

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 64

TUESDAY, 27 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:** Mr Holding raised as a matter of privilege an advertisement in the *News Weekly* of 14 October 1981 in which purported comments and photographs of former Prime Minister Menzies and Prime Minister Fraser were used to solicit financial contributions to the News Weekly Fighting Fund.
Mr Speaker stated that, in his opinion, no *prima facie* case of breach of privilege existed but he would consider whether the matter should be referred to the Committee of Privileges in the context of the matter referred to the Committee on 20 October 1981.

 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mrs Darling, Dr Klugman, Mr Shack and Mr Viner—from certain citizens praying that the proposed sales tax on books, magazines and newspapers be withdrawn from the Budget proposals.
 - Mr Cross, Mrs Darling and Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that the Government's sales tax legislation be withdrawn or repealed.
 - Mr Cross and Mr Millar—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 Beazley—from certain citizens praying that Australia make an immediate and substantial offer of food aid to the Polish Government.
 - Dr Blewett—from certain residents of Salisbury and Elizabeth, S.A., 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 Scott—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Hindmarsh in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
 - Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that immediate and positive action be taken to avert further poverty and suffering in the community by raising the level of all pensions and benefits to the poverty line and by reconsidering the recent Government decisions taken in relation to the health system.
 - Mr E. C. Cameron—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent the Australian Postal Commission implementing any plan which will downgrade postal and mail services.
 - Mr Goodluck, Mr Hunt and Mr West—from certain residents of the Electoral Divisions of Franklin, Gwydir and Macarthur, respectively, in similar terms to the last preceding petition.

- 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 the recent decisions made with respect to tertiary education be rescinded and no steps be taken towards the re-introduction of fees for tertiary education.
- 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 Free—from certain citizens praying that funds not be allocated for the development of roads or dams in South-West Tasmania but be provided instead for the preservation of the area.
- Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant breeders' rights in Australia be rejected.
- Mr Goodluck—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Franklin praying that the Senate's requested amendments to the Sales Tax Bills be supported.
- Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying that the present protection levels on potatoes remain and representatives of the industry be consulted if any new measures affecting the potato industry are to be considered.
- Mr Hawke—from certain citizens praying that the latest increase in taxes be stopped and a referendum be held on taxes and interest rates.
- 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 Humphreys—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
- Mr B. O. Jones—from certain citizens praying that Australia Post facilities be provided in the area of West Sunshine, Vic.
- 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 rights of Australian workers in the automotive industry be protected by rejecting any proposal to reduce the level of tariff protection for the industry.
- Dr Theophanous—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Burke in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that interest rate relief be given by way of tax concessions or a subsidy on mortgage repayments.
- Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to bring all family allowances and social security benefits up to levels which would make them equivalent in real monetary terms to the time when they were set.
- 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 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 Scholes—from certain residents of the Geelong Region, Vic., praying that the Industries Assistance Commission recommendations on the motor vehicle industry not be accepted.
- 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 Wilson—from certain citizens praying that funding be increased for pre-school education in South Australia.

Petitions received.

4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice being asked—

Distinguished visitors: Mr Speaker informed the House that a Parliamentary delegation from several Malaysian States, led by the Honourable Peter Chin Gan Oon, M.L.A., was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

Questions without notice continued.

5 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Senator Durack (Attorney-General) and Mr Newman (Minister for Administrative Services), Mr N. A. Brown (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs) was acting as Attorney-General and Mr Wilson (Minister for Home Affairs and Environment) was acting as Minister for Administrative Services.

6 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Capital Territory Agents Board—10th Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

Australian Capital Territory Building Review Committee—4th Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

Australian Capital Territory Building Standards Committee—5th Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

Canberra Theatre Trust—16th Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

Pursuant to statute:

Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act—Administrative Review Council—5th Annual Report, for year 1980–81.

Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Corporation—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1980–81.

Wine Overseas Marketing Act—Australian Wine Board—53rd Annual Report (Final), for year 1980–81.

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:

21 October 1981—Message—

No. 95—Income Tax (International Agreements) Amendment (No. 2) 1981.

No. 96—Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment 1981.

No. 97—

Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Amendment (No. 2) 1981.

Apple and Pear Levy Amendment 1981.

Apple and Pear Export Charge Amendment 1981.

26 October 1981—Message—

No. 98—Epidemiological Studies (Confidentiality) 1981.

No. 99—

Meat Export (Penalties) 1981.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Amendment 1981.

Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Amendment 1981.

Customs (Unlawful Exportation of Food) Amendment 1981.

No. 100—Companies and Securities Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) 1981.

No. 101—

Income Tax Laws Amendment (No. 3) 1981.

Income Tax (Individuals) 1981.

Income Tax (Companies, Corporate Unit Trusts and Superannuation Funds) 1981.

