

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 31

TUESDAY, 25 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 E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Baume, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Connolly and Mr Innes—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a Commission of Inquiry be initiated into the Aurukun Associates Agreement Act, no mining take place on the Aurukun Aboriginal Reserve until a full environmental impact study has been made and an export licence to the consortium concerned be refused until negotiations are held with the Aurukun people and an agreement has been reached.

Mr Chipp, Mr James, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr Scholes—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 Moore—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

Mr Bowen—from certain members of the University of N.S.W. Speleological Society; Mr Garland—from certain members of the Western Australian Naturalists Club Incorporated; and Mr McLean—from certain members of the Western Walking Club, in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Dobie and Mr Innes—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 Bryant, Mr Innes and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued as recommended in the report tabled in Parliament on 4 March 1976.

Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources) and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Australian delegation to the fourth session of UNCTAD be instructed to support the principle of an integrated program of commodities and take certain other action.

Mr Bowen and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens of Australia praying that social security payments be adjusted instantly and automatically with increases in the Consumer Price Index and certain other benefits be adjusted.

Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr Jull—from certain citizens of Australia praying that further mining and export of uranium, except for bio-medical purposes, be banned and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission be transformed into an Australian Energy Commission.

Mr Peacock—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Schools Commission be retained.

Mr Armitage—from certain employees of Martin Wells Pty Ltd praying that the Industries Assistance Commission report on the spectacle frame industry be not adopted.

Mr Bowen—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 re-introduction of the collegiate system of union elections be resisted.

Mr Connolly—from certain citizens of Australia praying that all current woodchip export licences be cancelled, more funds be provided for research into the recycling of used packaged material and future applications for woodchip leases be preceded by an environmental inquiry.

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 Connolly—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.

Mr Jull—from certain students and staff of the Mount Gravatt College of Advanced Education, Qld, praying that education programs be protected.

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 Lloyd—from certain citizens of Australia praying that relief be given to country telephone subscribers.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens of Australia praying that at least 0.55% of Australia's G.N.P. be provided in the next Budget for aid to poor countries.

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

Mr Scholes—from certain students and staff of State Colleges of Victoria praying that the immigration of teachers recruited outside Australia be prevented.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Industries Assistance Commission—

Report—Other electronic equipment, dated 1 April 1976.

Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Files and rasps, dated 31 March 1976.

International Women's Year—Report of the Australian National Advisory Committee, dated March 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Corporation—Fiftieth Annual Report on operations of Australian Dairy Produce Board, for year 1974–75.

Meat Export Charge Collection Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act for period 26 November 1973 to 30 June 1975.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Grants for capital expenditure in respect of government and non-government schools—Statement of payments for year 1974–75.

Wool Industry Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

5 DEFENCE PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement with respect to the Government's defence program, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Defence program—Ministerial statement, 25 May 1976.

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

Debate ensued.

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

- 6 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Willis to be a member of the Standing Committee on Expenditure in place of Mr Jacobi, resigned.

- 7 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR SERVICE OF THE YEAR, 1976–77—INTERIM PROVISION—SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1976–77: Message No. 48, dated 25 May 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1977, for which interim provision is necessary, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1977.

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 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED EXPENDITURE, 1976–77—INTERIM PROVISION—SUPPLY BILL (NO. 2) 1976–77: Message No. 49, dated 25 May 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of certain proposed expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1977, for which interim provision is necessary, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1977.

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 ECONOMIC POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 20 May 1976*), viz.:

Economic policy—Ministerial statement, 20 May 1976—

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Hurford speaking for a period not exceeding 95 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate resumed.

Mr Hurford moved—That Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Nicholls), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 10 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

- 11 COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND) 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. 50, dated 6 May 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 ECONOMIC POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 20 May 1976*), viz.:

Economic policy—Ministerial statement, 20 May 1976—

Debate having been resumed by Mr Crean—

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

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Crean continued his speech.

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

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Newman (Minister for Repatriation) 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 tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 May 1976, pursuant to statute:

Book Bounty Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 100.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 98.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 99.

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

Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Administrative Services—J. F. Rawson.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 19—Real Property (Unit Titles).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Burr, Mr Holten*, Dr Jenkins, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr Macphee, Mr Nixon, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Ruddock.

* On leave

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