

1968

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 10

TUESDAY, 2 APRIL 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 **PETITION:** Mr C. R. Cameron presented a petition from certain employees of the Postmaster-General's Department in South Australia praying that the Postmaster-General's Department be permitted to grant permanent status to any temporary employee who has completed twelve months' satisfactory service.
Petition received and read.
- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Gorton (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Nixon (Minister for the Interior), Mr Anthony (Minister for Primary Industry) would act as Minister for the Interior and Mr Freeth (Minister for Air) would represent the Minister for Customs and Excise in this House.
Mr Gorton also informed the House that, during the forthcoming respective absences abroad of Mr McMahon (Treasurer) and Mr Fairhall (Minister for Defence), he would act as Treasurer and Mr Bury (Minister for Labour and National Service) would act as Minister for Defence and represent the Minister for Supply in this House.
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **VIETNAM—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to a statement made yesterday by President Johnson of the United States of America with reference to the conduct of operations in Vietnam and in which the President announced a decision to halt the bombing of a major part of North Vietnam. Mr Gorton then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Vietnam—Statement by President of United States of America—Ministerial statement, 2 April 1968.
Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
Debate ensued.
Debate adjourned (Mr Freeth—Minister for Air), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 6 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL:** A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:
29 March 1968—Message No. 1—Petroleum (Submerged Lands) 1968.
- 7 **DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK:** Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hayden had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to provide equal pay for work of equal value for female employees of the Commonwealth Public Service and Commonwealth instrumentalities and for those females employed under Federal awards".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Hayden addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

- 8 DEFENCE (RE-ESTABLISHMENT) BILL 1968: Mr Bury (Minister for Labour and National Service), by leave, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence (Re-establishment) Act 1965–1967*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Bury moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr C. K. Jones), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSAL NO. 8 (1968): Mr Freeth (Minister representing the Minister for Customs and Excise) moved Customs Tariff Proposal No. 8 (1968).
Debate adjourned (Mr C. K. Jones), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 1, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 11 NEW SOUTH WALES GRANT (FLOOD MITIGATION) BILL 1968: 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: Mr Speaker announced the receipt of message No. 2, dated 14 March 1968, from His Excellency the Governor-General 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 Lynch (Minister for the Army), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 H.M.A.S. *Voyager*—STATEMENT OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER CABBAN AND MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSIONERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr Snedden (Leader of the House): That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 13 March*), viz.:
H.M.A.S. *Voyager*—Statement of Lieutenant-Commander Cabban and matters incidental thereto—Report of Royal Commissioners—
Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Snedden moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) speaking without limitation of time.
Question—put and passed.
Debate resumed.
Ordered—That Mr Gorton (Prime Minister) be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.
Mr Barnard (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the motion: “but deplores the efforts of Ministers to stifle debate on Lieutenant-Commander Cabban’s statement and to suppress documents substantially corroborating it”.
Debate continued.
Debate adjourned (Mr Benson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.
And then the House, at sixteen minutes past eleven o’clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at half-past two o’clock p.m.
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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 April 1968, pursuant to statute:

Australian War Memorial Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1968, No. 45.

Customs Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1968, No. 46.

Lands Acquisition Act—Easement acquired for Post Office purposes—Aylmerton,
New South Wales.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1968, No. 44.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birrell, Mr Bridges-Maxwell, Mr Calder, Mr J. M. Fraser, Mr Hallett, Mr Hasluck, Mr Holten, Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes, Mr Nicholls, Mr Nixon and Mr Uren.

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