

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 80

WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1979

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 Bouchier, Mr Cadman, Mr Dobie, Mr Gillard, Mr Hunt, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin and Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Bowen, Mr N. A. Brown, Dr Jenkins, Mr MacKenzie, Sir William McMahon, Mr Morris, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Scholes 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.

Dr Cass, Mr Hunt, Mr Street and 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.

Dr Cass and Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying that Parliament debate the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, facilitate public debate and take certain other action in connection with the Report.

Mr Dobie and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Dr Everingham and Mr West—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 on the Medical Benefits Schedule be maintained.

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

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.

Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that major traditional Aboriginal land areas be resumed from the States eventually to become defined Aboriginal community co-operatives.

Mr Jacobi—from certain electors of South Australia praying that the level of Government funding for education be increased.

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

Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that proposed changes to Medibank not be implemented and that there be consultation with the trade unions and the community.

Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that items which currently permit benefits for abortion be removed from the Standard Medical Benefits Table and that other funding of medical benefit schemes for the same purpose cease.

Petitions received.

- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity), Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) would act as Minister for Productivity.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS—REPORT ON THE PUBLICATION OF COMMONWEALTH ACTS, STATUTORY RULES AND LEGISLATION OF THE TERRITORIES—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED:** Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the report of the Joint Committee on Publications on the publication of Commonwealth Acts, Statutory Rules and legislation of the Territories, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
- Joint Committee on Publications—Report on the publication of Commonwealth Acts, Statutory Rules and legislation of the Territories—Government response—Ministerial statement, 28 February 1979.
- Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
- Debate ensued.
- Question—put and passed.
- 6 **MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS:** Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:
- 27 February 1979—Message—
No. 118—
Quarantine Amendment 1979.
Commonwealth Authorities (Northern Territory Pay-roll Tax) 1979.
Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Amendment 1979.
No. 119—Poultry Industry Assistance Amendment 1979.
- 7 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PETROL PRICING POLICIES:** Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Keating and Mr E. C. Cameron had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, Mr Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Keating, namely, "The economic burden of the Fraser Government's petrol pricing policies".
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Keating addressed the House.
- Discussion ensued.
- Discussion concluded.
- 8 **PATENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1979:** 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 Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 9 **DAIRY PRODUCE SALES PROMOTION AMENDMENT BILL 1979:** 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. 120, dated 21 February 1979, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
- 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 Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), the following amendment was made: Clause 3, page 2, lines 3–8, omit paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the definition of “dairy produce”, substitute the following:

“(b) any constituent part of cow’s milk; and

(c) any product derived from cow’s milk or from any constituent part of cow’s milk,

whether or not any other substance has been added;”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

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

10 MOTOR VEHICLE PLAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 22 February 1979*), viz.:

Motor vehicle plan—Ministerial statement, 22 February 1979—

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: “this House, while recognising the need for volume production to achieve lower priced Australian made vehicles, condemns the Government for entering into an agreement for an export credit/international complementation scheme of vehicle production with unnecessary haste and, for its failure to—

- (1) provide for close monitoring and control of component rationalisation;
- (2) provide details of total labour force and industry impact of proposed changes both short and long term;
- (3) outline job security, training, retraining and relocation programs;
- (4) achieve firm long term undertakings from overseas motor vehicle builders about continuing performance in Australia;
- (5) consider alternative schemes of vehicle production in Australia that would enable economies of scale to be achieved whilst retaining a comprehensive range of vehicle manufacturing capacities and skills;
- (6) consider regional economic/social effects of the proposal;
- (7) consider the effect on the balance of payments;
- (8) consult fully with trades union and industry representatives, and
- (9) comply with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Statement legislation”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr I. L. Robinson, in the Chair)—

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

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

- 11 GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:
The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 27 February 1979*), viz.:

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

Debate resumed.

Mr Bryant addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

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

Mr Howard (Treasurer) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.03 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 February 1979, pursuant to statute:

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 31.

Telecommunications (General)—Amendments Nos. 20, 21.

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

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives