

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

No. 8

WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 1981

- 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 Beazley, Mr McLean, Mr Shack and Mr Tuckey—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that steps be taken to formulate an airline policy providing for greater competition so that prices and service are determined by free market forces.
 - Mr Armitage and Mr Dean—from certain citizens praying that the Travelling Post Office service be retained in New South Wales.
 - Mr Dean and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Government proposals to sell publicly owned enterprises be rejected.
 - Mr Bradfield—from certain citizens praying that the program of Australian aid to Ethiopia be reviewed and restricted to Eritrea and refugees in Somalia, Djibouti and the Sudan.
 - Mr Bradfield—from certain citizens praying that the creation of foreign bases on Australian soil and the use of military facilities by nuclear armed aircraft and submarines be opposed and that certain actions be taken to promote peace.
 - Mr Dean—from certain citizens praying that private and confidential medical records be protected from scrutiny.
 - Mr Dean—from certain citizens praying that any moves to disallow the Public Service Arbitrator's Determination No. 503 of 1980 and to exclude arbitral jurisdiction over any aspects of redundancy, redeployment, retrenchment and retirement be rejected.
 - Mr Fisher—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant breeders' rights in Australia be rejected.
 - Mr Fisher—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to secure the release of the South Korean opposition leader, Mr Kim Dae Jung, and all other political prisoners in South Korea and that support be given to a peaceful, long-term and just settlement of the problems of the Korean Peninsula.
 - Mr Fisher—from certain members of the Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa Research Association of Australia and others praying that the provision of funds for research into Epidermolysis Bullosa be restored.
 - Mr Free—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Macquarie praying that Telecom Australia be directed to provide an adequate service to subscribers and users in the 047 telephone zone.
 - Dr Klugman—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Prospect in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying for the abolition of the export parity pricing policy for LPG consumed in Australia and that certain other action be taken in relation to the pricing of LPG.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that Service Pensions be extended to all merchant seamen who served in theatres of war.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that requests for export permits covering mineral sand products from Moreton Island, Qld, be refused.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to require labelling of perfumes, cosmetics and toilet preparations to indicate any use of animal ingredients during manufacture.

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

Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that an Australian Heritage Tribunal be set up to conduct on-site hearings concerning threats to the natural heritage.

Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that plant variety rights legislation not be introduced until full and informed public discussion of the issues has taken place.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to have the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Acts, regulations and by-laws abolished and that land rights be established forthwith.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans-Australia Airlines be rejected.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 EFFICIENCY AUDIT—REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL—COMMONWEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF NURSING HOME PROGRAMS—PUBLICATION OF PAPER AND REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Efficiency Audit—Commonwealth administration of nursing home programs—Report of Auditor-General, dated 13 February 1981.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

- (1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act* 1908, authorises the publication of the report of the Auditor-General on an efficiency audit of Commonwealth administration of nursing home programs, and
- (2) That the report be referred to the Standing Committee on Expenditure for inquiry and report.

Question—put and passed.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Canberra College of Advanced Education Act—Council of the Canberra College of Advanced Education—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1979.

Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—33rd Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—17th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Trade Union Training Authority Act—Australian Trade Union Training Authority—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreement relating to financial assistance to New South Wales and Victoria for urban expansion and redevelopment (Albury-Wodonga), dated 15 December 1980.

Wheat Marketing Act—Australian Wheat Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 30 November 1979.

- 6 DOMESTIC AIR FARES—REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY—PAPERS NOTED: Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
 Domestic Air Fares—Report of Independent Public Inquiry, dated 15 February 1981—
 Volume 1—Report.
 Volume 2—Selected submissions I.
 Volume 3—Selected submissions II.
 Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
 Question—put and passed.
- 7 HOSPITALS EFFICIENCY AND ADMINISTRATION—REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PAPERS NOTED: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Health), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
 Hospitals Efficiency and Administration—Report of Commission of Inquiry, dated 29 December 1980—
 Volume 1—Report.
 Volume 2—Supplement.
 Volume 3—Selected studies.
 Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
 Question—put and passed.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAXATION POLICY: Mr 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 failure and confusion of the Government’s taxation policy”.
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Willis addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 9 BOUNTY (POLYESTER-COTTON YARN) AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Bounty (Polyester-Cotton Yarn) Act 1978*, and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Moore moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 BOUNTY (NON-ADJUSTABLE WRENCHES) BILL 1981: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of bounty on the production of certain wrenches.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Moore moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 COAL EXCISE AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Coal Excise Act 1949*, and for other purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Moore moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AMENDMENT 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 Fife (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 LONG SERVICE LEAVE (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES) AMENDMENT 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.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr Fife (Minister for Education), the following new clause was inserted in the Bill:

“3A. After section 9 of the Principal Act the following section is inserted:

Delegations by Presiding Officers

“9A. (1) The President or the Speaker or the President and the Speaker, as the case may be, may, either generally or as otherwise provided by the instrument of delegation, by writing signed by him or them, as the case may be, delegate to an officer or employee of the Parliament, any of his or their powers, as the case may be, as an approving authority under this Act or under the regulations, other than this power of delegation.

“(2) A power delegated under sub-section (1), when exercised by the delegate, shall, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to have been exercised by the President or the Speaker or the President and the Speaker, as the case may be.

“(3) A delegation under sub-section (1) does not prevent the exercise by the President or the Speaker or the President and the Speaker, as the case may be, of the power to which the delegation relates.

“(4) In sub-section (1)—

- (a) the reference to officers of the Parliament shall be read as a reference to officers of the Department of the Senate, the Department of the House of Representatives, the Department of the Parliamentary Library, the Department of the Parliamentary Reporting Staff or the Joint House Department; and
- (b) the reference to employees of the Parliament shall be read as a reference to employees, within the meaning of the *Public Service Act* 1922, performing duties in a Department specified in paragraph (a).’.”

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Fife, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 COMMONWEALTH TEACHING SERVICE AMENDMENT 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Fife (Minister for Education), the Bill was read a third time.

- 15 FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS (COSTS) BILL 1980: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General) 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.

16 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Kent, viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Government:

- (1) has failed to adequately respond to—
 - (a) record unemployment;
 - (b) a high and worsening level of inflation;
 - (c) reduced and falling family living standards, and
 - (d) the highest taxation burden in the nation's history;
- (2) allows unsatisfactory administration of foreign investment guidelines which permit an uncritical and open-door policy to the takeover of Australian industry and resources to continue, and
- (3) makes no long-term provision for assistance to manufacturing industry and farming industries, which are likely to be severely disadvantaged as a result of successive exchange rate revaluations and substantially increased imports in the context of resources development”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Howe addressing the House—

17 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 February 1981, pursuant to statute:

Defence Amendment Act—Interim Determinations—Statutory Rules 1981, Nos. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendment of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States of Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, dated 17 February 1981.

Student Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 23.

Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1981, Nos. 15, 17.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—

1980—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 6.

Telecommunications (Community Calls)—Amendment No. 5.

Telecommunications (Staff)—Amendments Nos. 32, 33.

Trade Commissioners Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 16.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mrs Darling, Mr Robinson and Mr Sainsbury.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives