

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 26

TUESDAY, 9 MAY 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 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Cadman, Dr Edwards, Mr Morris, Mr O'Keefe, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Sinclair and Mr Uren—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.

Mr Giles—from certain citizens praying for the protection of Australian grape growers by reducing excise duty on brandy produced in Australia, reducing the quantity of brandy imported and abolishing sales tax on brandy.

Mr Katter—from certain members and ex-members of the citizens forces of Australia praying for the resumption of the award of several distinctive reserve forces decorations and medals for long service and good conduct.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that females be permitted to enlist as cadets in the Air Training Corps.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that social security payments be adjusted instantly and automatically with increases in the Consumer Price Index and certain other benefits be adjusted.

Mr Simon—from certain citizens of Warburton, Vic., praying for the installation of a Community Television Antenna System in Warburton.

Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying for the initiation of a national family policy and the use of the concept of family impact statements as a means of highlighting family needs.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australia-Japan Foundation—1st Annual Report, for year 1976-77 and financial statements for period 10 May 1976 to 30 June 1977.

Department of Foreign Affairs—Report for 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Corporation—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976-77.

5 FOREIGN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of developments in Australia's foreign policy, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Foreign policy—Ministerial statement, 9 May 1978.

Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Fife, by leave, moved—

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 75 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

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

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE INTERESTS: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The damage caused to Australia’s short term and long term trade interests by the Government’s activities”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bowen addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—HIGH SCHOOL, NHULUNBUY, N.T.: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a proposed high school, Nhulunbuy, N.T.

Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1977-78: 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.

Dr Klugman moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House is of the opinion that the appropriations contained therein reflect a policy in respect of Government spending (a) which is depressing the lack of demand, increasing unemployment and inhibiting economic recovery and (b) which exemplifies the wasteful and inequitable priorities aimed at supporting the well-off and economically secure rather than the underprivileged”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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 Macphee (Minister for Productivity), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1977-78: 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 Macphee (Minister for Productivity), the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 ESTATE DUTY ASSESSMENT 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 by Mr Willis who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be withdrawn until such time as an alternative form of tax on capital is introduced”.

Mr Cairns addressing the House—

11 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 Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 9 May 1978, pursuant to statute:

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Regulations—1978—No. 6 (Plant Diseases Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bradfield, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Connolly, Mr Ellicott, Mr Garland, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Martyr and Mr Whitlam.

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