

## AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 13

TUESDAY, 23 MARCH 1976

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1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Bryant, Mr Garrick and Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits.

Mr Jarman and Mr Katter—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.

Mr Thomson—from certain electors of the Division of Leichhardt in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Dr J. F. Cairns—from certain members of community organisations praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

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 Haslem—from certain residents of the Australian Capital Territory praying that the introduction of self-government for the A.C.T. be not proceeded with until the residents of the Territory are consulted by means of a referendum.

Mr Jacobi—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Health Insurance Act be not amended.

Mr McLean—from certain citizens of Australia praying that payments under the National Employment and Training System be re-adjusted to the equivalent of the average adult male award wage.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Mr Wallis—from certain citizens of Australia praying that any proposal to build an Omega Station on Australian soil be rejected.

Mr Young—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the export of mineral sands from Fraser Island be prohibited and the Queensland Government and other bodies be assisted to develop and conserve the natural environment of the Island.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Defence—Directives issued by the Minister for Defence to senior Service and civilian officers, dated 9 February 1976.

Department of the Capital Territory—Report for year 1974–75.

Nature Conservation Ministers—Council—Third meeting, Canberra, 1 August 1975—Summary record of proceedings.

Pursuant to statute:

Independent Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—Statement of guarantees and payments for year 1974–75.

5 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND THE WORK TEST—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to unemployment benefit and the work test, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Unemployment benefit and the work test—Ministerial statement, 23 March 1976.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION AND ETHNIC RADIO: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The threats to the Australian Broadcasting Commission and ethnic radio".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Dr Jenkins, viz.*—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 resumed.

Mr Garland addressing the House—

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ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.52 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2 15 p.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 March 1976, pursuant to statute:

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 77.

Audit Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 79.

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificates—R. H. Brooke, D. O. Nagel, A. D. Wadey.

Defence Act, Naval Defence Act and Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 75.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired for—

Navigation purposes—Evans Head, N.S.W.

Remote receiver facilities—Lower Light, S.A.

Telephone purposes—

Laffer, S.A.

Makin, S.A.

Sleaford Mere, S.A.

Statement of lands, etc., acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act.

Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 78.

Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 74.

Trade Commissioners Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 76.

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

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