

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 97

TUESDAY, 8 MAY 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 N. A. Brown, Mr Burns, Mr Carlton, Mr Dean, Dr Edwards, Mr Fraser, Mr Graham, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Martin, Mr Neil, Mr Ruddock, Mr Simon, Mr Sinclair, Mr Thomson, Mr Willis and Mr Yates—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 N. A. Brown, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Lynch, Mr Nixon, Mr Scholes and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
    - Mr Dean and Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice-yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.
    - Mr Anthony—from certain citizens praying that the Stokers Siding Post Office, N.S.W., not be closed.
    - Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
    - Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to improve the retirement conditions of all sections of the Australian workforce that are not supported by superannuation or long service leave schemes.
    - Mr Fisher—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Mallee praying for the replacement of the letter box at the corner of Upper Region and High Streets, Dimboola, Vic.
    - Mr Innes—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 Innes—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.
    - Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that pensions be adjusted at 6 monthly intervals.
    - Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that a protest be sent to the Canadian Government objecting to the slaughter of Harp Seal pups.
    - 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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that public debate on a replacement constitution be encouraged, a directly elected constitutional convention be convened and a referendum be conducted on its resolutions.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain residents of Newtown, N.S.W., praying that the proposal of the Major Airport Needs of Sydney Study to construct a new runway at Kingsford-Smith Airport be rejected.

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

Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the supporting parents benefit and the widows pension be combined to form a single lone parent pension.

Petitions received.

- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Anthony (Deputy Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), Mr Garland (Minister for Special Trade Representations), Mr Newman (Minister for National Development) and Mr Ellicott (Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory), he was acting as Prime Minister and Minister for Special Trade Representations, Mr McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services) was acting as Minister for National Development and Mr Staley (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) was acting as Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory.

- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

- 5 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Bureau of Animal Health—Report for 1974–78.

- 6 **STATEMENT BY MEMBER—LEAVE TO MAKE NOT GRANTED:** Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) asked leave to make a statement.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

- 7 **PAPERS—LEAVE TO PRESENT NOT GRANTED:** Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) asked leave to present certain papers.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

- 8 **BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS—UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of bilateral negotiations finalised with the United States of America and Japan during his recent overseas visit, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Bilateral negotiations—United States of America and Japan—Ministerial statement, 8 May 1979.

Mr Street (Minister for Industrial Relations) 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.

- 9 **EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION—A BROAD VIEW—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Employee participation—A broad view—Report by National Employee Participation Steering Committee.

Mr Macphee, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Employee participation—Ministerial statement, 8 May 1979.

Mr Street (Minister for Industrial Relations) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

- 10 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COUNCIL: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of section 11 of the *Australian National University Act 1946*, this House elects Mr P. M. Ruddock and Dr R. E. Klugman to be members of the Council of the Australian National University for a period of 3 years from 18 August 1979.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER: Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for 1 month be given to the honourable Member for Lalor on the ground of Parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—OVERSEAS BORROWINGS: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Willis had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Fraser Government’s overseas borrowings of more than \$4 billion”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 13 HIGH COURT JUSTICES (LONG LEAVE PAYMENTS) 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 re-drafted to provide for pro rata long leave entitlements to judges on the same basis as long service leave entitlements to Commonwealth employees under the *Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1976*”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 142, dated 3 April 1979, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 JUDGES (LONG LEAVE PAYMENTS) 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—

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

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 143, dated 3 April 1979, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

15 BOUNTY (ROTARY CULTIVATORS) 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 Hurford who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House declines to give the Bill a second reading until the Government gives the House a satisfactory explanation, *inter alia*, as to—

- (a) why the Government considered that the level of short-term assistance on the production and sale in Australia of pedestrian operated rotary cultivators which was recommended by the Industries Assistance Commission might not be adequate;
- (b) why the House was not informed that the Government had rejected the recommendations of the Commission relating to this matter; and
- (c) why the Minister in his second reading speech did not explain the reasons for deciding on a bounty which is double the rate recommended by the Commission”.

Debate continued.

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

16 TOURISM—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPERS NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Groom (Minister for Housing and Construction)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 5 April 1979*), viz.:

Tourism—Select Committee—Report—Government response—  
Ministerial statement, 5 April 1979.

Recommendations of committee and responses—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

17 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 2.15 p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Ellicott, Mr Fraser, Mr Garland, Mr Hunt, Mr B. O. Jones\*, Mr Lynch, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin, Mr Moore, Mr Newman, Mr Shack and Mr Thomson.

\* On leave

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