

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

No. 79

TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 1979

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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 Baume, Mr Bowen, Mr Burns, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Connolly, Mr Falconer, Mr Hunt, Mr L. R. Johnson, Sir William McMahon, Mr Macphee, Mr Neil, Mr O'Keefe, Mr Peacock, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Shipton, Mr Simon, Mr Staley, Mr Stewart and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Baume, Mr Burns, Mr Burr, Mr Fry, Mr Howard, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr B. O. Jones, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris, Mr Neil, Mr O'Keefe, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Scholes, Mr Uren and Mr West—from certain citizens praying that pension payments be restored to twice-yearly adjustments and that pensions and unemployment benefits be raised to 30% of average weekly earnings.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Hodges, Mr Howard, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Martyr, Mr Neil, Mr Porter and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Johnston—from certain citizens praying that indirect tax measures, such as a retail turnover tax or a value added tax, not be introduced.

Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the taxation law be amended to permit registered tax agents to trade for a full year and lodge income tax returns at the close of the respective tax year.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the decision to index pensions annually be reviewed and that all pensions be adjusted quarterly.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying for the rejection of any legislation introducing annual adjustments of pension rates.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney, not be extended and that no related decisions be taken without consultation with affected communities.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying for the elimination of discriminatory aspects of the new point to point airfares as they relate to citizens not residing in Sydney or Melbourne.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying for continued and increased Federal subsidies to maintain all existing South Australian country rail services.

Mr Shack—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 on the Medical Benefits Schedule be maintained.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the House reject the motion of the honourable Member for Hume concerning medical benefits for abortion and support abortion as a claimable item under all health benefits.

Petitions received.

- 3 MINISTERIAL CHANGE: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that Mr E. L. Robinson had been appointed Minister for Finance.
- 4 MEMBER FOR MCPHERSON (MR E. L. ROBINSON)—MINISTERIAL RESIGNATION AND RE-APPOINTMENT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance), by leave, made a statement concerning his resignation from and re-appointment to the Ministry.  
Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 5 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—MOTION OF CENSURE OF THE PRIME MINISTER: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith a motion of censure of the Prime Minister.  
Question—put and passed.
- 6 PRIME MINISTER—MOTION OF CENSURE: Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That this House censures the Prime Minister for—  
(1) his failure to ensure and maintain the unqualified support of his Ministry, and  
(2) his contemptuous rejection of long-established precedents of the Westminster system of government by his failure to provide the Parliament with a full explanation of the reasons for the resignation and subsequent re-instatement of the Minister for Finance.

Debate ensued.

Mr Young rising to address the House—

*Closure:* Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Sir Billy Snedden, in the Chair)—

AYES, 81

Mr Adermann	Mr Dean	Mr Johnston	Mr Porter
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Anthony	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Birney	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Shack
Mr Bouchier	Mr Fife	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fisher	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fraser	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Garland	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bungey	Mr Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Burns	Mr Goodluck	Sir William McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Burr	Mr Graham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Cadman	Mr Groom	Mr Macphee	Mr Viner
Mr Cairns	Mr Haslem	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr Calder	Mr Hodgman	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Neil	
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hunt	Mr Newman	
Mr Carlton	Mr Hyde	Mr Nixon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr Jarman	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Corbett
Mr Cotter	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Peacock	Mr Hodges

NOES, 36

Mr Armitage	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Wallis
Dr Blewett	Mr Hayden	Mr Keating	Mr West
Mr Bowen	Mr Holding	Mr Kerin	Mr Willis
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Howe	Dr Klugman	Mr Young
Mr Bryant	Mr Humphreys	Mr J. L. McMahon	
Dr Cass	Mr Hurford	Mr Martin	
Mr Cohen	Mr Innes	Mr Morris	
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Scholes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Dr Everingham	Dr Jenkins	Mr Stewart	Mr L. K. Johnson
Mr FitzPatrick	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Uren	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 Speaker, Sir Billy Snedden, in the Chair)—

## AYES, 36

Mr Armitage	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Wallis
Dr Blewett	Mr Hayden	Mr Keating	Mr West
Mr Bowen	Mr Holding	Mr Kerin	Mr Willis
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Howe	Dr Klugman	Mr Young
Mr Bryant	Mr Humphreys	Mr J. L. McMahon	
Dr Cass	Mr Hurford	Mr Martin	
Mr Cohen	Mr Innes	Mr Morris	
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Scholes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Dr Everingham	Dr Jenkins	Mr Stewart	Mr L. K. Johnson
Mr FitzPatrick	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Uren	Mr L. R. Johnson

