

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 32

WEDNESDAY, 26 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 Lynch (Treasurer), Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) and Mr Bonnett—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 Millar—a similar petition from certain members of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland (Maryborough Moonaboola Branch).

Mr Bonnett, Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr Hodges and Mr Moore—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 Lynch, Mr Connolly and Mr Lusher—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 Sinclair—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 Beazley—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.

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 Crean—from certain students and staff of State Colleges of Victoria praying that the income tax exemption for teachers recruited outside Australia by the Victorian Education Department be cancelled.

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

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 Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the decision to curtail the home mortgage interest tax deduction scheme be reconsidered and the benefits be upgraded by indexation.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Newcastle, N.S.W., praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Newcastle State Dockyard and implement the plan to build a graving dock in Newcastle.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Alleged Payments to Maritime Unions—Royal Commission—Final Report, dated April 1976.

Darwin—Provision of general cargo facilities at the Port of Darwin—Report by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated October 1975.

Pursuant to statute:

Egg Export Control Act—Australian Egg Board—Twenty-eighth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

5 PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE SYSTEM—JOINT COMMITTEE—FINAL REPORT AND STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Morris brought up the following report from the Joint Committee on the Parliamentary Committee System:

Final report—A new Parliamentary committee system.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Morris, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, 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.

6 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENT, ZETLAND, N.S.W.: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969–1974*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Development of a navy supply centre and army workshop facility at defence establishment, Zetland, N.S.W.

Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

7 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 8 INCOME TAX (RATES) 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 9 INCOME TAX (INDIVIDUALS) 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 10 SOCIAL SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 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.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 51, dated 25 May 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), the House adopted the report.
Mr Hunt, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Mr Scholes addressing the House—

- 11 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—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 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 May 1976, pursuant to statute:

- Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for telecommunications purposes—Muswellbrook, N.S.W.
- Overseas Telecommunications Act—Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia)—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 31 March 1975.

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 and Mr I. L. Robinson.

* On leave

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