

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 6

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH 1974

- 1 The House met, at fifteen minutes past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable J. F. Cope) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following honourable Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Sir John Cramer, Mr Fulton, Mr Morris, Mr Ruddock and Mr Turner—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House see that television is used to build into the nation integrity, teamwork and a sense of purpose by serving, and to bring faith in God to the heart of the family and national life.
 - Mr Drury, Dr Gun, Mr Kelly, Mr McLeay and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the existing national health scheme.
 - Dr Gun—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the same subsidies as are granted to Senior Citizens Clubs be granted to the Aged and Invalid Pensioners' Association of S.A. Incorporated and to pensioner associations throughout Australia.
 - Mr Jacobi—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government set aside sufficient funds for research into the production of industrial solar energy.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain electors of Victoria praying that War Service Homes rights be granted immediately to all wartime ex-servicewomen.
 - Mr McKenzie—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government persevere to provide a universal health insurance scheme.
 - Mr McLeay—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government legislate to protect the whale from commercial exploitation.
 - Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House take steps to ensure that the Government does not site a second international airport for Sydney in the Galston area or surrounding suburbs.
 - Mr Wallis—from certain electors of the Division of Grey praying that the Government provide financial assistance to South Australia to complete the deepening of the harbour and channel at Port Pirie.
 - Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House will not proceed with the Human Rights Bill.

Petitions received.
- 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 **PAPER:** The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 - Frequency Modulation Broadcasting—Report of the Independent Inquiry, dated 8 March 1974.
- 5 **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—GENERAL REPORT:** Mr Fulton (Chairman) brought up the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
 - Public Works Committee Act—Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works—Thirty-sixth General Report.

Ordered to be printed.

- 6 ROAD SAFETY—SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House of the following nominations of Members to be members of the Select Committee on Road Safety: Mr Cohen, Mr Innes, Dr Klugman and Mr McKenzie had been nominated by the Prime Minister, Mr Fox and Mr Hamer had been nominated by the Leader of the Opposition and Mr Katter had been nominated by the Leader of the Australian Country Party.

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Lynch (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The imposition by the Government of the highest and most onerous interest rates since Federation".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Lynch addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 8 INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AGREEMENTS BILL 1974: 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: Message No. 2, dated 28 February 1974 from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced 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 Morrison (Minister for Science), the Bill was read a third time.

- 9 LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING INSTITUTE BILL 1973—SENATE'S REQUEST FOR RESUMPTION OF CONSIDERATION: The order of the day having been read for the consideration of the message from the Senate requesting the resumption by the House of the consideration of the Bill, which was transmitted to the House for concurrence during the last session of the Parliament, and the proceedings on which were interrupted by the Prorogation of the Parliament—

Mr Enderby (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the request of the Senate, contained in its message No. 1 for the resumption by the House of the consideration of the Bill intituled "A Bill for an Act to Establish a Legislative Drafting Institute", be complied with, and that a message be transmitted to the Senate acquainting it thereof, and that the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bill be now read a second time (the stage which the Bill had reached last session)—be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of Her Majesty The Queen be agreed to:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank you for the Gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

The presence in Australia of Your Majesty and of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip has once again brought the greatest pleasure to Your Australian people. We, their representatives in this House, are grateful for this opportunity to re-affirm our allegiance to you as our Queen—*And on the amendment moved by Mr Snedden (Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address: " , but the House of Representatives is of the opinion and regrets that Your Majesty was not informed by the Government of the true position in Australia in that it has:

- (1) created an intolerable high level of inflation and has taken no effective steps to stop it;

- (2) caused uncertainty and in its management of the economy is creating social inequities;
- (3) attempted to change the Federal system of the Australian Constitution by diminishing the responsibility of the States;
- (4) injured rural industries and the communities they support;
- (5) pursued defence and foreign policies which have seriously weakened our defence capacity, and
- (6) failed to fulfil the expectations of the Australian people because of its administrative incompetence”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Calder addressing the House—

11 ADJOURNMENT: It being half-past ten o'clock p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until eleven o'clock p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Bonnett, Mr Gorton and Mr Whittorn.

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