

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 42

TUESDAY, 24 AUGUST 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 MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory), Mr Bradfield, Mr Garrick, Mr Groom, Dr Jenkins, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that social security payments be adjusted instantly and automatically with increases in the Consumer Price Index and certain other benefits be adjusted.
 - Mr Bryant, Mr Fry, Mr Garrick, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained, advertising on the A.B.C. be rejected, public funding of the Commission be developed and any general inquiries into broadcasting be conducted publicly.
 - Mr Bowen, Dr Cass and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens and certain residents from overseas praying that tertiary fees be not introduced for overseas students, the concept of free education be upheld and Australia's commitment of overseas development assistance of a minimum of 0.7% of G.N.P. be reaffirmed.
 - Dr Cass, Dr Jenkins and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.
 - Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) and Mr Fife—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
 - Mr Staley and Mr Hyde—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.
 - Mr Lynch—from certain citizens praying that the Government reverse the decision to cut 1975-76 overseas development assistance and send some of our more productive cows to the Indian sub-continent.
 - Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry)—from certain citizens praying that a 10 year moratorium on whaling be implemented and that responsibility for whaling be transferred from the Department of Primary Industry to the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development.
 - Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that the funds of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be restored and its independence reaffirmed.
 - Mr Abel—from certain citizens praying that a licence be granted to 2RDJ FM Community Radio to operate a public access radio station to service the mid-western suburbs of Sydney.
 - Mr Bonnett—from certain citizens 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 Burr—from certain parents and teachers of Exeter District School, Tas., praying that additional funds be made available for the improvement of educational facilities, particularly those at the Exeter District School.
- Mr Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
- Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens in terms similar to the last preceding petition.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens 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 Connolly—from certain citizens praying that the Government call upon South Africa to eliminate racial discrimination and that it withdraw Australian Trade Commissioners from South Africa.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens 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 praying that the indexed value of education spending be maintained, the recommendations of several reports on education be implemented and tertiary tuition be without fees.
- Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that the decision to curtail the home mortgage interest tax deduction scheme be reconsidered and the benefits be upgraded by indexation.
- Mr Garrick—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to build an Omega station on Australian soil be rejected.
- Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that the Health Insurance Act be not amended.
- Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the principles of Medibank be strengthened and extended from general revenue.
- Dr Klugman—from certain citizens 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 MacKenzie—from certain members of the Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.
- 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.
- Mr Neil—from certain citizens 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 A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the indexed value of education spending be maintained and the recommendations of several reports on education be implemented.
- Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that subsidies for nursing home patients be increased.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Young, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations)—

Mr Street laid upon the Table the following paper:

Youth unemployment—Minister's parliamentary brief.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Commission on Advanced Education—Report for triennium 1977–1979—Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education), dated August 1976.

Industries Assistance Commission—

Report—Petroleum and mining industries, dated 28 May 1976.

Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Thick plywood (exceeding 5.5 mm in thickness), dated 28 July 1976.

Rural health in Australia—Report by Hospitals and Health Services Commission, dated May 1976.

Transport (Planning and Research) Act 1974—Progress to 31 December 1975—Report by Department of Transport, dated June 1976—

Volume 1—Introduction, program elements, shared programs and program for N.S.W.

Volume 2—Programs for Vic. and Qld.

Volume 3—Programs for S.A., W.A. and Tas.

Pursuant to statute:

Commission on Advanced Education Act—Commission on Advanced Education—Report for triennium 1977–1979.

Commonwealth Teaching Service Act—Commonwealth Teaching Service Commissioner—Report for 1975.

Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act for 1975.

5 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Garland (Chairman), by leave, made a statement concerning the work to date and the anticipated future activities of the Standing Committee on Expenditure.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TRADE UNIONS—DISCIPLINARY ACTION:

Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Falconer had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "This Parliament's grave concern at the action of certain trade unions now disciplining or threatening to discipline union members who exercised their right to work in accordance with their awards on 12 July 1976".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Falconer addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Mr Graham moved—That Mr Short be granted an extension of time.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 83

