

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 83

WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 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 Anthony, Mr Birney, Mr Cadman, Mr Dobie, Dr Edwards, Mr Ellicott, Mr Keating, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin, Mr Neil, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sainsbury and Mr Stewart—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.
 - Mr Adermann, Mr Birney, Mr Bowen, Mr Fry, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Lynch, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Millar, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock and Mr Sainsbury—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 Dobie, Mr Drummond and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
 - Mr Bowen and Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that compensation benefits paid to injured Commonwealth Government employees be increased and then adjusted automatically.
 - Dr Cass and Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying for the replacement of the 1978-79 Budget by a budget which increases the level of economic activity, lowers unemployment, assists the disadvantaged and revives business and consumer confidence.
 - Mr Falconer and Mr Hunt—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.
 - Mr P. F. Johnson and Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.
 - 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 Birney—from certain citizens praying that a broadly representative Schools Commission be maintained to determine national priorities in education and other matters.
 - Mr Cairns—from certain citizens praying that the expenditure of public funds not be directed to unnecessary abortions.
 - Dr Cass—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 Connolly—from certain citizens praying that small businessmen and their employees be retained in the retail oil industry.
 - 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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that adequate funding be restored to the Australian Broadcasting Commission and that the position of staff-appointed commissioner be re-instated.

Mr Keating—from certain citizens praying for the appointment of an independent inquiry into the Australian Broadcasting Commission to investigate the qualifications of commissioners and certain other matters.

Mr Lucock—from certain citizens praying for a halt in the automation of rural telephone exchanges pending a Parliamentary inquiry.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Work trucks, certain mobile machines, etc., dated 14 December 1978.

Second Hobart Bridge—Joint Committee—Report on Investigation and Design, dated January 1979.

Pursuant to statute:

Legislative Drafting Institute Act—Legislative Drafting Institute—4th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

5 NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA COUNCIL: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *National Library Act* 1960, this House elects Mr Bryant to be a member of the Council of the National Library of Australia and to continue as a member for a period of 3 years from and including 16 March 1979.

Question—put and passed.

6 NABARLEK URANIUM PROJECT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that the Government had approved of the development of the Nabarlek uranium deposits by Queensland Mines Limited, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Nabarlek uranium project—Ministerial statement, 7 March 1979.

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

Debate ensued.

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

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RURAL INDUSTRY FINANCE: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Holding 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, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Holding, namely, "The failure of the Government to adequately supervise and ensure the proper administration and distribution of finance to rural industry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Holding addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 PASSPORTS AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Passports Act* 1938.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Peacock 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.

- 9 GARDEN ISLAND DOCKYARD, N.S.W.—WORKSHOP, AMENITIES BUILDING AND SERVICES—
APPROVAL OF WORK: Mr McLeay (Acting Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the Committee has duly reported to Parliament: Construction of Garden Island Dockyard, N.S.W., workshop, amenities building and services.

Debate ensued.

The debate having been closed by the reply of Mr McLeay—

Mr Bungey, by leave, addressed the House.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 DEFENCE FORCE (RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AMENDMENTS) 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 Killen (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 REPATRIATION ACTS 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 by Dr Klugman who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide (a) that in assessment cases, the Repatriation Review Tribunal shall have power to receive, and to make determinations upon, any new evidence placed before it, and (b) for the re-introduction of the six-monthly indexation of pensions”.

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.

Mr Adermann (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

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

- 12 FOREIGN ANTITRUST JUDGMENTS (RESTRICTION OF ENFORCEMENT) 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 by Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide—

(a) that before the Attorney-General decides not to recognise or enforce any foreign judgment he shall first give his reasons to Parliament, together with all supporting evidence obtained by the foreign court; and

(b) that no determination of the Attorney-General shall take effect unless the Attorney-General has first obtained the consent of both Houses of Parliament”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

Mr Bowen, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

Clause 3—

Page 2, lines 34–39, omit paragraph (2) (d).

Page 3, lines 1–4, omit paragraph (3) (b).

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13 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.

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

14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—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 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Chapman, Mr Garland, Mr Graham, Mr Groom, Mr Howard, Mr Hurford and Mr Macphee.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives