

AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 32

THURSDAY, 31 OCTOBER 1974

1 The House met, at ten o'clock a.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 Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Clayton, Mr Coates and Mr Dawkins—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 Bouchier and Mr Oldmeadow—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 Scholes and Mr Staley—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 McLeay and Mr Staley—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the existing national health scheme.

Dr Cass (Minister for the Environment and Conservation)—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House ensure that the Government takes certain action to restore and preserve the unique area of Hallett's Cove, South Australia.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House urge the Government to implement, at the earliest opportunity, the new superannuation scheme proposed by the Treasurer.

Mr Connolly—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.

Dr Edwards—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore to \$400 the amount deductible against income tax for education expenses.

Mr Hodges—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House not admit into the law of this land the principle that marriage is only temporary and the family no longer the fundamental unit of society.

Mr Oldmeadow—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House urge the Government not to proceed with the conversion of weights and measures to the metric system.

Mr Street—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government hasten to amend such laws as would compel Commonwealth Hostels Limited to come within the jurisdiction of the Australian Capital Territory Prices Controller to prohibit unjustified rises in tariff.

Petitions received.

3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

4 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Education Council—Report on meeting held at Adelaide, 4 October 1974.

Investigation into incident at School of Artillery, North Head, Sydney on 30 August 1974—Statement by Mr Barnard (Minister for Defence).

Northern Territory Uranium—Statement by Mr Connor (Minister for Minerals and Energy), dated 31 October 1974, together with terms of agreement on construction and financing of a uranium milling plant in the Northern Territory.

Mr Bowen (Acting Leader of the House) asked leave for Mr Connor to make a ministerial statement relating to Northern Territory uranium.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

The following paper was presented, pursuant to statute:

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination, dated 21 October 1974, in relation to the remuneration to be paid to holders of public offices on the Interim Committee for the Children's Commission.

5 **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT:** Mr Bowen (Acting Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 12 November, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., or such time thereafter as Mr Speaker may take the Chair, unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram addressed to each Member of the House, fix an earlier day of meeting.

Question—put and passed.

6 **RURAL PROGRAM:** Mr Hunt moved, pursuant to notice—That this House requests the Government to urgently present a program to stimulate rural production and to restore confidence in the rural sector of the economy in Australia as a proper basis for any positive plan the Government may sponsor or support at the forthcoming World Food Conference organised by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation in Rome during November.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negatived.

7 **SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES—SELECT COMMITTEE:** Mr Snedden (Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That a select committee be appointed:

- (a) to inquire into the incidence of all forms of specific learning difficulties among Australian children and adults;
- (b) to examine measures that are being taken at the present time to overcome such difficulties;
- (c) to report on the success that present measures are having in alleviating specific learning difficulties;
- (d) to examine the awareness of specific learning difficulties among the community generally and among the medical, health, teaching and social welfare professions in particular;
- (e) to examine the extent to which problems associated with the incidence of specific learning difficulties are being researched in Australia at the present time;
- (f) to examine the social, emotional and other handicaps that individuals with specific learning difficulties suffer;
- (g) to recommend measures that can be taken to heighten community awareness of specific learning difficulties, and
- (h) to recommend action that can be taken by the Federal Government or by the Federal Government in co-operation with State and local governments as well as voluntary organisations to alleviate the difficulties and, in particular, to examine the need for wide-spread screenings of young children to detect the existence of specific learning symptoms so that adequate remedial programs can be recommended from an early age.

- (2) That the committee recognise the responsibility of the States in these matters and seek their co-operation in all relevant aspects.
- (3) That the committee consist of six Members, three to be nominated by the Prime Minister, two to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition and one to be nominated by the Leader of the Australian Country Party.
- (4) That the members of the committee hold office as a committee until the House of Representatives expires by dissolution or effluxion of time.
- (5) That the committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members, and refer to any such sub-committee any matters which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (6) That four members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, and a majority of the members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee.
- (7) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to move from place to place, and to sit during any recess.
- (8) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to authorise publication of any evidence given before it and any document presented to it.
- (9) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources and have power, with the approval of the Speaker, to appoint persons with specialist knowledge for the purposes of the committee.
- (10) That the committee report as soon as possible and that any member of the committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report.
- (11) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Ordered—That Mr Snedden be granted an extension of time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 PENSIONERS—SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE: Mr Wentworth moved, pursuant to notice—
That, in the opinion of this House, restrictions upon the granting of supplementary assistance to pensioners are too severe.

The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Wentworth was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 9 PAPER: Mr Fraser, during a personal explanation, by leave, presented the following paper:
International Labour Organisation—Convention No. 109 and Recommendation No. 109, concerning wages, hours of work on board ship and manning.

- 10 AGED OR DISABLED PERSONS HOMES BILL 1974: Mr Hayden (Minister for Social Security), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Aged Persons Homes Act 1954–1973*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hayden moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

Department of Science—Report for year 1973–74.

- 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—

Proposed expenditure—Postmaster-General's Department, \$18,895,000—debated.

Closure: Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Postmaster-General) 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 expenditure—Department of Defence, \$1,337,165,000—debated.

Mr Staley 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 expenditure—Department of Urban and Regional Development, \$14,292,000—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 expenditure be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Scholes reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Bowen, the House adopted the report.

Mr Bowen moved, by leave—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—

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 Bill be now read a third time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a third time.

- 13 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 1974–75: 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—

Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—

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 Bill be now read a second time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

Mr Bowen (Special Minister of State) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Mr Wentworth rising to address the House—

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 Bill be now read a third time—was put accordingly, and passed—Bill read a third time.

