

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 165

TUESDAY, 18 APRIL 1972

- 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 Forbes (Minister for Immigration), Mr K. M. K. Cairns (Minister for Housing), Sir Winton Turnbull, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr Hansen and Mr Duthie each presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House will take immediate steps to call a halt to the closing of post offices and the reorganisation of the Post Office and initiate a joint parliamentary inquiry into the Postmaster-General's Department.
Mr Klugman and Mr Luchetti each presented a petition from certain residents of the western suburbs in the Sydney metropolitan area and surrounding districts praying that this House take appropriate steps to ensure that the Government does not proceed with the proposal to site the second twenty-four hour international airport for Sydney at Richmond or anywhere else in the far western suburbs of the metropolitan area.
Petitions severally received.
A similar petition to that presented by Mr Klugman was presented by Mr Armitage, and was received and read.
Mr McIvor and Mr Garrick each presented a petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government will immediately enact legislation providing for a base pension rate of 30 per cent of average weekly male earnings and other health and social service changes and initiate a public inquiry into Australia's social welfare structure.
Petitions severally received.
Mr L. K. Johnson also presented a petition from certain employees of Ansett Airlines of Australia praying that the Government institute such measures as may be deemed necessary to prevent any takeover of Ansett Transport Industries until such time as it is satisfied that the national interest is best served by such a takeover.
Petition received and read.
- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr McMahon (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Snedden (Treasurer), he was acting as Treasurer.
- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 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:
17 April 1972—Message No. 209—
Honey Industry 1972.
Income Tax (Reduction of Additional Taxation) 1972.
Commonwealth Teaching Service 1972.
- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—VIETNAM—INVASION OF THE SOUTH: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Street and Mr Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Street, namely, "The

need for the Government as a matter of urgency to make a statement on the plight of the people of South Vietnam in their courageous defence against the blatant invasion by North Vietnam and its serious implications for the security of Australia". The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Street addressed the House.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Whitlam speaking for a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—REPORT DATED 20 MARCH 1972—PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF STANDING ORDERS AND CHANGES IN PRACTICE: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Swartz (Leader of the House)—

(a) That recommendations Nos. 1 to 10 contained in the report of the Standing Orders Committee dated 20 March 1972 be agreed to.

(b) That other decisions of the Committee Nos. 1 to 5 be endorsed.

(c) That the amendments of the standing orders and changes of practice adopted by this resolution be effective from and including the next sitting—

Question proposed—That recommendation No. 7 in paragraph (a) be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Question proposed—That recommendation No. 8 in paragraph (a) be agreed to.

Mr Scholes moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the question: "subject to proposed standing order No. 132 being amended by adding the words 'The Minister shall, within twenty-one sitting days of the presentation of a petition or the presentation of the first petition of a series of petitions, notify the House what action has been taken with respect to the petition.' "

Debate continued.

Mr Scholes, by leave, again addressed the House.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The House divided (the Speaker, Sir William Aston, in the Chair)—

AYES, 46

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Jacobi	Mr Reynolds
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jenkins	Mr Scholes
Mr Beazley	Mr Daly	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Sherry
Mr Bennett	Mr Everingham	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Stewart
Mr Berinson	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr Uren
Mr L. F. Bowen	Mr Fulton	Mr Kennedy	Mr Wallis
Mr Bryant	Mr Garrick	Mr Keogh	Mr Webb
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Grassby	Mr Klugman	Mr Whitlam
Mr Cass	Mr Gun	Mr Luchetti	
Mr Collard	Mr Hansen	Mr Martin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Hallett	Mr Morrison	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr Hurford	Mr Nicholls	Mr James

NOES, 51

Sir C. Adermann	Mr Forbes	Mr Kelly	Mr Reid
Mr Bate	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr Killen	Mr Robinson
Mr Bonnett	Mr Garland	Mr King	Mr Sinclair
Mr N. H. Bowen	Mr Gorton	Mr Lloyd	Mr Solomon
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr Lucock	Mr Staley
Mr Calder	Mr Hallett	Mr Lynch	Mr Street
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hamer	Mr Mackay	Mr Swartz
Mr Chipp	Mr Holten	Mr MacKellar	Mr Turner
Mr Corbett	Mr Howson	Mr Maisey	Mr Wentworth
Sir J. Cramer	Mr Hughes	Mr McLeay	Mr Whittorn
Mr Drury	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Nixon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr England	Mr Jarman	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Fox
Mr Fairbairn	Mr Katter	Mr Peacock	Sir W. Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

