

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

No. 102

THURSDAY, 24 MAY 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 Cadman, Dr Edwards, Mr Martin 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Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Drummond and Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that a protest be sent to the Canadian Government objecting to the slaughter of Harp Seals and certain other matters.

Mr Cairns—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.

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 Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to deter Taiwanese fishing boats from fishing Australian waters.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth's contribution to the standard nursing home fee be reviewed and that further reviews be undertaken on a quarterly basis.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that there be no extension of Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By Mr Speaker:

Department of the Parliamentary Library—Annual Report for 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Defence Act—Royal Military College of Australia—Report for period 1 February 1978 to 31 January 1979.

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

23 May 1979—Message—

No. 231—Prices Justification Amendment 1979.

No. 232—Norfolk Island 1979.

No. 233—Remuneration Tribunals Amendment 1979.

6 DAYS AND HOURS OF MEETING: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet next week on Monday and Tuesday at the times specified:

Monday, 28 May	2.15 p.m.
Tuesday, 29 May	10.30 a.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed

7 LAND COMMISSION PROGRAMS: Mr Uren, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House is of the opinion that—

- (1) the Land Commission program as it operates in New South Wales and South Australia is an effective method of attacking speculation in urban land, preventing land booms re-emerging as interest rates fall and encouraging good and just planning through the provision of land for home seekers at a fair price, and
- (2) the dealings in land currently under investigation in Victoria and other transactions in land carried on in secret by people holding high office lead to the unjust profiteering which public intervention in the urban land market through adequately supported Land Commissions can prevent.

Debate ensued.

Mr Howe addressing the House—

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

Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notices be extended until 12.45 p.m.

Mr Howe continued his speech.

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

8 COMMONWEALTH/STATE ECONOMIC RELATIONS: Mr Cairns, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House, having regard to the requirements of Australian Federalism that States should, within the total economic program, be responsible for their own affairs and that the effects of Commonwealth policies should fall as fairly as possible on the various States, requests the Commonwealth to—

- (1) monitor closely the economic experience of the States so that they share fairly the experiences of strong economic growth as well as economic restraint;
- (2) examine closely the effects of the four periods of economic restraint since World War II;
- (3) consider and make available the effects of all forms of Commonwealth intervention, including tariffs, quotas, bounties and price support systems on the economies of those States, and
- (4) ensure that these are discussed quantitatively at the next Premiers' Conference and Loan Council so that domestic economic experience in the States reflects their respective values of output.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—GREAT BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK:

Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Cohen had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to declare any sections of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Cohen addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 10 TAXATION ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to repeal Part III of the *Taxation Administration Act* 1953 relating to Valuation Boards, and for related purposes.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar 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.
- 11 ESTATE DUTY ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Estate Duty Assessment Act* 1914.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 GIFT DUTY ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Gift Duty Assessment Act* 1941.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 265 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act* 1936.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 PAY-ROLL TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 70 of the *Pay-roll Tax Assessment Act* 1941.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 PAY-ROLL TAX (TERRITORIES) ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 69 of the *Pay-roll Tax (Territories) Assessment Act* 1971.
Bill read a first time.
Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 EXCISE TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Viner (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act relating to duties of Excise.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Viner 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 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1979-80: 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Hurford, viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the*

Bill, the House is of the opinion that the Government stands condemned for continuing to pursue a restrictive fiscal policy which has (a) greatly increased unemployment; (b) restricted economic growth; (c) failed to control inflation; (d) reduced living standards of the great majority of the Australian population; (e) severely restricted important government programs, and (f) increased inequality and poverty in the community, and accordingly calls on the Government to produce a budget for the next financial year which implements an alternative program designed to promote employment, living standards and equity”—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr Cairns), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 18 SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1935*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 19 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1979–80: 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Hurford, viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House is of the opinion that the Government stands condemned for continuing to pursue a restrictive fiscal policy which has (a) greatly increased unemployment; (b) restricted economic growth; (c) failed to control inflation; (d) reduced living standards of the great majority of the Australian population; (e) severely restricted important government programs, and (f) increased inequality and poverty in the community, and accordingly calls on the Government to produce a budget for the next financial year which implements an alternative program designed to promote employment, living standards and equity”—

Debate resumed.

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.

On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 20 SUPPLY BILL (NO. 2) 1979–80: 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, PERSONAL TAXATION AND REVENUE 1979–80—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Howard (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of decisions made by the Government on expenditure, personal taxation and revenue for 1979–80, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Government expenditure, personal taxation and revenue 1979–80—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1979.

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

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Sinclair, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 36 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Killen—Minister for Defence), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 22 INCOME TAX (RATES AND ASSESSMENT) AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to income tax.

Bill read a first time.

Mr MacKellar moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 23 HEALTH CARE COSTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of Government decisions regarding health care costs, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers: Health care costs—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1979.

Hospital facilities and services—Report on rationalisation and on proposed new charges—A discussion paper, dated November 1978.

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

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Sinclair, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Dr Klugman speaking for a period not exceeding 23 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

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

- 24 WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION 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.

Mr Fisher was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

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

- 25 CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1979: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Customs Tariff Act 1966*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Macphee 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.

- 26 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.24 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 May 1979, pursuant to statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—1979—No. 3—Survey of wholesale establishments, 1977–78.