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

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Commercial motor vehicles, parts and accessories, dated 17 September 1974.

- 15 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—THIRD REPORT: Mr McKenzie (Chairman) brought up the Third Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

THIRD REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and other Papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

- Air Accident Investigation—Report by the Safety Investigation Branch of the Department of Transport on the collision between Skyway Pty Ltd De Havilland DH104 Series 5 Aircraft VH-WST and Navair Pty Ltd Piper PA30-160B Aircraft VH-WWB, at Bankstown, New South Wales, on 13 March 1974, dated July 1974.
- Atomic Energy Act—Twenty-second Annual Report of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Film Development Corporation Act—Fourth Annual Report of the Australian Film Development Corporation, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Fire Board—Report for year 1973-74.
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act—Tenth Annual Report of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Institute of Marine Science Act—Annual Report of the Australian Institute of Marine Science, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Shippers' Council—Second Annual Report, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Shipping Commission Act—Eighteenth Annual Report of the Australian Coastal Shipping Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Tourist Commission Act—Australian Tourist Commission—Seventh Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973-74.
- Australian Wool Commission Act and Wool Industry Act—Reports of the Australian Wool Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Reports thereon, for year 1971-72 and for period 1 July to 31 December 1972.
- Automotive Industry in Australia—Reports (2) by Martec Pty Ltd on specialised aspects of the Australian motor vehicle industry, dated 21 October 1974, together with comments by the Industries Assistance Commission on those Reports, dated 24 October 1974.
- Bankruptcy Act—Seventh Annual Report on the operation of the Act, for year 1973-74.
- Boxing and other Combat Sports—Report on the Inter-departmental Committee of Inquiry into Boxing and other Combat Sports.
- Broadcasting and Television Act—Forty-second Annual Report of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.
- Canberra College of Advanced Education Act—Annual Report of the Council of the Canberra College of Advanced Education, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for 1973.
- Cities Commission Act—Second Annual Report of the Cities Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.

- Commonwealth Police Act—Annual Report of the Commonwealth Police Force, for year 1973–74.
- Compensation and Rehabilitation in Australia—Report of the National Committee of Inquiry, Volume 3—The Compendium, dated September 1974.
- Dairying Research Act—
 First Annual Report, for year 1972–73.
 Second Annual Report, for year 1973–74.
- Defence Report—1974.
- Department of the Media—Annual Report for year 1973–74.
- Department of Urban and Regional Development—Second Annual Report, for year 1973–74.
- Grants Commission Act—Forty-first Annual Report of the Grants Commission (1974) on applications by the States of Queensland and South Australia for special assistance from the Parliament under section 96 of the Constitution.
- Housing Loans Insurance Act—Tenth Annual Report of the Housing Loans Insurance Corporation, together with financial statement and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973–74.
- Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—
 Diesel engines exceeding 1500kW, dated 5 August 1974.
 Footwear, dated 10 October 1974.
 Foundation garments, dated 28 June 1974.
 Glass and glassware, dated 23 May 1974, together with copies of correspondence between the Chairman of the Industries Assistance Commission and the Standing Inter-departmental Committee on Assistance to Industries.
 Polyamide and polyester yarns, dated 18 June 1974.
 Tyre cord and tyre cord fabrics, dated 23 June 1974.
- Industries Assistance Commission Act—Industries Assistance Commission—Report for year 1973–74, together with statement by the Minister on action taken on reports under Part IV of the Act.
- Metric Conversion Act—Fourth Annual Report of the Metric Conversion Board, for year 1973–74.
- National Capital Development Commission Act—Seventeenth Annual Report of the National Capital Development Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973–74.
- Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 31 March 1974.
- Petroleum Royal Commission—First Report of the Royal Commission on Petroleum entitled "Shortages of Petroleum Products", dated 15 October 1974.
- Presiding Officers and Clerks at the Table—Report of the Sixth Conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Parliaments of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa, Darwin, 18–20 June 1974.
- Repatriation Act—Report of the Repatriation Commission, for year 1973–74.
- Science and Technology in Australia—Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development—Examiners' Report on Science and Technology in Australia, dated September 1974.
- Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Legal Aid Ordinance—Report of the Legal Aid Committee of the Australian Capital Territory, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for period 1 March to 30 June 1972.

Services Trust Funds Act—Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Services Canteens Trust Fund, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973.

Superannuation Act—Fifty-second Annual Report of the Superannuation Board, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973–74.

Tariff Board Report—Photographic and cinematographic apparatus, etc., dated 4 May 1972.

Technical Education—Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Australian Capital Territory Technical Education, dated 5 September 1974.

DAVID MCKENZIE,
Chairman

31 October 1974

Mr McKenzie moved, by leave—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

- 16 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
 - 17 SEAMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL 1974: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation and Compensation) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Killen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 18 COMPENSATION (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) BILL 1974: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Bowen (Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation and Compensation) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Killen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 19 AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY BILL 1974: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Morrison (Minister for Science) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Killen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 20 AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION BILL 1974: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Morrison (Minister representing the Minister for the Media) 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.
 - 21 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Morrison (Minister for Science) moved—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 Tuesday, 12 November, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., or such time thereafter as Mr Speaker may take the Chair, unless Mr Speaker shall, by telegram addressed to each Member of the House, fix an earlier day of meeting.
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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 October 1974, pursuant to statute:

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1974—

No. 63—Justices (No. 2).

No. 64—Ports (No. 3).

No. 65—Police and Police Offences (No. 5).

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

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