

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 43

WEDNESDAY, 25 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 Armitage, Mr Keating, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Stewart and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that grants to child centres in the inner city of Sydney be retained.

Mr Armitage, Mr Bryant, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Morris and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mr Beazley, Mr Crean and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the indexed value of education spending be maintained and the recommendations of several reports on education be implemented.

Mr Fry, Mr Haslem, Mr Jacobi 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 E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), Mr Beazley, Dr J. F. Cairns, Dr Cass and Mr Chipp—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.

Mr Scholes—from certain citizens in the electorate of Wannan, in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) and Mr Shipton—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 Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) and Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.

Mr Falconer and Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the principles of Medibank be strengthened and extended from general revenue.

Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources)—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.

Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development)—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced making it an offence to kill a whale.

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 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.

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 Haslem—from certain citizens praying that the funds of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be restored and its independence reaffirmed.

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

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 Simon—from certain citizens praying that the further entry into Australia of teachers from overseas be restricted.

Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying for funds for the Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Fallout over Australia from nuclear tests—Reports, dated October 1975, by—
Australian Ionising Radiation Advisory Council.
Australian Radiation Laboratory.
Bureau of Meteorology.

Pursuant to statute:

Aboriginal Land Fund Act—Aboriginal Land Fund Commission—First Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for the period 17 December 1974 to 30 June 1975.

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes to—

New South Wales—

Limeburners Creek, dated 16 June 1976.

Violet Hill, dated 16 June 1976.

Queensland—Eubenangee Swamp, dated 2 June 1976.

South Australia—Pike River—Gurra Gurra area and Deep Creek area, dated 1 June 1976.

Victoria—Mallacoota Inlet and Mount Richmond, dated 27 May 1976.

Western Australia—Wellington, dated 25 May 1976.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Supplementary agreement, dated 14 June 1976, relating to financial assistance to South Australia for urban and regional development.

5 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

24 August 1976—Message No. 92—Trade Practices Amendment 1976.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Young had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The deliberate destruction of the Australian shipbuilding industry".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Young addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SOCIAL WELFARE COMMISSION (REPEAL) BILL 1976: Message No. 93, dated 24 August 1976, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to repeal the ‘Social Welfare Commission Act 1973’, and for related purposes*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 8 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—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 resumed.

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

- 9 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—FIFTH REPORT: Mr Hodges (Chairman) brought up the Fifth Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

FIFTH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and other papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

Advance to the Treasurer for year 1975-76—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.

Australian Capital Territory Police—Report for year 1974-75.

Australia Council Act—Australia Council—Financial statements, together with the Auditor-General’s Report, for period 13 March to 30 June 1975.

Australian Government Administration—Report of Royal Commission—Report.

Appendixes—Volumes 1 to 4.

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.

Defence Service Homes Scheme—Its nature, history and operations—Report by the Australian Housing Corporation.

- Fallout over Australia from Nuclear Tests—Reports by the Australian Ionising Radiation Advisory Council, Australian Radiation Laboratory and Bureau of Meteorology, entitled "Fallout over Australia from nuclear tests", dated October, 1975.
- Fishing Industry Research Act—Fishing Industry Research Committee—Sixth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.
- Industries Assistance Commission—
Reports—
Domestic refrigerating appliances, etc. (Chest freezers of up to 350 litres capacity)—Interim report, dated 7 July 1976.
Petroleum and mining industries, dated 28 May 1976.
Paints, varnishes and lacquers, dated 24 December 1975.
Railway and tramway locomotives, rolling stock, etc., dated 7 June 1976.
Short term assistance to commercial theatre, dated 1 July 1976.
- Temporary Assistance Authority—Reports—
Orange juice, dated 15 July 1976.
Sheets and plates of iron or steel, dated 7 May 1976.
Thick plywood (exceeding 5.5 mm in thickness), dated 28 July 1976.
- Textiles Authority—Report—Knitted and woven apparel, dated 20 April 1976.
- International Women's Year—Report of the Australian National Advisory Committee, dated March 1976.
- Manufacturing industry—Policies for development—Report by the Committee to Advise on Policies for Manufacturing Industry—Volume II, dated April 1976—Statistics.
- National Fitness Act—Report for 1974–75.
- National Highway linking Sydney and Brisbane (Newcastle area)—Report by Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, dated 11 March 1976.
- National Training Council—Second Annual Report, for 1975.
- Overseas Professional Qualifications—Seventh Report of Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications, dated December 1975.
- Poultry Research Advisory Committee—Third Annual Report, for year 1974–75.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal 1976—Review—
Determinations—
1976/5—Ministers of State.
1976/6—Members of Parliament.
Report—1976/1—Ministers of State.
Statement.
- Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.
- Rural health in Australia—Report by Hospitals and Health Services Commission, dated May 1976.
- Schools Commission Act—Schools Commission—Report for triennium 1977–1979.
- Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operations of Act for 1975.
- Technical and Further Education Commission Act—Technical and Further Education Commission—Report for triennium 1977–1979.
- Tobacco Marketing Act—Australian Tobacco Board—Tenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1975.

United Nations—Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, Fourth Session,
New York, U.S.A., 15 March to 7 May 1976—Report of Australian
Delegation.

25 August 1976

J. C. HODGES,
Chairman

Mr Hodges, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 LOAN BILL (No. 3) 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. 76, dated 19 August 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of moneys 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.

- 11 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.*—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House condemns the Budget because:

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- (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 resumed.

Mr Carige addressing the House—

- 12 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 10.30 a.m.

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

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

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1976—

No. 34—Water Rates (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 35—Sewerage Rates (Amendment).

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

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