

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 45

WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 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 Anthony, Mr Baume, Mr Bradfield, Mr Cadman, Dr Edwards, Mr FitzPatrick, Dr Klugman, Mr MacKellar and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that no measures be taken to implement those recommendations of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships that will further undermine and weaken marriage, child-care or the family.

Mr Anthony, Mr Bradfield, Mr Dobie, Dr Edwards, Mr MacKellar and Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.

Mr Bradfield and Dr Edwards—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 N. A. Brown and Mr Johnston—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 Calder and Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that Government benefits under Schedule 6469 not be removed.

Mr Connolly and Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying for the award of a medal to members of the World War II *Jawick* and *Rimau* commando expeditions.

Mr Anthony—from certain members of the Order of the White Cross International praying for the banning of the use of DDT and other pesticides in agriculture and chemical substances in food and beverages.

Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that a ruling be given on the eligibility of persons in receipt of social security payments to nominate for Parliament and certain legislation be amended to expand pension benefits and health insurance cover.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that an additional reactor not be constructed at the Australian Atomic Energy Establishment at Lucas Heights, N.S.W.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying for the provision of funds for the construction and maintenance of an aged persons complex in the Electoral Division of Hughes.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the \$6 permissible income limit on unemployment benefits be raised.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that child endowment not be taxed or removed.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that funds for public schools be increased.

Mr West—from certain citizens praying that wage indexation adjustments for public servants not be abolished.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Parole Board of the Australian Capital Territory—1st report, dated 28 April 1978—

Ministerial statement by Senator Durack (Attorney-General).

Report.

Pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Police Act—Commonwealth Police Force—Report for year 1977–78.

Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act for 1977.

5 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Bungey (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Report relating to the proposed construction of a National Acoustics Laboratory and Ultrasonics Institute, Chatswood, N.S.W. (3rd report of 1978).

Ordered to be printed.

6 NAMIBIA—UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the establishment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in Namibia, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Namibia—Contribution to United Nations peacekeeping force—Ministerial statement, 23 August 1978.

Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

7 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

22 August 1978—Message—

No. 110—Commonwealth Employment Service 1978.

No. 111—Re-establishment and Employment Amendment 1978.

8 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following changes in membership of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:

The Leader of the Government in the Senate had nominated Senator Teague to be a member of the committee and had advised that Senator Archer had been discharged from the committee.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate had nominated Senator Colston to be a member of the committee.

9 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following changes in membership of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:

The Leader of the Government in the Senate had nominated Senators Kilgariff and Martin to be members of the committee and had advised that Senator Scott had been discharged from the committee.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate had nominated Senator Sibraa to be a member of the committee.

- 10 NEW AND PERMANENT PARLIAMENT HOUSE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following changes in the membership of the Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent Parliament House:

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate had nominated Senator Evans to be a member of the committee and had advised that Senator McIntosh had been discharged from the committee.

- 11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GOVERNMENT POLICIES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hurford had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The increasing inequality and injustices imposed on average Australians by Fraser Government policies".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 12 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, government business take precedence of general business on each day of sitting until the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1978–79 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1978–79 have passed all stages in the House.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 LOAN 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 Hurford who 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 Bill is inadequate because it makes no provision for the under-estimating of the deficit which is likely to follow from the understating of unemployment benefit and health payments, over-estimating of receipts from personal income tax and customs duty, and other inadequacies in the Budget forecasts".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 60, dated 16 August 1978, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES) BILL 1978: Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the introduction and passage through all stages without delay of a Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory (Remuneration and Allowances) Bill 1978.

Question—put and passed.

- 15 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY (REMUNERATION AND ALLOWANCES) BILL 1978: Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory) presented a Bill for an Act relating to remuneration and allowances of Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory.

Bill read a first time.

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

Debate ensued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Adermann, the Bill was read a third time.

16 FAMILY LAW ACT—PROPOSED JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—SENATE'S MESSAGE NO. 103:

The order of the day having been read for the consideration of Message No. 103 from the Senate (*reported 17 August, see pages 354-5*)—

Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House concurs in the resolution transmitted in message No. 103 of the Senate relating to the proposed appointment of a Joint Select Committee to inquire into and report upon the provisions and the operation of the *Family Law Act 1975*.

Ordered—That the resolution be considered by clauses.

Clause 1 debated.

Mr Cairns moved the following amendment: Sub-clause (a), after paragraph (i) insert the following paragraph:

“(ia) its effects on the nature of marriage and the family;”.

Amendment amended by Mr Cairns, by leave, by omitting “nature” and substituting “institution”.

Debate continued.

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

17 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1978-79—BUDGET DEBATE: 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 West addressing the House—

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Connolly, Dr Edwards, Mr Garland, Mr Gillard, Mr Hodges, Mr Innes, Mr Jacobi, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Lucock, Mr Willis and Mr Young.

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