

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 25

TUESDAY, 4 MAY 1976

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 Aldred, Mr Brown, Mr Falconer, Mr Fisher and Mr Garrick—from certain citizens of Australia praying that no measures be taken to interfere with the Schools Commission.

Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), Mr Cohen and Mr Falconer—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government reverse the decision to cut 1975-76 overseas development assistance, reaffirm Australia's commitment of assistance of a minimum of 0.7% of G.N.P. and establish an independent statutory authority to administer such assistance.

Mr Fife, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Keating—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the right of all trade union members to participate in ballots be guaranteed, voting in union elections be made compulsory and reintroduction of the collegiate system of union elections be resisted.

Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Mr Morris and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr Morris—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 Brown and Mr Willis—from certain citizens of Australia praying that changes to the NEAT system be reconsidered and allowances be re-instituted at their previous rates.

Mr Baillieu—from certain electors of the Division of La Trobe and other electorates praying that NEAT system students be allowed to earn additional income and the \$6.00 per week earning ceiling be revoked.

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

Mr Carige—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued as a longer term program on a regional basis.

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 Fry—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the right of all trade union members to participate in ballots be guaranteed and voting in union elections be made compulsory.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the decision to curtail the home mortgage interest tax deduction scheme be re-considered and the benefits be upgraded by indexation.

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 J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens of Australia praying that grants to under-privileged schools in the Sydney inner city area be retained.

Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Sports Institute Study Group—Report, dated November 1975.

Pursuant to statute:

Repatriation Act—War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4—Reports for year 1974–75.

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreement, dated 4 March 1976, relating to financial assistance to Tasmania for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes (Lavinia Nature Reserve, King Island).

Sugar Agreement Act—Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee—Forty-fourth Annual Report, and statement of receipts and expenditure certified by the Auditor-General, for year 1974–75.

6 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—REPORT—TOURIST ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Tourist accommodation industry—Short-term assistance, dated 30 November 1975.

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

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

7 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

30 April 1976—Message—

No. 40—

Financial Agreement 1976.

National Debt Sinking Fund Amendment 1976.

No. 41—

Social Services Amendment 1976.

Repatriation Acts Amendment 1976.

3 May 1976—Message No. 42—

Wheat Industry Stabilization Amendment 1976.

Wheat Export Charge Amendment 1976.

Wheat Products Export Adjustment Amendment 1976.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EAST TIMOR: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The urgency for the Australian Government to use all avenues available to it to bring about a genuine act of self determination for the people of East Timor”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Uren addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.

- 9 DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS (PENSION INCREASES) 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.  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 43, dated 28 April 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.
- 10 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION AMENDMENT 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 Hodgman was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 11 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION AMENDMENT 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.  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 44, dated 5 April 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY AMENDMENT 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 13 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY COLLECTION AMENDMENT 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—  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.
- 14 AGED PERSONS HOSTELS AMENDMENT 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.  
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
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*Adjournment negatived:* It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

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The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Clauses 1 and 2, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 3 debated and agreed to.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr Martin reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Hunt, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

15 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

4 May 1976—Message—

No. 38—Superannuation 1976.

No. 39—Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment 1976.

16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.00 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 4 May 1976, pursuant to statute:

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 1—Lands Acquisition (Repeal).

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 16—Motor Traffic (No. 2).

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr Gillard, Mr Holten, Mr King, Mr Martyr and Mr Peacock.

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