

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 165

MONDAY, 21 APRIL 1980

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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 **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the Honourable Sevese Morea, M.P., Speaker of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, was within the precincts. With the concurrence of Members, the distinguished visitor was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Bryant, Mr Holding, Mr James and Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain sports men and women and others praying that the participation of a full Australian contingent at the Moscow Olympic Games be ensured.
 - Mr Bungey and Mr Carlton—from certain citizens praying that taxation laws be amended to increase incentives to persons providing for their own retirement benefits.
 - Mr Holding and Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that a treaty be signed between the Aboriginal people of Australia and the Commonwealth.
 - Mr Morris and Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that pensions and benefits be increased and adjusted quarterly and that greater taxation relief be given to pensioners and others on low incomes.
 - Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the National Women's Advisory Council and its recommendations be supported.
 - Mr Bradfield—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to increase the marine radio licence fee be reconsidered.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the mining and processing of uranium in Queensland be abandoned or postponed indefinitely.
 - Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to prohibit the use of public moneys for the killing of the unborn.
 - Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that eligibility for service pensions be extended to include merchant seamen.
 - Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that calls for a boycott of the 1980 Olympic Games cease and that assistance be given to the Australian Olympic team to compete in the games.
 - Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying that Commonwealth responsibilities towards the Aboriginal people be honoured according to the spirit of the 1967 referendum vote.
 - Mr Jacobi—from certain parents, friends and children of the Goodwood School community, S.A., praying that the House oppose all actions that may endanger dolphins.
 - Mr James—from certain citizens praying that the present Citizen's Band Radio Service frequencies be retained after 30 June 1982 and be further expanded.

Mr Johnston—from certain residents of Victoria praying that carcass trade be promoted and that exports of live animals for slaughter be banned.

Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying that the National Women's Advisory Council be abolished.

Mr Morris—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the 1980 level of education expenditure to Government schools be restored and increased in real terms.

Mr Simon—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to reduce total taxation by not less than 25%.

Petitions received.

4 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Howard (Treasurer) and Senator Durack (Attorney-General), Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance) was acting as Treasurer and Mr Ellicott (Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for the Capital Territory) was acting as Attorney-General.

5 DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice President of the Commission of the European Communities, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitor a warm welcome.

6 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of 22nd meeting held at Melbourne, Vic., 23 November 1979.

8 ARABIAN PENINSULA AND MALAYSIA—VISIT BY MINISTER FOR TRADE AND RESOURCES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to his recent visit to the Arabian Peninsula and Malaysia, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Arabian Peninsula and Malaysia—Visit by Minister for Trade and Resources—Ministerial statement, 21 April 1980.

Mr Adermann (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Adermann, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding 20 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the House take note of the paper—put and passed.

9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Bungey (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Defence Force Academy—Comments on analysis of Public Works Committee report by Department of Defence, dated April 1980.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Adermann (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES: 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 decline in living standards and the level of economic activity being brought about by rising interest rates”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 DISCHARGE OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Mr Viner (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the following orders of the day, government business, be discharged:

18 COMPANY TAKE-OVERS BILL 1979: Second reading—Resumption of debate.

19 COMPANY TAKE-OVERS (FEES) BILL 1979: Second reading—Resumption of debate.

20 ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE 1977-78—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE: Consideration in committee.

21 ADVANCE TO THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE 1978-79—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE: Consideration in committee.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1980: Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Trade Practices Act 1974*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt 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.

- 13 PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS—EXCESS PAYMENTS—REFERENCE TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, moved—That the circumstances surrounding the question of “excess payments” made under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme as set out in the statement of the Minister for Health to the House of Representatives on 2 April 1980 and under the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, and the question of whether the relevant administrative processes should be altered in the light of the situation described in the statement, be referred to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts for inquiry and report.

Debate ensued.

Dr Blewett moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the motion: “, and

(2) That the House is of the opinion that the Joint Committee of Public Accounts should pay particular attention to and report on:

(a) the inordinate delay by the Executive in discovering the ‘excess payments’, and

(b) the delay of over a year between the recognition of the existence of an ‘excess payment’ situation by the Department of Health and the conveying of that recognition to the Parliament”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Millar, in the Chair)—

AYES, 31

Mr Armitage	Dr Everingham	Dr Jenkins	Mr Morris
Dr Blewett	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr L. R. Johnson*	Mr Scholes
Mr Bowen	Mr Fry	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Uren
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Holding	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Wallis
Mr Bryant	Mr Humphreys	Dr Klugman	Mr West
Dr Cass	Mr Hurford	Mr L. B. McLeay	Mr Willis
Mr Cohen	Mr Jacobi	Mr J. L. McMahon*	Mr Young
Mr Dawkins	Mr James	Mr Martin	

NOES, 60

Mr Adermann	Mr Carlton	Mr Jarman	Mr Neil
Mr Aldred	Mr Chapman	Mr Johnston	Mr Newman
Mr Baillieu	Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Baume	Mr Corbett*	Mr Katter	Mr Porter
Mr Birney	Mr Dean	Mr Lloyd	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Bouchier	Mr Dobie	Mr Lusher	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Bradfield	Mr Drummond	Mr Lynch	Mr Ruddock
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Ellicott	Mr MacKellar	Mr Sainsbury
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Falconer	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Shack
Mr Bungey	Mr Garland	Mr J. E. McLeay	Mr Shipton
Mr Burns	Mr Giles	Sir William McMahon	Mr Short
Mr Burr	Mr Gillard	Mr McVeigh	Mr Simon
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodges*	Mr Macphee	Mr Street
Mr Calder	Mr Hunt	Mr Martyr	Mr Thomson
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hyde	Mr Moore	Mr Viner

* Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

- 14 CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1980: 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 Street (Minister for Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.

- 15 PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION (DALTON TO CANBERRA) BILL 1980: 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 Macphee (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Macphee (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic 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.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 21 April 1980, pursuant to statute:

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1980/2—

Holders of public offices on the Film Censorship Board.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 21 April 1980.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cairns, Mr Cotter, Dr Edwards, Mr Graham, Mr Hodgman, Mr Howard, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr P. F. Johnson and Mr Lucock.

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