

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 6

THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 1976

- 1 The House met, at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
- 2 **DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES:** The following warrant nominating Deputy Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to standing order 18, was laid upon the Table by Mr Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 18, I nominate—

John Lindsay Armitage, Esquire,
 Doctor Henry Alfred Jenkins and
 Vincent Joseph Martin, Esquire,

to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand on 26 February 1976.

B. M. SNEDDEN
 Speaker

- 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) and Mr Jarman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Connolly—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government remove or substantially increase the \$300 limit on income tax deductibility on personal residential land and water rates.
 - Mr Cotter—from certain electors and residents of the Division of Kalgoorlie praying that the town of Pannawonica, W.A., be provided with a television service.
 - Mr King—from certain citizens of the Banyena district, Vic., praying that the Banyena Post Office be not closed.
 - Dr Klugman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the introduction of television and radio licence fees, the imposition of a tax levy for Medibank and the introduction of higher charges for drugs dispensed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be prevented.
 - Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Petitions received.

- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Law Reform Commission Act—Law Reform Commission—First Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 31 December 1974 to 30 June 1975.

Legislative Drafting Institute Act—Legislative Drafting Institute—First Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 9 December 1974 to 30 June 1975.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hurford had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The actions of the Government in jeopardising the steady recovery of the Australian economy".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 LOAN BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Borrowing and Expending of Moneys for Defence Purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

8 LOAN BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Borrowing of Moneys for the purpose of Supplementing the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

9 FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to approve an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States amending the Financial Agreement, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

10 NATIONAL DEBT SINKING FUND AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Debt Sinking Fund Act 1966-1967*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

11 WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 12 WHEAT EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Export Charge Act 1974*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Keating), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 WHEAT PRODUCTS EXPORT ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Products Export Adjustment Act 1974*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Keating), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 MEAT EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to terminate the Charge imposed by the *Meat Export Charge Act 1973*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Keating), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976: 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.
Mr K. M. Cairns addressing the House—

Distinguished visitors: Mr Speaker informed the House that a delegation from the National Assembly of France, led by M. Edouard Schloesing, a Vice President of the National Assembly, was present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 2, dated 19 February 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 16 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: 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 His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Dr Jenkins moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that—

- (a) the Speech makes no acknowledgment of the financial pre-eminence of the House of Representatives;

- (b) the Speech makes no reference to the need for action to ensure that there cannot be a recurrence of the Constitutional crisis which threatens the continuation of the Australian Parliamentary system, and
- (c) the proposals outlined in the Speech are so framed as to cause a major transfer of resources from middle and low income families to those on higher income levels”.

Debate continued.

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

17 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11.00 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 26 February 1976, pursuant to statute:

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for rifle range purposes—Scottsdale, Tas.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr C. R. Cameron and Mr Groom.

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