

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 31

TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 1970

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

2 PETITIONS: Mr Berinson presented a petition from certain citizens of Western Australia praying that the House consider the hardship caused to home buyers in that State by the increased interest rates on mortgage contracts which result from the recent increase in the interest rate on Government Bonds.

Petition received and read.

Similar petitions were presented by Mr Garland and Mr Webb, and were severally received.

Mr Luchetti presented a petition from certain citizens of New South Wales praying that this House take immediate steps to increase the base pension rate to 30 per cent of average weekly male earnings.

Petition received and read.

A similar petition to that presented by Mr Luchetti, was presented by Mr L. R. Johnson, and was received.

Mr Griffiths presented a petition from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that this House make legal provision for (1) a joint Commonwealth-State inquiry into inequalities in Australian education, (2) the immediate financing of special programmes for low income earners and others and (3) the provision of pre-school opportunities for all children.

Petition received and read.

Mr Snedden (Minister for Labour and National Service) presented a petition from certain residents of Victoria praying that the export of all kangaroo products be banned immediately.

Petition received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 AMENDMENTS PROPOSING ALTERNATIVE PROPOSITIONS—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:

Mr Speaker made a statement relating to proceedings in the House on 15 May 1970, when he had ruled that an amendment moved by the honourable Member for Casey (Mr Howson) was in order, and made reference to the precedents and practice in this House and the United Kingdom House of Commons which allow amendments proposing alternative propositions on which the ruling of the Chair had been based.

5 PAPERS: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

New Guinea—Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on administration of New Guinea for year 1968–69.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Life Insurance Act—Insurance Commissioner—Twenty-fourth Annual Report, for 1969.

- 6 ACADEMIC SALARIES—REPORT OF INQUIRY AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPERS NOTED: Mr N. H. Bowen (Minister for Education and Science), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Academic Salaries—Report of Inquiry (by Mr Justice R. M. Eggleston), dated 7 May 1970.
 Mr Bowen, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Academic Salaries—Report of Inquiry—Ministerial statement, 2 June 1970.
 Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 7 DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND—DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Bury (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement with reference to the proposed distribution by the Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Board of surplus assets to eligible pensioners and contributors.
- 8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill and acquainting the House that the Senate had agreed to the Bill as amended by the House at the request of the Senate:
 22 May 1970—Message No. 17—Homes Savings Grant 1970.
- 9 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:
 27 May 1970—Message No. 26—
 Appropriation (No. 3) 1969–70.
 Appropriation (No. 4) 1969–70.
 Supply (No. 1) 1970–71.
 Supply (No. 2) 1970–71.
- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—STANDING COMMITTEES SYSTEM: 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 for the Parliament to develop a system of standing committees which, on reference by either House, could consider any Bill or other matter which has come before that House or any matter which is within Commonwealth responsibility”.
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Whitlam addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Ordered—That Mr Gorton (Prime Minister) be granted an extension of time.
 Discussion concluded.
- 11 QUEENSLAND GRANT (BUNDABERG IRRIGATION WORKS) BILL 1970: 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 Patterson who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:
 “the technical evaluation and any cost benefit analyses carried out by the Commonwealth for the project near Bundaberg be made available to this House”.
 Debate continued.

It being eleven o'clock p.m.—

- 12 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Speaker, in accordance with the order of the House of 16 April, proposed the question—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Snedden (Leader of the House) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at one minute past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 June 1970, pursuant to statute:

Canned Fruits Export Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1970, No. 65.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1970, Nos. 68, 69.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land, etc., acquired for—

Department of the Interior purposes—

Hundred of Cavenagh, Northern Territory.

Hundred of Cavenagh and Hundred of Goyder, Northern Territory.

Post office purposes—

Diamond Bore, South Australia.

Nullarbor, South Australia.

Pitt Town, New South Wales.

Yangoonabie, South Australia.

War Service Homes purposes—Grose Valley, New South Wales.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1970, No. 70.

Navigation Act—

Navigation (Dangerous Goods) Regulations—Determination dated 21 May 1970.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1970, No. 66.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—

Crown Lands Ordinance—Statement of reasons by Minister for revocation of reserve in the Northern Territory at Alice Springs.

Ordinances—1970—

No. 14—Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents).

No. 15—Lottery and Gaming.

No. 16—Encouragement of Primary Production.

No. 17—Housing.

No. 18—Long Service Leave.

No. 19—Bush Fires Control.

Regulations—1970—No. 11 (Supply of Services Ordinance).

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1970, Nos. 64, 67.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 28 May 1970.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Calwell, Mr Collard, Mr G. D. Erwin, Mr Fulton, Mr Hamer, Mr Howson and Mr Lynch.

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