

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 19

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 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 R. J. Brown, Mr Campbell, Mr Charles, Mr Cunningham, Mr Duffy, Mr Free, Mr Innes, Mr Kent, Mr Mildren, Mr Milton and Dr Theophanous—from certain citizens praying that insulin syringes for diabetics be made available on the National Health Scheme and insulin prescriptions revert to 10 bottles.

Mr Beazley, Mr Campbell, Mr McLean and Mr Shack—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 Free and Mr Mountford—from certain citizens praying that funding of children's services be restored to at least the real value of funding allocated in the 1975-76 Budget and future allocations be spent in full for the purposes designated.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that facilities in Western Australia and northern Australia not be provided to American naval vessels and aircraft which might, by their presence, make Australia a high priority target in the event of nuclear war.

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.

Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to allow child-care expenses as a deductible item from taxpayers' assessable income.

Mr Howard—from certain citizens praying that the allocation of funds for government school programs be restored and substantially increased.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that laws be passed to outlaw discrimination in employment and in the provision of unemployment benefits, based upon race, ethnic origin, marital status and sex.

Mr McLean—from certain citizens praying that private and confidential medical records be protected from scrutiny.

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

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.

Petitions received.

3 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the attempted assassination of President Reagan of the United States of America and messages sent to the United States in relation thereto.

Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT—PUBLICATION OF PAPER: Mr Speaker, pursuant to statute, presented the following paper:

Audit Act—Report of the Auditor-General upon audits, examinations and inspections carried out under the Audit and other Acts, dated 30 March 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 upon audits, examinations and inspections under the Audit and other Acts—March 1981.

(2) That the paper be printed.

Question—put and passed.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Fisheries Council—Resolutions—10th Meeting, Darwin, N.T., 12 September 1980.

Australian Wool Corporation—Limited Offer to Purchase Scheme—Report and financial statements on the operation of the scheme, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 3 October 1977 to 30 June 1980.

Pursuant to statute:

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—24th Annual Report, for year ended 13 August 1980.

7 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

25 March 1981—Message—

No. 23—

Shipping Registration 1981.

Flags Amendment 1981.

Navigation Amendment 1981.

No. 24—

Currency Amendment 1981.

Dairying Research Amendment 1981.

Dried Vine Fruits Stabilization Legislation Repeal 1981.

Apple and Pear Export Underwriting 1981.

Apple and Pear Stabilization Amendment 1981.

Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Amendment 1981.

Bounty (Polyester-Cotton Yarn) Amendment 1981.

Bounty (Non-adjustable Wrenches) 1981.

Coal Excise Amendment 1981.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MINERAL LEASES—FOREIGN OWNERSHIP:

Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Keating had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The unsatisfactory nature of the granting of mineral leases in Australia resulting in a continuing concentration of Australian mineral wealth in the hands of foreign corporations, particularly in Queensland".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Keating addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 4 (1981): Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 4 (1981).
Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

10 PAPERS: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—
Cheese, dated 15 March 1979 (No. 204).
Crushing or grinding machines, dated 27 January 1981 (No. 257).
Fluorescent and filament lamps—Short term assistance, dated 3 December 1980 (No. 253).

11 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 1 to 11, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

12 AUSTRALIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS—REVIEW—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 Fife (Minister for Education)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 25 March 1981*), viz.:
Australia's demographic trends—Review—
Ministerial statement, 25 March 1981.
Report by Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, dated February 1981—
Debate resumed.
Question—put and passed.

13 GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE—INDUSTRIAL ACTION—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:
Mr Speaker made a statement relating to industrial action to be taken at the Government Printing Office which would probably result in delays in the availability of *Hansard* for 31 March, 1 and 2 April 1981, and affect the printing of the Notice Paper for 2 April 1981.

14 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.

Dr Everingham addressing the House—

15 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 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 March 1981, pursuant to statute:

Defence Amendment Act—Interim Determinations—Statutory Rules 1981, Nos. 46, 47, 48.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1981—

No. 6—Health Commission (Amendment).

No. 7—Plant Diseases (Amendment).

States Grants (Petroleum Products) Act—Amendments of the schedules to the subsidy schemes in relation to the States of Victoria and Western Australia, dated 20 March 1981.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Dawkins, Mr Dobie and Mr Thomson.

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