Mr Abel	Mr Cotter	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock
Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr Katter	Mr Porter
Mr Aldred	Mr Drummond	Mr Killen	Dr Richardson
Mr Anthony	Dr Edwards	Mr King	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Birney	Mr Fife	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bonnett	Mr Garland	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Bouchier	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Bradfield	Mr Gillard	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Brown	Mr Graham	Mr W. McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Bungey	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr Haslem	Mr Macphee	Mr Thomson
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodges	Mr Martyr	Mr Viner
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Hodgman	Mr Millar	Mr Wentworth
Mr Calder	Mr Howard	Mr Moore	Mr Wilson
Mr Carige	Mr Hunt	Mr Neil	Mr Yates
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Newman	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Chipp	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Connolly	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Fisher

NOES, 25

Mr Armitage	Mr Garrick	Dr Klugman	Mr Willis
Mr Bowen	Mr Innes	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Young
Mr Bryant	Mr Jacobi	Mr Martin	
Dr J. F. Cairns	Dr Jenkins	Mr Morris	
Mr Crean	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Stewart	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr FitzPatrick	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Uren	Mr James
Mr Fry	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis	Mr Nicholls

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Discussion continued.

Mr Falconer proceeding to make a personal explanation—

Closure of Member moved: Mr Nicholls moved—That the honourable Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 31

Mr Armitage	Mr Garrick	Mr Jones	Mr Uren
Mr Beazley	Mr Hayden	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr Bowen	Mr Hurford	Dr Klugman	Mr A. P. Whitlam
Mr Bryant	Mr Innes	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Willis
Dr J. F. Cairns	Mr Jacobi	Mr Martin	Mr Young
Mr Crean	Dr Jenkins	Mr Morris	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr FitzPatrick	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Scholes	Mr James
Mr Fry	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Stewart	Mr Nicholls

NOES, 83

Mr Abel	Mr Dobie	Mr Katter	Mr Porter
Mr Adermann	Mr Drummond	Mr Killen	Dr Richardson
Mr Anthony	Dr Edwards	Mr King	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lloyd	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Baume	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Ruddock
Mr Birney	Mr Fife	Mr Lynch	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bonnett	Mr Garland	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Burchier	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Short
Mr Bradfield	Mr Gillard	Mr McLean	Mr Simon
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLeay	Mr Sinclair
Mr Brown	Mr Graham	Mr W. McMahon	Mr Staley
Mr Bungey	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr Burr	Mr Haslem	Mr Macphee	Mr Sullivan
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodges	Mr Martyr	Mr Thomson
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Hodgman	Mr Millar	Mr Viner
Mr Calder	Mr Howard	Mr Moore	Mr Wentworth
Mr Carige	Mr Hunt	Mr Neil	Mr Wilson
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Newman	Mr Yates
Mr Chipp	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Connolly	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O'Keefe	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Cotter	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock	Mr Fisher

And so it was negated.

Discussion concluded.

7 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 20 (1976): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 20 (1976).

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

8 OMBUDSMAN 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.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

—

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 4, by leave, taken together, and agreed to, after debate.

Clause 5—

On the motion of Mr Innes, the following amendment was made: Page 7, after sub-clause (2) insert the following sub-clause:

“(2A) A reference in paragraph (2) (a) to action taken by a Minister does not include a reference to action taken by a delegate of a Minister.”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 13, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 14, by leave, reconsidered.

On the motion of Mr Connolly, the following amendment was made: Page 14, omit sub-clause (4).

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 15—

On the motion of Mr Connolly, the following amendment was made: Page 15, line 4, omit “, not being an Act,”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Mr Scholes moved the following amendment: Clause 21, page 19, line 30, at the end of sub-clause (1) add “, and shall be a person whose appointment has been recommended by resolutions of both Houses of the Parliament”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Remainder of Bill agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Lucock reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

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

10 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1976-77—BUDGET DEBATE: 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 by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because:

- (a) it pursues a policy of unemployment as a weapon to reduce real wages and salaries;
- (b) it abdicates federal government responsibilities and forces the State governments and local governments either to reduce their services or institute additional charges, or both;
- (c) it introduces an additional tax in the form of the Medibank levy, thus further reducing consumer spending;
- (d) it reduces the availability of services to the whole community but particularly to those most vulnerable to hardship, notably Aborigines, the unemployed and migrants, and
- (e) it fails to institute selective stimulatory expenditure to reduce unemployment and restore consumer confidence”.

Debate continued.

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 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 24 August 1976, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff Act—Orders—Developing Country—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 (1976).

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—
Postal—1976—Amendment No. 4.

Postal (Staff)—1976—Amendments Nos. 3, 4.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 167.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Dr Cass, Mr Cohen, Mr Corbett and Mr Hamer.

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