## NOES, 82

Mr Adermann	Mr Dean	Mr Johnston	Mr Peacock
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Porter
Mr Anthony	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Baume	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Birney	Mr Falconer	Mr Lucock	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bouchier	Mr Fife	Mr Lusher	Mr Shack
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fisher	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fraser	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Garland	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Bungey	Mr Gillard	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burns	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Burr	Mr Graham	Sir William McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Cadman	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Cairns	Mr Haslem	Mr Macphee	Mr Viner
Mr Calder	Mr Hodgman	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hunt	Mr Neil	
Mr Carlton	Mr Hyde	Mr Newman	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	Mr Corbett
Mr Cotter	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Hodges

And so it was negatived.

## 7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Ord River Irrigation Area—Joint Commonwealth and Western Australian review, 1978.

Soil Conservation—Commonwealth and State Government Collaborative Study 1975–77—Report No. 1, dated April 1978—Basis for Soil Conservation Policy in Australia.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Australian Housing Corporation Act and Defence Service Homes Act—Australian Housing Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76 (*in substitution for the paper presented on 21 November 1978*).

Defence Service Homes Act and Defence Service Homes Corporation Act—Defence Service Homes Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77 (*in substitution for the paper presented on 21 November 1978*).

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Sugar Agreement Act—Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee—47th Annual Report, and statements of receipts and expenditure certified by the Auditor-General, for year 1977–78.

Wine Overseas Marketing Act—Australian Wine Board—50th Annual Report, for year 1977–78.

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

22 February 1979—Message—

No. 210—Cocos (Keeling) Islands Amendment 1979.

No. 211—Postal Services Amendment 1979.

9 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE:

Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Young, Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Short 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 Young, namely, “The gross inadequacies of the Government’s measures to assist the unemployed”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Young rising to address the House—

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Sir Billy Snedden, in the Chair)—

AYES, 80

Mr Adermann	Mr Dean	Mr Katter	Mr Porter
Mr Aldred	Mr Dobie	Mr Killen	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Anthony	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baillieu	Dr Edwards	Mr Lucock	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Baume	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lusher	Mr Shack
Mr Birney	Mr Falconer	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bourchier	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fisher	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Garland	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Bungey	Mr Goodluck	Sir William McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Burns	Mr Graham	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Burr	Mr Groom	Mr Macphee	Mr Viner
Mr Cadman	Mr Haslem	Mr Martyr	Mr Wilson
Mr Cairns	Mr Howard	Mr Millar	Mr Yates
Mr Calder	Mr Hunt	Mr Moore	
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hyde	Mr Neil	
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Jarman	Mr Newman	
Mr Carlton	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Nixon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr Johnston	Mr O’Keefe	Mr Corbett
Mr Cotter	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock	Mr Hodges

NOES, 35

Mr Armitage	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Stewart
Dr Blewett	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Uren
Mr Bowen	Mr Holding	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Howe	Mr Kerin	Mr West
Mr Bryant	Mr Humphreys	Dr Klugman	Mr Willis
Dr Cass	Mr Hurford	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Young
Mr Cohen	Mr Innes	Mr Martin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Morris	Mr L. K. Johnson
Dr Everingham	Dr Jenkins	Mr Scholes	Mr L. R. Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10 FAMILY LAW ACT—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Ruddock (Chairman), by leave, made a statement concerning the reporting by the press of proceedings of the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law Act.

Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

11 EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 1 AND 2 (1979): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Excise Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 and 2 (1979).

Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 12 GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the current geo-political situation and the Government's response to it, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Geo-political situation—Ministerial statement, 27 February 1979.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

*Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech:* Mr Sinclair 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 30 minutes.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Debate ensued.

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

- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES AT SEA BILL 1979: Message No. 212, dated 22 February 1979, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to offences committed at sea or in foreign ports or harbours, and matters connected therewith*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—JURISDICTION OF COURTS (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979: Message No. 213, dated 22 February 1979, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the provisions of certain Acts relating to the jurisdiction of courts and of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal*".

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

*Adjournment negatived:* It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Viner requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Viner continued his speech.

Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 15 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 February 1979, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 19.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 20, 27, 30.

Defence Act, Naval Defence Act and Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 21, 22, 23.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired for—

Operational use of Melbourne Airport.

Pipeline Authority purposes—N.S.W.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 24, 25, 26.  
Public Service Act—  
Appointment—Industrial Relations Bureau—R. Anderson.  
Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 28.  
Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 29.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except  
Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Chapman and Mr Giles.

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