

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 31

WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 1974

1 The House met, at twelve o'clock noon, pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Honourable J. F. Cope) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Dr J. F. Cairns (Minister for Overseas Trade), Mr Enderby (Minister for Manufacturing Industry), Mr Coates, Mr Lamb and Mr Mulder—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House take urgent steps to ensure that further mining and export from Australia of uranium, except for bio-medical purposes, be banned and that the Australian Atomic Energy Commission be transformed into an Australian Energy Commission.

Mr Connolly, Mr Howard, Mr Kerin and Mr Lucock—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government forthwith return to the States all moneys raised by way of taxes and excise on petroleum products.

Mr Kelly and Mr King—from certain citizens of Australia praying that (1) the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and (2) the Government take urgent steps to cause the traditional and familiar units to be restored in those areas where the greatest inconveniences and distress are occurring.

Mrs Child—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government immediately increase, as an interim measure, current grants made to children in non-government schools to at least 50 per cent of the cost of educating children in government schools.

Mr Howard—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with existing television program standards or to permit easier entry into Australia, or production in Australia, of pornographic material.

Dr Klugman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government hasten to introduce a universal health scheme so that health care services in Australia can function efficiently and economically.

Mr McLeay—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the existing national health scheme.

Mr Mathews—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House take immediate steps to restore education benefits to parents, at least to the 1973-74 level, either by increasing taxation deductions or through taxation rebates.

Mr O'Keefe—from certain electors of the Division of Paterson praying that the House urge the Government to reduce greatly the proposed Capital Gains Tax.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

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

Australian Fire Board—Report for year 1973-74.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 31 March 1974.

- 5 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL: 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 Bill:
29 October 1974—Message No. 59—Conciliation and Arbitration (Organizations) 1974.
- 6 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORTS: Mr L. K. Johnson (Chairman) brought up the following reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
Report relating to the proposed construction of an Australian Radiation Laboratory, Yallambie, Vic. (Fifth report of 1974).
Report relating to the proposed construction of an animal health laboratory, Geelong, Vic. (Sixth report of 1974).
Severally ordered to be printed.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FOREIGN POLICIES: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Peacock had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The inconsistent and unrealistic foreign policies of the Government".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Peacock rising to address the House—
Mr Bowen (Acting Leader of the House) moved—That the business of the day be called on.
Question—put and passed.
- 8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS MOVED: Mr Peacock moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the honourable Member for Kooyong discussing the matter of public importance concerning the inconsistent and unrealistic foreign policies of the Government listed in his name on the Daily Program of the House.
Debate ensued.
The time allowed by standing order 91 for debate on the motion having expired—
Question—put and negatived.
- 9 EXPORT FINANCE AND INSURANCE CORPORATION BILL 1974: Dr J. F. Cairns (Minister for Overseas Trade), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to establish an Export Finance and Insurance Corporation.
Bill read a first time.
Dr Cairns moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Katter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 STATES GRANTS (HOUSING ASSISTANCE) BILL 1974: Mr L. R. Johnson (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to Authorize Advances to the States of Financial Assistance in connexion with Housing and to Authorize the Borrowing of Certain Moneys by the Treasurer.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Johnson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Katter), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 HOUSING AGREEMENT BILL 1974: Mr L. R. Johnson (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Financial Assistance to the States for the purpose of Housing.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Johnson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Dr Edwards), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1974-75: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Ordered—That the order for the consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to by the committee on 15 October be varied by postponing the consideration of the proposed expenditures for the Department of the Environment and Conservation and the Department of Tourism and Recreation.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Foreign Affairs, \$354,265,000—debated.

Distinguished visitors: The Deputy Chairman informed the committee that a delegation of Members from the Pakistani Parliament, led by Sahibzada Farooq Ali, Speaker of the National Assembly, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the committee, the Deputy Chairman extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

Debate continued.

Several Members rising to address the committee—

Closure: Mr James moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the proposed expenditure be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Health, \$99,872,000—

Department of Repatriation and Compensation, \$650,953,000—

Department of Social Security, \$141,637,000—

together debated.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the committee—

Closure: Mr Nicholls moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the proposed expenditures be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Labor and Immigration, \$107,466,000—debated.

Mr K. M. Cairns rising to address the committee—

Closure: Mr Nicholls moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the proposed expenditure be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Environment and Conservation, \$3,653,000—

Department of Tourism and Recreation, \$8,356,000—

together debated.

Mr Giles addressing the committee—

It being half-past ten o'clock p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Drury reported accordingly.

Adjournment negatived: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Dr Cass (Minister for the Environment and Conservation) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Debate continued.

Dr Cass addressing the committee—

Closure: Mr Nicholls moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the proposed expenditures be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Science, \$126,352,000—

Department of the Media, \$115,419,000—

together debated and agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Martin reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SEAMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL 1974: Message No. 79, dated 30 October 1974, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to increase certain Amounts of Compensation payable to and in respect of Seamen*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—COMPENSATION (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) BILL 1974: Message No. 80, dated 30 October 1974, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Compensation (Australian Government Employees) Act 1971-1973', and for other purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 15 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY BILL 1974: Message No. 81, dated 30 October 1974, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to the Provision by Australia of Aid for Developing Countries*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Morrison (Minister for Science) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-three minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until tomorrow at ten o'clock a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 30 October 1974, pursuant to statute:

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1974—

No. 50—Nursing.

No. 51—Coroners.

No. 52—Long Service Leave.

No. 53—Workmen's Compensation.

No. 54—Justices.

No. 55—Lottery and Gaming.

No. 56—Housing (No. 4).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Beazley, Mr Daly, Mr FitzPatrick and Mr Snedden.

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