

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 61

TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 1981

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- 1 The House met, at 1.45 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **PRIVILEGE:** Dr Theophanous raised as a matter of privilege an alleged breach of the confidentiality of material prepared for him by the Legislative Research Service, Commonwealth Parliamentary Library.
Mr Speaker stated that, in his opinion, no *prima facie* case of breach of privilege existed.
 - 3 **PRIVILEGE:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) drew the attention of the House to an advertisement on the front page of the Melbourne *Herald* of 16 October 1981, under the heading "P.M. VOTES SIGMA NO. 1", which could amount to a breach of privilege. Mr Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and report later.
 - 4 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Beazley, Mr Campbell, Mrs Darling, Mr McLean and Mr Peacock—from certain citizens praying that the proposed sales tax on books, magazines and newspapers be withdrawn from the Budget proposals.
 - Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr Fife—from certain members of Parents and Citizens Associations praying that the Schools Commission and Curriculum Development Centre be retained in their original forms and certain funding proposals and schools improvement programs be retained.
 - Mr Kent and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.
 - Mr Scott and Mr Young—from certain residents of the Electoral Divisions of Hindmarsh and Port Adelaide, respectively, praying that interest rate agreements be reduced annually with a maximum interest percentage ceiling on investors' capital and a scale of interest charges for loans.
 - Mr Anthony—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to allow child-care expenses as a deductible item from taxpayers' assessable income.
 - Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that Australia make an immediate and substantial offer of food aid to the Polish Government.
 - Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth funding of health services be continued at an improved level and the recommendations of the Committee of Review of Commonwealth Functions not be proceeded with.
 - Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that local community health centres receive adequate funds to continue and expand their services to the community.
 - Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the Government's sales tax legislation be withdrawn or repealed.
 - Mr I. M. D. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that the proposed sales tax on books, magazines and newspapers be reconsidered.
 - Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the 1981 Budget amendments to sales tax legislation be repealed and the Sales Tax Amendment Bills be withdrawn.
 - Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the Community Youth Support Scheme be continued.

- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to increase sales tax on furniture and mattresses not be proceeded with.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that no approval be given to the application of Trans Australia Airlines or any other airline for a relaxation or withdrawal of the curfew at Eagle Farm Airport, Qld.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that persons under 18 years of age not be denied social security benefits.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that telegram services be retained at a standard and cost that will not disadvantage the ordinary citizen.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the widows pension and supporting parent benefit be increased, the guardian, child and family allowances be indexed, the tax-free threshold for income tax be raised and the sales tax increases on essential items be removed.
- Mr Dean—from certain citizens praying that the decision not to approve funding for the proposed extensions to the Garden Settlement Home for the Aged, Townsville, Qld, be reconsidered.
- Mr Duffy—from certain citizens praying that immediate and positive action be taken to avert any further effects of increases in interest rates on home mortgage loans.
- Mr Duffy—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent the Australian Postal Commission implementing any plan which will downgrade postal and mail services.
- Mrs Darling, Mr Kerin, Mr Killen and Mr McLean—from certain residents of the Electoral Divisions of Lilley, Werriwa, Moreton and Perth, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that the decision to pass the responsibility of funding of women's and children's refuges and health and crisis centres to the States be reversed and certain other actions be taken to consolidate the existing services and develop new initiatives for women and children in the community.
- Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that realistic funding levels be introduced to maintain existing services offered by women's refuges and certain other actions be taken to ensure the continuing effectiveness of the women's refuge program.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent the closing of Aspect House for handicapped children, New Town, Tas.
- Mr Hodgman—from certain students and staff of the University of Tasmania praying that tuition fees for second and higher degrees not be introduced and that tuition fees not be charged at Australian tertiary education institutions.
- Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to re-introduce a system of health care based on ability to pay and that access to health care be based on medical need.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that post-secondary tuition fees not be re-introduced and visa charges upon private overseas students be removed immediately.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the proposed changes to assistance to the passenger motor vehicle and components industries after 1984 as recommended by the Industries Assistance Commission not be given effect.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the rights of Australian workers in the automotive industry be protected by rejecting any proposal to reduce the level of tariff protection for the industry.
- Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that Government policy on subsidy payments for nursing home residents on short leave be relaxed.
- Mr Mildren—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Ballarat praying that immediate attention be given to an already seriously depressed housing industry.
- Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be re-introduced.

Mr Mountford—from certain citizens praying that disabled people be recognised as citizens who should have equal rights and that certain actions be taken to enable adequate planning of services needed by partially or totally disabled people to be undertaken.

Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that a maximum fixed interest rate on a first mortgage be established for the entire period for which the loan is taken out.

Mr Scott—from certain citizens praying that the sale of products made from animals or plants nearing extinction be prohibited.

Mr Young—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the offer of Darwin or any other location as a base or depot for American B-52 bombers be withdrawn and any request by the United States Government for the use of bases in Australia be rejected.

Petitions received.

5 DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: Mr Speaker informed the House that His Excellency Sheikh Mohammad Zubair, Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Sultanate of Oman, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitor a very warm welcome.

6 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Dairy Corporation—Interim report, for year 1980–81.

Defence Report, for year 1980–81.

South West Tasmania Resources Survey—Report by P. Waterman, dated June 1981—

Volume 1—Resource inventory.

Volume 2—Appendices.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Industry Development Corporation Act—Australian Industry Development Corporation—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the auditor's report, for year 1980–81.

Primary Industry Bank Act—Primary Industry Bank of Australia Limited—3rd Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

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

15 October 1981—Message—

No. 181—Meat Export (Penalties) 1981.