- 8 **COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Mr Speaker informed the House that, during consideration of the matter referred to the Committee of Privileges on 20 October 1981, the Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory) and Mr Duffy, respectively, to serve in their places as members of the Committee.
- 9 **COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the Committee of Privileges, when considering the matter referred to it on 20 October 1981, have power to send for persons, papers and records.
Question—put and passed.
- 10 **COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr D. M. Cameron (Chairman) presented the following report from the Committee of Privileges:
Report relating to a printed reference and an article published in the *Sydney Daily Mirror* of Wednesday, 2 September 1981, incorporating 3 dissenting reports, together with minutes of proceedings and minutes of evidence of the committee.
Ordered to be printed.
Mr D. M. Cameron, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
Ordered—That the consideration of the report be made an order of the day for Thursday, 29 October 1981.
- 11 **ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Hodges (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation:
Environmental protection—Adequacy of legislative and administrative arrangements—2nd Report, dated September 1981, incorporating a dissenting report, together with copies of extracts from the minutes of proceedings.
Ordered—That the report be printed.
Mr Hodges and Mr West, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the report.
Debate ensued.
Mr Tambling 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.
- 12 **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—PAPERS NOTED:** Mr Connolly (Chairman) presented the following reports from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
188th Report—Joint Committee of Public Accounts—Annual Report, for year 1980–81.
189th Report—Airport fire tenders.
190th Report—Petroleum royalties and excise.
Severally ordered to be printed.
Mr Connolly, by leave, made a statement in connection with the reports.
Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
- 13 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS:** Mr Bungey (Chairman) presented the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
Report relating to the redevelopment of Brisbane International Airport—Further dredging and reclamation (9th report of 1981).
Report relating to the construction of new air traffic services centre and control tower, Perth Airport, W.A. (12th report of 1981).
Severally ordered to be printed.

14 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYMENT:

Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Hawke had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The Government's attempt to disguise its responsibility for the deteriorating employment situation in Australia".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hawke addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

15 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1981: Mr Howard (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to grant financial assistance to the States in connection with expenditure of a capital nature and to authorize the borrowing of certain moneys by the Commonwealth.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Howard 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 SOCIAL SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Services Act 1947*, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

17 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

18 REPATRIATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Thomson (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to repatriation and related matters.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

19 COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), for Mr Newman (Minister for Administrative Services), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Grants Commission Act 1973*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

20 NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS SUBSIDY AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 3 of the *Nitrogenous Fertilizers Subsidy Act 1966*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 21 STATUTE LAW (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1981:** Mr N. A. Brown (Acting Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make various amendments of the statute law of the Commonwealth.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr N. A. Brown moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 22 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—DOMICILE BILL 1981:** Message No. 188, dated 21 October 1981, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to domicile*".
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr N. A. Brown (Acting Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 23 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—DOMICILE (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 1981:** Message No. 189, dated 21 October 1981, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Marriage Act 1961' and the 'Family Law Act 1975' in consequence of the enactment of the 'Domicile Act 1981'*".
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr N. A. Brown (Acting Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 1981:**
 Message No. 190, dated 21 October 1981, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Crimes Act 1914', and for related purposes*".
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr N. A. Brown (Acting Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Dawkins), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 25 AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BILL 1981:** Mr Street (Minister for Foreign Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to encourage research for the purpose of identifying, or finding solutions to, agricultural problems of developing countries.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Street 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.
- 26 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 27 BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES BILL 1981:** 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 for Education), the Bill was read a third time.

28 **TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES BILL 1981:** 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.

29 **QUEENSLAND GRANT (SPECIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1981:** 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 having been resumed by Mr Humphreys—

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

Mr Fife (Minister for Education) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Humphreys continued his speech.

Paper: Mr Humphreys, by leave, during his speech, presented the following paper:

Education—Class size and staffing campaign 1981—Copy of letter from L. Schunter, President, Queensland Teachers Union, to Mr Humphreys, dated 25 May 1981.

Debate continued.

Privilege—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker referred to the matter raised earlier this day by Mr Holding as a matter of privilege concerning an advertisement in the *News Weekly* of 14 October 1981 and stated that he saw no need to allow precedence for a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges as such a reference would only duplicate the reference of 20 October 1981.

Mr Holding addressed the House on the matter.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 102, dated 22 October 1981, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Fife, the Bill was read a third time.

30 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Fife (Minister for Education) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.24 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 1.45 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 27 October 1981, pursuant to statute:

Aboriginal Development Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 301.

Defence Act—Determinations—1981—

No. 46—Cadet Forces Allowances.

No. 48—Education Allowance.

Loan (Income Equalization Deposits) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1981, No. 302.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bourchier*, Mr Campbell, Mr Howe, Mr Johnson*, Mrs Kelly, Mr Lusher, Mr McLean, Mr Newman, Mr Peacock and Mr Spender.

*On leave

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