

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 48

WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 1975

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 Hayden (Minister for Social Security), Mr L. R. Johnson (Minister for Housing and Construction), Mr Armitage, Mr Bonnett, Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Drury, Mr Giles, Mr Hewson, Mr Hodges, Mr Kelly, Mr Keogh, Mr Lucock, Mr Millar, Mr Morris, Mr Mulder, Mr Reynolds, Mr E. L. Robinson and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House amend the Family Law Bill.

Mr Lynch (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Mr K. M. Cairns, Mrs Child, Mr Erwin, Mr Gorton, Mr Hunt, Mr Nixon, Mr Oldmeadow and Mr Willis—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House oppose the Family Law Bill.

Mr Berinson and Mrs Child—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House pass the Family Law Bill.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government (1) immediately increase expenditure on solar energy research to an amount comparable with current expenditure on atomic energy research, (2) maintain expenditure at this level and (3) maintain CSIRO control of, and responsibility for, solar energy research until an appropriate commission has been established.

Dr Everingham (Minister for Health)—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 Cadman—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 Killen—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the existing national health scheme.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 DISTINGUISHED VISITOR: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Kenji Fukunaga, a Member of the House of Representatives of the Japanese Diet, an ex-Cabinet Minister and a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitor a very warm welcome.

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

Australian and State Government Ministers—Proceedings of conference held at Canberra, 7 June 1974.

Industries Assistance Commission—

Report—Mushrooms, dated 10 December 1974.

Textiles Authority—Report on apparel—Section 1—Men's shirts, woven pyjamas and other woven nightwear, dated 24 December 1974.

Urban land—

Prices 1968–1974—Urban Paper by Department of Urban and Regional Development.

Problems and policies—Discussion paper by Department of Urban and Regional Development.

The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Australian War Memorial Act—Board of Trustees of the Australian War Memorial—Eleventh Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1973–74.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission—Eighteenth Annual Report, for year ended 13 August 1974.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Law Reform Commission Ordinance—Law Reform Commission of the Australian Capital Territory—Report—Law relating to commercial arbitration.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—BEEF INDUSTRY: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Sinclair (Deputy Leader of the Australian Country Party) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The deteriorating crisis in the beef industry and the failure of the Government to take adequate measures to alleviate its effect".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Sinclair addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 SALES TAX BILLS (NOS. 1 TO 9) 1975: Mr Stewart (Minister assisting the Treasurer) presented the following Bills:

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 1) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 2) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 3) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 4) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 5) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 6) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 7) 1930–1970*;

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 8) 1930–1970*, and

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Sales Tax Act (No. 9) 1930–1970*.

Bills together read a first time.

Mr Stewart moved—That the Bills be now read a second time.

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

8 SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) BILL 1975: Mr Stewart (Minister assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act relating to Sales Tax Exemptions and Classifications.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 9 APPROPRIATION (DEVELOPMENT BANK) BILL 1975: Mr Stewart (Minister assisting the Treasurer) for Dr J. F. Cairns (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the purpose of loans to the Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Stewart moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr McLeay), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES: Ordered—That notices Nos. 2 and 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 11 HOURS OF MEETING: Mr Daly (Leader of the House) moved, pursuant to notice—That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet for the despatch of business on each Tuesday at fifteen minutes past two o'clock p.m. and on each Wednesday and Thursday at ten o'clock a.m.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
- 12 ELECTORAL BILL 1974: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Daly (Minister for Services and Property) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Calder), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 DARWIN RECONSTRUCTION BILL 1975: 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.
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
Dr Patterson (Minister for the Northern Territory) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.
- 14 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 15 FAMILY LAW 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 by Mr Stewart (Minister for Tourism and Recreation) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that the Bill should give expression to the following principles—
(a) that the family is the basic and stable unit of the Australian society;
(b) that marriage should be buttressed;
(c) that marriage should be permanent and secure;
(d) that full and proper recognition be given to the status and rights of a woman as wife and mother;
(e) that there should be full and proper protection of the wife and children in the event of the dissolution of a marriage;
(f) that there is need for children to be reared and cared for by a present parent, and
(g) that marriage should be dissolved only when a Court is satisfied on objective grounds that the marriage has irretrievably broken down or that the parties have lived separately and apart for not less than two years".
Debate continued.
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16 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 Chipp, Mr Fairbairn, Mr Innes, Mr Keating, Mr Lloyd and Mr Wilson.

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