

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

No. 84

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 1979

1 The House met, at 10.30 a.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 Armitage, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Keating, Mr Kerin, Dr Klugman, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Stewart, Mr Uren and Mr West—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that compensation benefits paid to injured Commonwealth Government employees be increased and then adjusted automatically.

Mr Dawkins and Mr Humphreys—from certain electors of Western Australia and Queensland, respectively, in the same terms as the preceding petitions.

Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Cadman, Mr Cotter, Mr Dobie, Dr Edwards, Mr Hunt, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin, Mr Ruddock and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Bowen, Mr Gillard, Mr Martin, Mr Neil, Mr Sainsbury and Mr Scholes—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 and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Mr Hunt 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.

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

Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that funds be allocated to provide for nursing home accommodation at Port Lincoln, S.A.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Curriculum Development Centre Council—Interim report for year 1977-78.

Royal Australian Air Force—No. 34 Squadron—Schedules of special flights for period 1 July to 31 December 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Statutory Rules Publication Act—Statement relating to the Trade Practices Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 1.

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

7 March 1979—Message—

No. 219—Pay-roll Tax (Territories) Assessment Amendment 1979.

No. 220—Excise Amendment 1979.

No. 221—Income Tax Assessment Amendment 1979.

6 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:

7 March 1979—Message No. 123—Audit Amendment 1979.

7 SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 20 March next, at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

8 AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE FORCES AND PROGRAMS—PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That a standing committee of this House be established to:

(a) examine and report upon—

(i) the capacity of Australia's defence forces to meet the criteria of substantial self-reliance set out in the Guam doctrine;

(ii) the appropriateness of the existing organisation of Australia's defence forces;

(iii) the capacity of the defence forces to achieve defence readiness in a short period;

(iv) the level of reserves and reserve equipment for use in a defensive requirement situation;

(v) the availability of replacement equipment to maintain an effective action capability, and

(vi) the effectiveness of expenditure of funds appropriated for defence;

(b) carry out a continuing examination of the extent to which announced defence programs are implemented, and

(c) examine such other matters related to the defence of Australia and the defence services as may be determined by the committee or referred by Parliament.

(2) That the committee be given all powers necessary to carry out its investigation and report to Parliament at least twice a year.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

9 CIVIL LIBERTIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS: Notice No. 2, general business, having been called on—

It being 2 hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the consideration of notices was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109.

Ordered—That the time for discussion of notice No. 2 be extended.

Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in the opinion of this House, measures need to be taken to protect civil liberties and human rights including:

(1) a Bill of Rights and Constitutional guarantees of human rights;

(2) a proper system of legal aid, and

(3) reform of the law so as to better protect civil liberties.

Mr Jacobi seconding the motion—

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Jacobi was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 10 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS:**
Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Cohen 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, Mr Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr E. C. Cameron, namely, "The urgent need for the Commonwealth and all States to defer the implementation of the third stage of motor vehicle emission controls".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr E. C. Cameron addressed the House.
By leave, the discussion was interrupted until a later hour this day.
- 11 **TACTICAL FIGHTER FORCE EVALUATIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the next step to be taken by the Government towards the acquisition of tactical fighter aircraft.
Mr Scholes, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.
- 12 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION CONTROLS:**
The discussion previously interrupted was resumed.
Discussion concluded.
- 13 **PARLIAMENT HOUSE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY BILL 1979:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an Authority to control the design and construction of Parliament House.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Fraser moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Morris), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 **CUSTOMS AMENDMENT BILL 1979:** Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Act 1901*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Fife 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.
- 15 **TASMANIAN NATIVE FORESTRY AGREEMENT BILL 1979:** Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to an agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmania in connection with Tasmanian native forestry.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Cohen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 **NATIONAL RAILWAY NETWORK (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1979:** Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to certain States in relation to main railway lines.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Dr Everingham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—C.S.I.R.O., CLAYTON, VIC.—RESEARCH LABORATORY COMPLEX:** 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*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a research laboratory complex for C.S.I.R.O.'s Division of Chemical Technology, Clayton, Vic.

Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 18 ARMY AND AIR FORCE CANTEEN SERVICE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of a new canteen service for the Army and the Air Force.

Mr Scholes, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

- 19 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY—AUSTRALIAN MEMBERSHIP—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Newman (Minister for National Development), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of Australia's membership of the International Energy Agency, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

International Energy Agency—Australian membership—

Copy of—

Decision on group objectives and principles for energy policy—Adopted 5 October 1977, and appendixes.

Letter from Ambassador F. P. Donovan to Ambassador N. Eersbøll, Chairman of the Governing Board of the International Energy Agency, together with a formal declaration by Australia and an explanatory statement.

Ministerial statement, 8 March 1979.

Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

- 20 CRIMES AT SEA 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 McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 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 Braithwaite addressing the House—

Closure of Member moved: Mr Uren moved—That the honourable Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 27

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

NOES, 63

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

And so it was negatived.

Mr Sinclair moved—That Mr Braithwaite be granted an extension of time.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 65

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

NOES, 28

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Braithwaite continued his speech.

Dr Cass addressing the House—

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

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

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

8 March 1979—Message—

No. 222—Dairy Produce Sales Promotion Amendment 1979.

No. 223—Defence Force (Retirement and Death Benefits Amendments) 1979.

No. 224—National Fitness Amendment 1979.

23 ADJOURNMENT: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs) moved—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

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

Mr MacKellar required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.05 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday, 20 March next, at 2.15 p.m., unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram or letter addressed to each Member of the House, fix an alternative day or hour of meeting.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 March 1979, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 31.

Christmas Island Act—Ordinance—1979—No. 1—Motor Traffic (Amendment).

Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 32.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Regulations—1979—No. 3 (Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Chapman, Mr Ellicott, Mr Garland, Mr Giles, Mr Goodluck, Mr Groom, Mr Howard, Mr Hurford, Dr Jenkins, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr Lucock, Mr Macphee, Mr Viner and Mr Wilson.

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