

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 79

WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 1982

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

*Papers:* Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

East-West Road—Narrabri to Bourke, N.S.W.—  
Briefing note to Minister, dated 9 February 1982.

Copies of letters from—

Mr Hunt to—

Mr H. F. Jensen, New South Wales Minister for Roads, dated—  
29 May 1981

24 September 1981.

Mr P. F. P. Whelan, New South Wales Minister for Roads, dated—  
16 February 1982.  
8 March 1982.

Mr Jensen to Mr Hunt, dated 4 September 1981.

Mr N. T. G. Miles, Secretary, Shires Association of New South Wales, to Mr Hunt, dated 8 January 1982.

Mr O'Keefe, M.P. to Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), dated 1 August 1978.

Mr Dennis J. O'Neill, Principal, Wee Waa Central School, to the Chairman, Namoi Valley County Council, dated 12 June 1978.

Mr H. G. Wickham, County Clerk, Namoi Valley County Council, to—  
Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), dated 3 March 1976.

Mr Hunt, dated—

13 November 1974.

13 February 1975.

11 July 1978.

6 November 1978.

5 March 1980.

Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), dated 17 March 1977.

The Secretary, Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, dated 13 February 1975.

Press releases by Mr Hunt, dated—

1 October 1981, together with an attachment.

30 October 1981.

Questions without notice concluded.

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

Road Construction Price Indexes 1969-70 to 1980-81—Report by Bureau of Transport Economics, dated December 1981.

- 4 **MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA—ANNUAL REPORT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Wilson (Minister for Home Affairs and Environment), pursuant to statute, presented the following paper:

Museum of Australia Act—Museum of Australia—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 8 September 1980 to 30 June 1981.

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

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

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

16 March 1982—Message—

No. 225—Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research 1982.

No. 227—International Financial Institutions (Share Increase) 1982.

- 6 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAX AVOIDANCE:** Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Sainsbury and Mr Holding had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Sainsbury, namely, "The inequitable tax burden imposed on wage and salary earners by the artificial tax avoidance industry and the cash economy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sainsbury addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—DRIED SULTANA PRODUCTION UNDERWRITING BILL 1982:** The following message from the Senate was reported:

Message No. 226

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act relating to the underwriting of returns from the production of dried sultanas, and for other purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendment indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

**HAROLD YOUNG,**  
President

The Senate,  
Canberra, 16 March 1982

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

---

*In the committee*

**SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE**

Page 7, clause 16, sub-clause (1), line 32, after "such time", insert "but not less than 14 days".

On the motion of Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

---

The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Nixon, the House adopted the report.

8 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Dr Blewett, Mr R. J. Brown, Mr Morris and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the Sex Discrimination Bill 1981 be passed.

Mrs Darling, Mr Goodluck and Mr Hall—from certain citizens praying that the proposed sales tax on books, magazines and newspapers be withdrawn from the Budget proposals.

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

Mr MacKenzie and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that all provisions of the Heritage Act and the Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act be fully complied with in respect of national estate areas.

Dr Blewett—from certain citizens praying that Federal powers under the Constitution be used to over-ride State legislation concerning land rights for Aborigines and funding of welfare matters be directed through Aboriginal community-based and community-controlled organisations.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that Australia Day be celebrated on 26 January each year and that a public holiday be declared on that day, regardless of which day of the week it falls.

Mr Braithwaite—From certain residents of north Queensland praying that sufficient expenditure be allocated to raise the standard of the national highway in north Queensland to Department of Transport standards.

Mr Charles—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 Charles—from certain residents of Victoria praying that musicians dismissed from the ABC Melbourne Showband be reinstated and that funds be made available to enable the band to continue.

Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth's constitutional and legislative powers be used to grant full land rights and self-management to the Aboriginal people of Queensland.

Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that the Government's sales tax legislation be withdrawn or repealed.

Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Pensioners League and other pensioner groups be consulted in order to arrive at just and equitable legislation in relation to pensioners' non-interest bearing accounts.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Family Radio Limited's application for a broadcasting licence be supported and more category "S" F.M. licences be made available in Brisbane.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the mining and export of uranium be stopped, development of uranium enrichment and the testing of nuclear weapons be opposed and research into alternative energy sources be increased significantly.

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 post-secondary tuition fees not be re-introduced and visa charges upon private overseas students be removed immediately.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to establish a ceiling on the allowable amount of savings in pensioners' non-interest bearing accounts not be proceeded with.

