

1968-69

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 80

TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 1969

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- 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 **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the Honourable Itubwa Amram, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nauru, was present in the gallery of the House. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitor a warm welcome.
 - 3 **DEATH OF GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER:** Mr Gorton (Prime Minister) referred to the death of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, a former President of the United States of America, and paid tribute to the General's greatness as a military commander, in particular, as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces in Western Europe, and to his role, as President, in the cause of peace. Mr Gorton said that the sympathy of the Parliament and the Australian nation would go out to the American people and General Eisenhower's own family.
Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) supported the remarks of the Prime Minister.
 - 4 **RESIGNATION OF MEMBER:** Mr Speaker announced that on 9 April he had received from Noel Lawrence Beaton, Esquire, a letter resigning his seat as Member for the Electoral Division of Bendigo.
 - 5 **PETITIONS:** Mr Benson presented a petition from certain residents of Victoria praying that the Commonwealth Government place an immediate and total ban on the export of all kangaroo meat and fur products and set up a body to administer conservation of kangaroos in all States of Australia.
Mr Stokes presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that this House give earnest consideration, during Human Rights Year, to the crisis in education in Australia.
Petitions severally received.
Mr Munro presented a petition from certain electors of the Division of Eden-Monaro praying that the Government cause a referendum of woolgrowers to be held to determine the issue of the recent decision to lift the 40 year ban on the export of merino rams.
Petition received and read.
 - 6 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Gorton (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Freeth (Minister for External Affairs), Mr Fairhall (Minister for Defence) would act as Minister for External Affairs.
 - 7 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 8 **HONOURABLE MEMBER FOR WARRINGAH (MR ST. JOHN)—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr St. John, by leave, made a statement with respect to his relationship with the Liberal Party and said that he proposed to describe himself as an Independent Liberal.

- 9 OVERSEAS VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement in the nature of an interim report with reference to his recent visit to the United States of America and Canada, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Overseas visit by Prime Minister—Ministerial statement, 15 April 1969.
Mr G. D. Erwin (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate adjourned (Mr Whitlam—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 DEFENCE AID TO MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Gorton (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of steps being taken by the Government to provide additional defence aid to Malaysia and Singapore, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Defence aid to Malaysia and Singapore—Ministerial statement, 15 April 1969.
Mr G. D. Erwin (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper. Debate ensued.
Debate adjourned (Mr Fox), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 NAMING OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Fox (Chairman) brought up the Report from the Select Committee on the Naming of Electoral Divisions, together with the Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee.
Ordered to be printed.
- 12 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: 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 Bills:
8 April 1969—Message No. 115—
Wine Grapes Charges 1969.
Loan (Supplementary Borrowing) 1969.
Currency 1969.
Excise Tariff 1969.
Spirits 1969.
Universities (Financial Assistance) 1969.
- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The need to reassess the Commonwealth’s responsibility for the provision of housing and land for it”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Whitlam addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without requests:
15 April 1969—Message No. 170—Customs Tariff 1969.
- 15 HEALTH INSURANCE—REPORT AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—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 G. D. Erwin (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 25 March 1969*), viz.:
Health Insurance—
Report of Commonwealth Committee of Enquiry—March 1969, and
Report of Commonwealth Committee of Enquiry—Ministerial statement, 25 March 1969—
Debate resumed.
Debate adjourned (Mr Collard), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

16 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

15 April 1969—Message No. 171—International Sugar Agreement 1969.

17 ADJOURNMENT: Mr G. D. Erwin (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 15 April 1969, pursuant to statute:

Christmas Island Act—Ordinances—

1968—No. 9—Dangerous Drugs.

1969—No. 1—Post and Telegraph.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1968—No. 1—Dangerous Drugs (Amendment).

Customs Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 43.

Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, Nos. 47, 48.

Explosives Act—Explosives Regulations—Orders—Berthing of a vessel (2).

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—

Aboriginal purposes—Hundred of Finnis, County of Palmerston, Northern Territory.

Civil aviation purposes—Borroloola, Northern Territory.

Commonwealth offices purposes—Hobart, Tasmania.

Defence purposes—

Canungra, Queensland.

Woomera, South Australia.

Post office purposes—Andamooka, South Australia.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 44.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 41.

Norfolk Island Act—Ordinance—1969—No. 1—Companies.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1969—

No. 3—Pharmacy 1968.

No. 4—Poisons.

No. 5—Child Welfare.

No. 6—Dangerous Drugs.

No. 7—Prohibited Drugs.

No. 8—Local Government.

No. 9—Housing.

No. 10—Mining.

Regulations—1969—

No. 2 (Motor Vehicles Ordinance).

No. 3 (Hospitals and Medical Services Ordinance).

Papua and New Guinea Act—Ordinances—1969—

No. 9—Papua and New Guinea Electricity Commission (Investments, Retirement Benefits and Fees) 1968.

No. 10—Land Titles Commission (Declaratory) 1968.

No. 11—Housing Commission (Interests in Tenders) 1968.

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 49.

Public Accounts Committee Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 45.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 42.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations—
1969—

- No. 28—Postal Telecommunication Technicians' Association (Australia).
- No. 29—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association and others.
- No. 30—Australian Journalists' Association.
- No. 31—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 32—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 33—Federated Clerks' Union of Australia.
- No. 34—Non-Official Postmasters' Association of Australia.
- No. 35—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 36—Amalgamated Engineering Union and others.
- Nos. 37 and 38—Hospital Employees' Federation of Australia.
- No. 39—North Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 40—Federated Storemen and Packers' Union of Australia and others.
- No. 41—Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association of Australia.
- No. 42—North Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 44—Postal Telecommunication Technicians' Association (Australia).
- No. 45—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 46—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 47—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 48—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.
- No. 49—Commonwealth Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 50—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 52—Professional Musicians' Union of Australia.
- Nos. 53 and 54—Australian Journalists' Association.

Public Works Committee Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1969, No. 46.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinance—1969—No. 2—Legal Practitioners.

Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 29
March 1969.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except
Mr Armstrong, Mr Bosman, Mr Bridges-Maxwell, Mr Devine, Mr Dobie, Mr Freeth,
Mr Fulton, Mr Gibson, Mr Haworth, Mr Killen, Mr Street and Mr Turner.

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