

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 11

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH 1978

- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER: Ransley Victor Garland made and subscribed the oath of allegiance required by law.
- 3 PRIVILEGE: Mr Corbett raised a matter of privilege with respect to the cessation of mail services to and from Parliament House due to an industrial dispute and the serious disruption this had caused to the parliamentary duties of Members. Mr Corbett asked Mr Speaker to advise him whether this action constituted a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege.
 Mr Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report his opinion later this day.
- 4 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr N. A. Brown and Mr Carlton—from certain citizens praying that legislation abolishing health insurance rebates for treatment of cancer patients by Dr Milan Brych in the Cook Islands be not introduced.
 - Mr Anthony—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Lusher—from certain citizens praying for the establishment of a fund whereby loans can be made to means tested pensioners for the necessary maintenance of their homes.
 Petitions received.
- 5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 6 TOURISM—SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House that the Prime Minister had nominated Mr Short to be a member of the Select Committee on Tourism in place of Mr Drummond.
- 7 HEALTH CARE FINANCING—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 - Health care financing—Discussion paper by Hospitals and Health Services Commission, dated February 1978—
 - and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper.
 Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
 Dr Klugman was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.
 Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AURUKUN AND MORNINGTON ISLAND ABORIGINES—GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY: Mr Speaker informed the House that

Dr Everingham had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The urgent need for the Federal Government to assume full legislative and administrative responsibilities for Aurukun and Mornington Island Aborigines in Queensland to ensure implementation of the Federal Government policies of self-government".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Everingham addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 9 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AMENDMENT BILL 1978: 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 Hodgman was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

- 10 PRIVILEGE—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER: Mr Speaker referred to the matter raised earlier this day by Mr Corbett as a matter of privilege concerning the non-delivery and non-despatch of mail to and from Parliament House. Mr Speaker stated that the mail strike was not directed at the Parliament but involved the non-conveyance of mails for the whole of Canberra, and although important issues were involved affecting the efficiency and workings of the House and its Members, he was of the opinion that the matter raised did not constitute a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege.

- 11 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS AMENDMENT BILL 1978: 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.

On the motion of Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Clause 5—

Page 3, line 43, after "Act", insert "and section 98 of that Act were omitted".

Page 4, line 14, after "Act", insert "and section 98 of that Act were omitted".

Page 6, line 22, omit "Parts I and II and IV to IX (inclusive)", substitute "Parts I, II, IV and V, Part VI (except section 98) and Parts VII and IX".

Page 6, line 30, after "Act", insert "and by the omission of section 98 of that Act".

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Nixon, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 BOUNTY (DRILLING MACHINES) BILL 1978: 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. 5, dated 9 March 1978, 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 Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Willis, viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Government’s legislative program as outlined in the speech—

- (1) fails to deal adequately with record levels of unemployment;
- (2) fails to stimulate productive output;
- (3) leaves serious uncertainty about the progress of the Australian economy;
- (4) ignores the serious recession in the international economy;
- (5) fails to provide immediate and long-term guidelines for industry, and
- (6) neglects to provide firm guarantees for the protection of civil liberties by legislative enactment within the powers of the Australian Government”—

Debate resumed.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Address be agreed to—put and passed.

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Howard (Treasurer) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Howard required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.07 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Goodluck, Mr Short and Mr Street.

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