No. 182—Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment 1981.

No. 183—Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Amendment 1981.

No. 184—Customs (Unlawful Exportation of Food) Amendment 1981.

9 IMMIGRANTS—ILLEGAL ENTRY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Macphee (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the entry into Australia of a boat-load of illegal immigrants purporting to be refugees from Vietnam, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Immigrants—Illegal entry—Ministerial statement, 20 October 1981.

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

Debate ensued.

Mr Shack 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.

10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—CREDIT SQUEEZE: 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 Treasurer's failure to acknowledge or prevent the intensifying credit squeeze".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 **DEFENCE—GOVERNMENT DECISIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of Government decisions concerning the selection of the McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 as the new tactical fighter aircraft and other defence related matters, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Defence—Government decisions—Ministerial statement, 20 October 1981.

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 34 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

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

- 12 **RIVER MURRAY WATERS AGREEMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the endorsement of a draft of a new River Murray Waters Agreement by the Commonwealth and the States concerned, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

River Murray Waters Agreement—

Copy of Draft Agreement, dated 16 October 1981.

Ministerial statement, 20 October 1981.

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

Debate ensued.

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

- 13 **PRIVILEGE—ADVERTISEMENT IN MELBOURNE 'HERALD'—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Mr Speaker referred to the matter of privilege raised by Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) earlier this day (*see* entry No. 3) and stated that he was prepared to allow precedence to a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr Fraser produced a copy of the Melbourne *Herald* of Friday, 16 October 1981.

Mr Fraser then moved—That the advertisement published in the Melbourne *Herald* of 16 October 1981 under the heading "P.M. VOTES SIGMA NO. 1", be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 14 **APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1981-82:**

Estimates Committee A—Further consideration of report: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the proposed expenditures covered in the report of Estimates Committee A be agreed to and the resolutions and expressions of opinion in relation thereto be noted—And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Morrison (*see* pages 602 and 603)—

Debate resumed.

Privilege: Dr Klugman raised as a matter of privilege a photograph in an advertisement published on page 18 of the *Australian Financial Review* of 13 October 1981 and produced a copy of the *Australian Financial Review* containing the advertisement. Mr Deputy Speaker stated that he would bring the matter to the attention of Mr Speaker.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.
The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Armitage, in the Chair)—

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Mr Adermann	Mr Dean	Mr Jarman	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Robinson
Mr Birney	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Rocher
Mr Bradfield	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr Sainsbury*
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Falconer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fisher*	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Bungey	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Groom	Mr McLean	Mr Street
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hall	Sir William McMahon	Mr Tambling
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Harris	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hicks	Mr Macphee	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Hodges	Mr Moore	Mr White
Mr Chapman	Mr Hodgman	Mr Newman	Mr Wilson
Mr Coleman	Mr Howard	Mr Nixon	
Mr Connolly	Mr Hunt	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr Cowan	Mr Hyde	Mr Peacock	

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Mr Beazley	Mr Cunningham	Mr Hurford	Mr Milton
Dr Blewett	Mrs Darling	Mr Innes	Mr Morris
Mr Bowen	Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Morrison
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Duffy	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Mountford
Mr R. J. Brown	Dr Everingham	Mr Keating	Mr Scott
Mr Campbell	Mr Free	Mr Kent	Dr Theophanous
Dr Cass	Mr Fry	Mr Kerin	Mr Uren
Mr Charles	Mr Hawke	Dr Klugman	Mr Wallis
Mrs Child	Mr Holding	Mr McLeay	Mr West
Mr Cohen	Mr Howe	Mr J. L. McMahon*	Mr Young
Mr Cross	Mr Humphreys*	Mr Mildren	

*Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the proposed expenditures covered in the report of Estimates Committee A be agreed to and the resolutions and expressions of opinion in relation thereto be noted—put and passed.

Consideration of report of Estimates Committee A concluded.

Estimates Committee B—Consideration of report: Question proposed—That the following proposed expenditures be agreed to:

- Department of Social Security, \$414,347,000
- Department of Health, \$471,875,000
- Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, \$101,474,000
- Department of Veterans' Affairs, \$530,139,000, and
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs, \$130,973,000.

Debate ensued.

Dr Klugman addressing the House—

Adjournment negatived: It being 10 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Health) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

Consideration of report of Estimates Committee B concluded.

Estimates Committee C—Consideration of report: Question proposed—That the following proposed expenditures be agreed to:

Department of the Capital Territory, \$99,255,000
 Department of Science and Technology, \$408,171,000
 Department of Home Affairs and Environment, \$139,411,000
 Department of Communications, \$286,576,000
 Department of Administrative Services, \$430,349,000, and
 Attorney-General's Department, \$125,039,000.

Debate ensued.

Privilege—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker referred to the matter raised earlier this day by Dr Klugman as a matter of privilege concerning a photograph in an advertisement in the *Australian Financial Review* of 13 October 1981 and stated that a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege had not been established and that the matter had not been raised at the earliest opportunity.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hodgman—Minister for the Capital Territory), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 1.45 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 October 1981, pursuant to statute:

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules of Court—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 296.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Lands acquired for—

Pipeline Authority purposes, Cootamundra, N.S.W.

Telecommunications purposes, Gladstone, Tas.

Statements (2) of lands acquired by agreement authorized under sub-section 7 (1).

Trade Commissioners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 295.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bouchier*, Mr Goodluck, Dr Jenkins, Mr Johnson*, Mr Lusher, Mr Millar, Mr Ruddock, Mr Scholes, Mr Spender and Mr Viner.

* On leave

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