

1968

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 2

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 1968

1 The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable W. J. Aston) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PETITIONS: Mr Dobie presented a petition from certain electors of the Commonwealth praying that the well-being of the aged, the infirm, the widowed, the deserted wives and dependent children, and the service pensioner be improved to parity with the national general living standard of the Australian people.

Mr Robinson presented a petition from certain electors of the Division of Cowper praying that the Government take immediate action to assist banana growers, subsidise the costs of banana production, and establish a committee of inquiry into the banana growing industry.

Petitions severally received.

Mr J. R. Fraser presented a petition from certain citizens of Canberra praying that a public inquiry on the lines of a Royal Commission be appointed to investigate (a) all matters relating to the disappearance of Robyn Anne Collison from her mother's home and (b) subsequent efforts to have the child returned to her mother's custody.

Petition received and read.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 H.M.A.S. *Voyager*—STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER CABBAN AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSIONERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

H.M.A.S. *Voyager*—Statement of Lieutenant-Commander Cabban and matters incidental thereto—Report of Royal Commissioners.

Ordered to be printed.

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

Debate adjourned (Mr Barnard—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

5 CAPTAIN R. J. ROBERTSON—COMPENSATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that the Government, in conjunction with its consideration of the Report of the Royal Commissioners on the Statement of Lieutenant-Commander Cabban and matters incidental thereto, had decided that it would be most appropriate to compensate Captain R. J. Robertson by making to him a payment of a lump sum as an act of grace.

6 DEATH PENALTY IN THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Bowen (Attorney-General), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of decisions taken by the Government to repeal the death penalty in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory in respect of certain offences.

- 7 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr Chaney (Chairman) brought up the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
- Report relating to the proposed new technical testing and laboratory centre at Garden Island, New South Wales.
  - Report relating to the proposed new avionics workshop at H.M.A.S. *Albatross*, Nowra, New South Wales.
  - Report relating to the proposed rebuilding of Melville Rehabilitation Centre, Western Australia.
- Severally ordered to be printed.
- 8 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr J. R. Fraser (Deputy Chairman) brought up the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:
- Report on Australian Capital Territory Freehold Lands Inquiry—
- and, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- Ordered—That the report be printed.
- 9 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: Mr Fox brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the committee appointed at the previous sitting, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:
- 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.
- Mr Fox moved—That the Address be agreed to.
- Mr Calder seconded the motion.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Crean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 10 NEW SOUTH WALES GRANT (FLOOD MITIGATION) BILL 1968: Mr Freeth (Minister assisting the Treasurer), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend section 5 of the *New South Wales Grant (Flood Mitigation) Act 1964–1966*.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Freeth moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Luchetti), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 NAVAL DEFENCE BILL 1968: Mr Kelly (Minister for the Navy), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Naval Defence Act 1910–1966* in relation to the Employment of Persons in a Civil Capacity.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Kelly moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Crean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 NORTHERN TERRITORY (ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1968: Mr Nixon (Minister for the Interior), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Rights of an Officer of the Public Service of the Commonwealth who is appointed to the Office of Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Patterson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 13 OFFICERS' RIGHTS DECLARATION BILL 1968: Mr Nixon (Minister for the Interior), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Schedule to the *Officers' Rights Declaration Act 1928-1959* in relation to the Office of Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 14 NORTHERN TERRITORY REPRESENTATION BILL 1968: Mr Nixon (Minister for the Interior), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the Representation of the Northern Territory of Australia in the House of Representatives.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 15 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—

Debate resumed.

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

- 16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Swartz (Minister for Civil Aviation) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

*Member named:* Mr Speaker named the honourable Member for Newcastle (Mr C. K. Jones) for refusing to withdraw unparliamentary words.

Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for Newcastle be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Snedden having addressed the Chair, and Mr C. K. Jones having withdrawn the words, the matter was not further proceeded with.

Debate continued.

Question—That the House do now adjourn—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until tomorrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 13 March 1968, pursuant to statute:

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ports Ordinance 1967, together with statement of reasons for withholding assent to the Ordinance.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Hallett.

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A. G. TURNER,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives