

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 46

WEDNESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 1976

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr Lucock) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  - 2 PETITIONS: The Acting Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
    - Mr Armitage, Mr Jacobi, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Neil and Mr A. P. Whitlam—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. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), Mr Bonnett, Mr Bouchier, Mr Hurford and Mr L. K. Johnson—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
    - Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Stewart and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.
    - Mr Armitage, Mr Holten, Dr Jenkins and Mr L. K. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.
    - Mr Armitage, Mr Groom and Mr Martin—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 Armitage and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the 1976-77 Budget be re-drafted to provide for economic recovery within the guidelines laid down in the 1975-76 Budget.
    - Mr Ruddock and Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that the indexed value of education spending be maintained and the recommendations of several reports on education be implemented.
    - 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 Armitage—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be made truly universal and the Medibank levy be reduced.
    - Mr Armitage—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 Falconer—from certain citizens 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 Haslem—from certain citizens praying that discrimination against people of Croatian origin in Australia be remedied.

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

Mr Martin—from certain citizens praying that the Government reaffirm and meet the commitments made by Australia at the World Food Conference in 1974.

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 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.

Petitions received.

### 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

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*Distinguished visitors:* Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that members of the Committee on Production and Exchange of the National Assembly of France, led by Deputy Henri de Gastines, were present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Acting Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

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Questions without notice continued.

### 4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund—Reports—1976—  
February.  
March.  
April.  
May.

June, together with review of activities for year 1975–76.

2CM freight wagon bogie—An appraisal—Report by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated March 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

National Health Act—Fifth Annual Report on the operations of the registered Medical and Hospital Benefits Organizations, for year 1974–75.

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations—

1976/8—Holders of public offices on the Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board and other bodies.

1976/9—Members of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

### 5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NATURAL RESOURCES MARKETING:

Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that Mr Keating had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The continuing mismanagement by the Government of Australia’s natural resources and their marketing”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Keating addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 6 HEALTH INSURANCE LEVY ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Law relating to Income Tax in relation to the Imposition, Assessment and Collection of a Health Insurance Levy.

Bill read a first time.

Mr E. L. Robinson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 7 HEALTH INSURANCE LEVY BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to Impose a Health Insurance Levy upon certain Incomes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr E. L. Robinson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 8 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act* 1953, and for related purposes.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 9 HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act* 1973.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 10 HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Commission Act* 1973.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 11 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, government business take precedence of general business on each day of sitting until the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 1976–77 and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1976–77 have passed all stages in the House.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 80

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

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

- 12 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) 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 Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) 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 by Mr Hurford who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the second reading of the Bill the House is of the opinion that—

- (a) it reduces in real terms the funds available to the States;
- (b) it forces the States to reduce the services they provide and/or to impose additional taxes;
- (c) it results in an increase in the number of people out of work;
- (d) it fails to stimulate the non-residential sector of the building and construction industry, and

(e) it fails to provide sufficient funds for selective stimulatory expenditure to revive the Australian economy”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negated.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 80, dated 19 August 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and 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.

15 ADJOURNMENT: Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) moved—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.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Brown, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Cohen, Mr Connolly, Mr Corbett, Mr Cotter, Mr FitzPatrick, Dr Klugman, Mr McLeay, Mr Nicholls and Mr Snedden.

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J. A. PETTIFER,

Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives