

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 111

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 1971

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- 1 The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable Sir William Aston) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 PETITIONS: Mr Peacock (Minister for the Army) presented a petition from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that the sales tax and customs duties on all forms of contraceptive devices be removed, and that all contraceptive devices be placed on the National Health Scheme Pharmaceutical Benefits list.
- Mr Armitage and Mr Hayden presented petitions from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government increase immediately pensions by \$5.00 per week, child endowment to \$3.60 per week per child and the maternity allowance to at least \$117.00 for each child born.
- Mr Enderby presented a petition from certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory praying that a Committee of Inquiry, on which are represented the Department of Education and Science, institutions of tertiary education, practising educators, and the Canberra community, be instituted to inquire into the form that an Australian Capital Territory Education Authority should take, the educational principles and philosophy that should underly it, and its mode of operation and administration.
- Petitions severally received and read.
- Similar petitions to that presented by Mr Enderby were presented by Mr Kennedy and Mr Klugman, and were severally received.
- Mr Enderby presented a petition from certain citizens of the Australian Capital Territory praying that the words: "or for preventing conception" be deleted from sub-section (1.) of section 46 of the A.C.T. Pharmacy Ordinance.
- Mr Hurford presented a petition from certain electors of South Australia praying that this House will repeal the National Service Act, and cause Charles Martin, and all others imprisoned under it, to be released.
- Petitions severally received and read.
- Similar petitions to that presented by Mr Hurford were presented by Mr Gun and Mr Jacobi, and were severally received.
- Mr Wallis presented a petition from certain electors of the Division of Grey praying that (a) if the oil companies increase the price of petrol the House press for a reduction by an equivalent amount through Government taxation measures and (b) the House take steps to have rescinded the 5 cents rise in the price of petrol emanating from the last two Budgets.
- Mr L. R. Johnson presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that this House take immediate steps to ensure that emergency finance from the Commonwealth will be given to the States for their public education services which provide schooling for 78 per cent of Australia's children.

Mr Turner and Mr Grassby presented petitions from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that this House make legal provision for (1) the allowance of personal education expenses as a taxation deduction, (2) the removal of the present age limit in respect of the deduction for education expenses, (3) an increase in the deduction allowable for tertiary education expenses, (4) an increase in the maintenance allowance for students and (5) the exemption of non-bonded scholarships for part-time students from income tax.

Mr Turner presented a petition from certain electors of Australia praying that the Government revise its interpretation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925 relating to chemical agents of warfare, and declare that it regards all chemical substances employed for their toxic effects on man, animals or plants, as being included in the prohibitions laid down by that Protocol.

Mr L. H. Irwin presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that this House should cause the Australian Government to recognise the right of Australian professional people engaged in the creative and performing arts to further develop their skills and talents in Australia, and to be protected from overseas programmes in a way that will encourage an Australian television and radio industry.

Petitions severally received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

Walkabout Hotel (Gove) Pty Ltd—Application for a publican's licence—Transcript of proceedings in the Licensing Court, North Australia District.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—Forty-eighth Annual Report, for year 1970–71.

5 GRAFTON TO SOUTH BRISBANE RAILWAY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Nixon (Minister for Shipping and Transport), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House that the Government had agreed to waive its rights and thus enable the original agreement between the Commonwealth and the States of New South Wales and Queensland for the construction of the Grafton to South Brisbane Railway to be wholly discharged.

Mr Jones, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the matter.

6 HOUSE COMMITTEE: Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved, by leave—That Mr Garland (Minister for Supply) be discharged from attendance on the House Committee, and that, in his place, Mr Jarman be appointed a member of the committee.

Question—put and passed.

7 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—CENTRAL SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR DARWIN: Mr Hunt (Minister for the Interior) moved, pursuant to notice—That the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Central sewerage scheme for Darwin.

Mr Hunt presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

8 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1971–72—BUDGET DEBATE: 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof: “the House condemns the Budget because (a) it breaks the Prime Minister's pledge to Parliament on taking office to bring into effect for 1971–72 a fundamental review of social services and of methods for adjusting them, (b) it contains no proposals to balance the finances and functions of the Commonwealth, the States and local government and (c) it produces no programmes for high national objectives of social welfare, economic strength and national security”—

Debate resumed.

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

9 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Lynch (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-seven minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Barnes, Mr J. F. Cairns, Mr Chipp, Mr Jenkins, Mr King and Mr McLeay.

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