Mr Grassby moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the question: “subject to the omission of proposed standing order No. 132 and the addition of the following new standing order:

‘28A. A Petitions Committee to consist of seven Members, shall be appointed at the commencement of each Parliament to which all petitions shall be referred for examination and reference to the appropriate instrumentality of the Government. The Committee shall be empowered to report to the House from time to time indicating what decisions have been taken by it in regard to the petitions received, if any reports have been received from or action taken by departments, and whether the Committee recommends to the House any action in relation to the petitions.’ ”

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 44

Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Jacobi	Mr Scholes
Mr Barnard	Mr Cross	Mr Jenkins	Mr Sherry
Mr Beazley	Mr Daly	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Stewart
Mr Bennett	Mr Everingham	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Uren
Mr Berinson	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr L. F. Bowen	Mr Fulton	Mr Keogh	Mr Webb
Mr Bryant	Mr Garrick	Mr Klugman	
Mr J. F. Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr Luchetti	
Mr Cass	Mr Grassby	Mr Martin	
Mr Collard	Mr Gun	Mr Morrison	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connor	Mr Hansen	Mr Nicholls	Mr Duthie
Mr Cope	Mr Hurford	Mr Reynolds	Mr James

NOES, 49

Sir C. Adermann	Mr Forbes	Mr Killen	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bonnett	Mr J. M. Fraser	Mr King	Mr Solomon
Mr N. H. Bowen	Mr Garland	Mr Lloyd	Mr Staley
Mr K. M. K. Cairns	Mr Hallett	Mr Lynch	Mr Street
Mr Calder	Mr Holten	Mr Mackay	Mr Swartz
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Howson	Mr MacKellar	Mr Turner
Mr Chipp	Mr Hughes	Mr Maisey	Mr Wentworth
Mr Corbett	Mr Hunt	Mr McLeay	Mr Whittorn
Sir J. Cramer	Mr L. H. Irwin	Mr Nixon	
Mr Dobie	Mr Jarman	Mr O’Keefe	
Mr Drury	Mr Jess	Mr Peacock	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr England	Mr Katter	Mr Reid	Mr Fox
Mr Fairbairn	Mr Kelly	Mr Robinson	Sir W. Turnbull

And so it was negatived.

Mr Bryant, by leave, moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the question: “subject to proposed standing order No. 129 being amended by inserting after the first sentence the words ‘He shall read the text of each petition to the House when first presented, but a petition which is the same in substance as one previously read shall not be read.’ ”

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That recommendation No. 8 in paragraph (a) be agreed to—put and passed—

Mr D. M. Cameron dissenting.

Question proposed—That recommendation No. 9 in paragraph (a) be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Question proposed—That recommendation No. 10 in paragraph (a) be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Question proposed—That paragraph (b) be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Mr Keogh moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added at the end of the paragraph: “, subject to decision No. 2 being referred back to the Committee for further consideration.”

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question, as amended, viz.—That paragraph (b) be agreed to, subject to decision No. 2 being referred back to the Committee for further consideration—agreed to.

Suspension of standing orders: Mr Bryant moved, by leave—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the moving of an amendment to the motion of the Leader of the House to include an amendment of the standing orders relating to the adjournment of the House each sitting day.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Bryant moved, as an amendment—That after paragraph (b) the following paragraph be inserted:

“(ba) That the standing orders be amended by inserting after standing order 49 the following new standing order:

‘49A. That, at 10 p.m. each sitting day, the Speaker shall put the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate; if the House be in committee at that hour, the Chairman shall in like manner put the question—That he do leave the Chair and report to the House; and upon such report being made the Speaker shall forthwith put the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate: Provided that if the House or the committee be in division at the time named, the Speaker or the Chairman shall not put the question referred to until the result of such division has been declared; and if the business under discussion shall not have been disposed of at such adjournment it shall appear on the Notice Paper for the next sitting day.’ ”.

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

8 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Swartz (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven minutes past eleven 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 18 April 1972, pursuant to statute:

Australian Commission on Advanced Education Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 43.

Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 46.

Education Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 39.

Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 42.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1972—No. 8—Northern Territory Lotteries.

Papua New Guinea Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 45.

Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 38.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 41.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1972—

No. 12—National Memorials.

No. 13—Betting (Totalizator Agency).

Wool Industry Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1972, No. 40.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Birrell, Mr Brown, Mr Bury*, Mr G. D. Erwin, Mr Foster, Mr Giles, Sir Alan Hulme and Mr Snedden.

*On leave

N. J. PARKES,
Clerk of the House of Representatives