister representing the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Northern Territory Supreme Court Act 1961*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Howard moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr L. K. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 18 ENVIRONMENT (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1977: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), for Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to the States in connexion with projects related to the environment, and for other purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr L. K. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 19 DEFENCE FORCE (RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AMENDMENTS) BILL (No. 2) 1977: Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948* and the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973* and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr McLeay moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr L. K. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 20 R.A.A.F. BASE, GLENBROOK, 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: Development of Glenbrook R.A.A.F. Base HQ Operational Command.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 21 BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH LABORATORY, ROCKHAMPTON, QLD—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 a beef cattle research laboratory at Rockhampton, Qld.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 22 DWELLINGS IN THE ROCKINGHAM AREA, W.A.—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*, because of the urgent nature of the work, it is expedient that the construction of approximately 165 dwellings in the Rockingham area, Western Australia, be carried out without having been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 23 PAPER: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 Overseas cargo shipping legislation review—Report by Department of Transport, dated October 1977.

- 24 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 25 PUBLIC SERVICE (PERMANENT HEAD—DUAL APPOINTMENT) 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 Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 26 QUEENSLAND GRANT (SPECIAL 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 73, dated 2 November 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 Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 27 COAL RESEARCH 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.
Debate adjourned (Mr Viner—Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 28 STATEMENT BY MINISTER: Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), by leave, made a statement on behalf of the Treasurer relating to unemployment figures quoted by the Treasurer in answer to a question without notice earlier this day.
Mr Scholes, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 29 COAL RESEARCH 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 74, dated 1 November 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 Adermann (Minister Assisting the Minister for National Resources), the Bill was read a third time.
- 30 EXCISE TARIFF 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 Adermann (Minister Assisting the Minister for National Resources), the Bill was read a third time.
- 31 STATES GRANTS (COAL MINING INDUSTRY LONG SERVICE LEAVE) 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 Adermann (Minister Assisting the Minister for National Resources), the Bill was read a third time.

32 TASMANIA GRANT (THE MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED) 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.

Mr Bryant addressing the House—

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

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

The House continuing to sit until after 12 midnight—

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 1977

AYES, 52

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Mr Aldred | Mr Fisher | Mr MacKellar | Mr Sainsbury |
| Mr Bouchier | Mr Garland | Mr MacKenzie | Mr Shipton |
| Mr Bradfield | Mr Giles | Mr McLeay | Mr Sinclair |
| Mr Braithwaite | Mr Groom | Mr McVeigh | Mr Staley |
| Mr Brown | Mr Haslem | Mr Macphee | Mr Thomson |
| Mr Cadman | Mr Hodges | Mr Martyr | Mr Viner |
| Mr K. M. Cairns | Mr Hodgman | Mr Millar | Mr Wilson |
| Mr Calder | Mr Holten | Mr Moore | Mr Yates |
| Mr Carige | Mr Howard | Mr Neil | |
| Mr Chapman | Mr Hunt | Mr Nixon | |
| Mr Connolly | Mr Hyde | Mr Porter | |
| Mr Dobie | Mr Jull | Mr E. L. Robinson | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Mr Drummond | Mr Katter | Mr I. L. Robinson | Mr Corbett |
| Mr Ellicott | Mr King | Mr Ruddock | Mr Cotter |

NOES, 16

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| Mr Armitage | Mr Hayden | Mr Morris | |
| Mr Bowen | Dr Jenkins | Mr Scholes | |
| Mr Bryant | Mr Jones | Mr Uren | <i>Tellers:</i> |
| Dr Cass | Mr Keating | Mr West | Mr James |
| Mr FitzPatrick | Dr Klugman | | Mr L. R. Johnson |

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 75, dated 1 November 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.

Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Member named: The Deputy Speaker (Mr Lucock) named the honourable Member for Blaxland for refusing to resume his seat when directed by the Chair to do so.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for Blaxland be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Sinclair having addressed the Chair, and Mr Keating having apologised to the Chair, the motion for the suspension of the honourable Member for Blaxland was withdrawn, by leave, and the matter was not further proceeded with.

Debate ensued on the question—That the Bill be now read a third time.

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

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 12.22 a.m., adjourned until this day at 11 a.m., or such time thereafter as Mr Speaker may take the Chair.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 2 November 1977, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff Act—Order—Developing Country—No. 7 (1977).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Abel, Mr Baillieu, Mr Birney, Mr Burr, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Chipp, Mr Cohen, Mr Garrick, Mr Graham, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi, Mr Kelly, Mr Lloyd, Mr McLean, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Newman, Dr Richardson, Mr Short, Mr Simon, Mr Stewart, Mr Sullivan, Mr Wallis and Mr A. P. Whitlam.

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