Mr Duffy—from certain members of the Australian Postal and Telecommunications Union praying that action be taken to seek the resignation or dismissal of the Minister for Communications because of the effects of staff ceilings imposed at his direction.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the sales tax impost on essential educational items be abolished.

- Mr Hicks—from certain citizens praying that the 1981 Budget amendments to sales tax legislation be repealed and the Sales Tax Amendment Bills be withdrawn.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent sand mining on Moreton Island, Qld, and that action be taken to declare Moreton Island a national park.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that carcass trade be promoted and that exports of live animals for slaughter be banned.
- Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that legislation be enacted to require the production of annual statistics on the numbers of live animals involved in research and that the National Health and Medical Research Council be required to develop humane and responsible standards of conduct for research using live animals in laboratories.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that additional funds be provided under the Youth Accommodation Services Program to prevent the possible closure of the Westernport Youth Refuge, Vic.
- Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the present children's services program be maintained and no recommendations of the Spender report be implemented without full consultation with community groups.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that the annual registration fee for periodicals be reviewed with a view to exempting smaller clubs and organisations from its requirements.
- Mr McLeay—from certain citizens praying that funding of children's services be restored to at least 1975-76 levels, a standardised means test not be imposed on the users of child care services and the stated intention to use public funds to supplement private sector children's services not be implemented.
- Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that funds continue to be provided for the Nambour Lions Club Emergency Centre and Shelter, Qld.
- Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that no further tax be imposed on those items needed for the educational progress of Australia's students.
- Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that no plant variety rights legislation be enacted and a public inquiry be called into the impact of existing overseas schemes.
- Dr Theophanous—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.
- Dr Theophanous—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Burke 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.

Petitions received.

- 9 **BOUNTY ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** 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.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 127, dated 1 March 1982, 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 Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 **SINAI MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS—AGREEMENT ON AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION—PAPERS AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Street (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Sinai Multinational Force and Observers—Agreement on Australia's participation—Copies of—  
Aide Memoire.

Letters (2) from Mr Leamon R. Hunt, Director-General, Multinational Force and Observers, to Mr Street, dated 16 March 1982, together with annexes.

Letters (2) from Mr Street to Mr Leamon R. Hunt, dated 17 March 1982.

Mr Street, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the papers.

*Papers:* Mr Street, during his speech, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Sinai Multinational Force and Observers—Copies of—

Directive by Admiral A. M. Synnot, Chief of Defence Force Staff, to Commander Australian Contingent, dated 4 March 1982, together with annex.

Joint Resolution of the Congress of the United States of America, dated 29 December 1981.

Letter from Mr Alexander M. Haig, Jr, United States Secretary of State, to Mr Street, dated 19 February 1982.

Protocol signed by Egypt and Israel on 3 August 1981, together with annex and appendix.

Mr Street, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Sinai Multinational Force and Observers—Agreement on Australia's participation—Ministerial statement, 17 March 1982.

Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

11 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

12 **CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** 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 by Mr Hurford who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "Whilst not opposing this Bill, the House—

(1) expresses its concern that the customs duties imposed by this Bill in relation to wheelchairs will maintain the high cost of these necessary aids for the disabled, and

(2) calls upon the Government immediately to review its decision in relation to wheelchairs with a view to replacing the tariff arrangements provided in the Bill with a bounty scheme for local producers".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Wilson (Minister for Home Affairs and Environment), the Bill was read a third time.

13 **AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION—REVIEW—PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Killen (Minister for Defence)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 10 June 1981*), viz.:

The Australian Broadcasting Commission in Review—National Broadcasting in the 1980's—

Report by Committee of Review, dated 29 May 1981, together with a corrigenda slip and replacement pages.

## Consultants' reports—

A.B.C. Engineering Services, Parts 1 and 2.

A.B.C. Records.

## Audience Research Studies—

Part 1—National Population Study.

Part 2—A.B.C. Program Policy Study.

Part 3—Summary, overview and recommendations.

## Financial management.

Industrial Relations and staff management, Parts 1, 2 and 3—

Debate resumed.

Mr Jull addressing the House—  

---

14 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 10.30 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.  

---

---

**PAPERS:** The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 17 March 1982, pursuant to statute:Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—  
By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment  
No. 19.Telecommunications (Community Calls)—Amendment No. 17.  

---

---

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr N. A. Brown, Mrs Child and Mr Jarman.  

---

---

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