

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 86

WEDNESDAY, 21 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 Armitage, Mr Baillieu, Mr Birney, Mr Bouchier, Mr Bowen, Mr Burns, Mr Cadman, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Dean, Dr Edwards, Mr Falconer, Mr Fisher, Mr L. R. Johnson, Dr Klugman, Mr Lusher, Sir William McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Ruddock, Mr Scholes, Mr Short and Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that the medical benefits schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.
- Mr Armitage, Mr Baume, Mr Birney, Mr Bowen, Mr Burns, Mr Cadman, Mr Carlton, Dr Cass, Mr Dobie, Mr Ellicott, Mr Falconer, Mr Gillard, Mr Hunt, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Scholes 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 D. M. Cameron, Mr Carlton, Dr Edwards, Mr Howard, Mr Humphreys, Dr Klugman, Mr MacKenzie, Mr Martin, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Scholes, Mr Sinclair and Mr Uren—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 Cairns, Mr Calder, Mr D. M. Cameron, Dr Everingham, Mr Fry, Mr Humphreys, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Killen, Mr McVeigh and Mr Thomson—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to prevent payment of medical benefits for unnecessary abortions.
- Mr Bryant and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying for the resignation of Members who have not honoured an election undertaking to retain twice-yearly adjustments of social security pensions in accordance with movements in the consumer price index.
- Dr Klugman and Mr Morris—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that compensation benefits paid to injured Commonwealth Government employees be increased and then adjusted automatically.
- Mr Lucock and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
- 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 Bowen—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 Bradfield—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.

Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the decision to suspend reconstruction aid to, and cultural exchanges with, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam be reversed.

Mr Lynch—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the existing newsagency system be preserved.

Mr Thomson—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Leichhardt praying that a rational approach to fish imports be adopted.

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

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPER: The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Non-government Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—1st Annual Report, for period 19 October 1977 to 31 December 1978.

5 HAROLD E. HOLT NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION—SATELLITE GROUND TERMINAL—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's agreement to the installation of a replacement satellite ground terminal at the Harold E. Holt Naval Communication Station.

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

6 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Fry (Deputy Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:

Ginninderra Creek—Lake Ginninderra and 66A series of proposed variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs, dated February 1979, incorporating dissenting reports, together with the transcript of evidence and copies of extracts from the minutes of proceedings of the committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Fry and Mr Haslem, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

7 PROPOSED DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GREAT BARRIER REEF: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Cohen and Mr Bradfield 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 Cohen, namely, "The failure of the Government to provide an assurance that it will not permit any exploration, testing or mining on or in the vicinity of the Great Barrier Reef".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Cohen 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 Deputy Speaker, Mr Millar, in the Chair)—

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Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Porter
Mr Aldred	Mr Cotter	Mr Johnston	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Anthony	Mr Dean	Mr Jull	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Dobie	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Drummond	Mr Lucock	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Birney	Dr Edwards	Mr Lusher	Mr Shack
Mr Bouchier	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bradfield	Mr Falconer	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fisher	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 Martyr	Mr Wilson
Mr Calder	Mr Hodgman	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Neil	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hunt	Mr Newman	Mr Corbett
Mr Carlton	Mr Hyde	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Hodges

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICE: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 36, general business, being called on forthwith.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—GENERAL BUSINESS MOTION: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (a) the debate on the motion to be moved by the honourable Member for Hume, relating to the termination of pregnancy, being a cognate debate covering the motion and all amendments given to the Clerk, reported to the House and circulated to Members, and
- (b) on a motion “That the questions be now put” being agreed to, or at such earlier time as the debate may conclude, the Chair putting the questions on circulated amendments which are capable of being put, in the order determined by the Chair, and any other questions necessary to conclude consideration of the matter:

Provided that the Speaker may, in his discretion, before putting the question “That the questions be now put”, call on the mover or seconder or any other Member to make a personal explanation.

Debate ensued.

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

- 10 TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY—MEDICAL BENEFITS: Mr Lusher, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House requests the Government to introduce legislation which will provide that—

- (1) medical benefits shall not be provided by the Commonwealth for the termination of pregnancy unless the termination was performed to protect the life of the

mother from a physical pathological condition and that the life could be protected in no other way, and

- (2) where medical expenses are incurred in respect of a medical service specified in the Medical Benefits Schedule which could include the termination of pregnancy, the doctor who performed the service shall be required to certify to the Department of Health that—
- (a) the operation was not performed to terminate a pregnancy, but was for a stated, other purpose, or
  - (b) if the operation was performed to terminate a pregnancy, it was carried out in order to protect the life of the mother from a specified physical pathological condition and that the life could be protected in no other way.

Pursuant to the suspension of standing orders, debate ensued on the motion and on such amendments as had been circulated by the Clerk.

Mr Falconer addressing the House—

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

Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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Mr Falconer continued his speech.

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

11 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 Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Chapman, Mr Garland, Mr Jarman, Mr Lloyd, Mr Nixon and Mr Peacock.

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