

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 56

THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER 1976

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- 1 The House met, at 10.30 a.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 J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.
 - Dr Klugman, Mr Morris 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 L. R. Johnson and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the previous Government's undertaking on the taxation of moneys due to the Thalidomide Foundation Limited be honoured.
 - 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 Innes—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.
 - Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be strengthened and extended and be financed from general revenue.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson—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 L. R. Johnson—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 Jones—from certain citizens of the Hunter Valley Region, N.S.W., praying that funds be provided for the establishment and maintenance of a Hunter Symphony Orchestra.
 - 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 W. McMahon—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
 - 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 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 Scholes—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), Mr Anthony (Deputy Prime Minister) was acting as Prime Minister, but because he was incapacitated Mr Anthony would be unable to attend the sitting of the House this day.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Christmas Island—Report for period 1 July 1972 to 31 December 1975.

Industries Assistance Commission—Benefit-cost study—National Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme, dated 25 June 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—Twenty-fourth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Broadcasting and Television Act—Australian Broadcasting Commission—Forty-fourth Annual Report and financial statement, for year 1975–76.

Dried Fruits Research Act—Dried Fruits Research Committee—Fifth Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

Insurance Act—Insurance Commissioner—Second Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

6 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

6 October 1976—Message—

No. 106—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment 1976.

No. 108—Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment 1976.

7 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—

Question proposed—That grievances be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.

8 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—INTERIM REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Ruddock (Chairman) brought up the following report from the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs:

Alcohol problems of Aboriginals—Interim report on Northern Territory aspects, incorporating a dissenting report.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Ruddock, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Wentworth, Mr McLean, Mr Wallis, Mr Bryant and Mr Drummond, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HANDICAPPED PERSONS ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Message No. 107, dated 6 October 1976, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Handicapped Persons Assistance Act 1974’ to increase the Handicapped Children’s Benefit, and with respect to certain formal matters*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) 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.

- 10 NAURU (HIGH COURT APPEALS) BILL 1976: Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Appeals to the High Court from the Supreme Court of Nauru.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 SOCIAL SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 1976: Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Social Services.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Newman 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.
- 12 REPATRIATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1976: Mr Newman (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to Repatriation and related Matters.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Newman 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.
- 13 ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INTER-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS 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.

Clause 5—

Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following amendment:
 Page 3, at the end of the clause add the following sub-clause:

“(3) The members of the Council appointed on the nomination of the Council of Local Government Associations, or a majority of those members, may request the Council to inquire into, and report on, a matter relating to inter-government co-operation specified in the request and, where such a request is made, the Council shall, subject to any directions referred to in sub-section 4 (1), inquire into the matter and furnish a report with respect to the inquiry to the Prime Minister, to the Premier of each of the participating States and to the Council of Local Government Associations.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 8—

Mr E. G. Whitlam moved the following amendment: Page 4, omit sub-clause (3), substitute the following sub-clause:

“(3) In nominating persons to be the members referred to in paragraph (2) (j), the Council of Local Government Associations shall ensure that the local governing bodies in each State are represented by one of those persons, being a person elected for that purpose, in accordance with a method determined by the Council of Local Government Associations, by the members of the local government councils in the State.”.

Debate continued.
 Amendment negatived.
 Clause agreed to.
 Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.
 Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Federal Affairs), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 AIR FORCE 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 Killen (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 AUSTRALIA COUNCIL 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 Staley (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in the Arts), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION 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—
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
 On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in the Arts), the Bill was read a third time.
- 17 FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL 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—
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
 The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr Hamer, by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Amendment—

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, before “*Film*” insert “*Australian*”.

New clauses—

Page 2, after clause 3 insert the following new clause:

“3A. Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting in sub-section (1), before the word ‘*Film*’, the word ‘*Australian*’.”

Establishment
of School.

Page 3, after clause 7 insert the following new clause:

“8. The alteration of names effected by sections 3A and 7 does not affect the identity of the corporation established by section 4 of the Principal Act or of the council referred to in section 7 of that Act.”

Transitional.

Amendment—

Page 3, omit the Schedule, substitute the following Schedule:

SCHEDULE
MINOR AND CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Section 7

Provision	Amendment
Section 1	Before " <i>Film</i> ", insert " <i>Australian</i> ".
Section 3 (definitions of "Council" and "School") ..	Before " <i>Film</i> ", insert " <i>Australian</i> ".
Heading to Part II	Before " <i>FILM</i> ", insert " <i>AUSTRALIAN</i> ".
Sub-section 7 (1)	Before " <i>Film</i> ", insert " <i>Australian</i> ".
Sub-section 29 (3)	Omit the sub-section.
Sub-section 31 (6)	Omit the sub-section.
Section 33.. .. .	Repeal the section.
Paragraph 46 (1) (a)	Omit the paragraph.
Sub-section 46 (2)	Omit the sub-section.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Staley (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in the Arts), by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

18 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1976-77: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Primary Industry, \$52,827,000—debated.
It being 10.30 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

19 ADJOURNMENT: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 October 1976, pursuant to statute:

- Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 219.
- Defence Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 220.
- Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 213.
- National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 217.
- Public Works Committee Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 218.
- Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 221.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Brown*, Mr Bungey*, Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Chipp*, Mr Connolly*, Mr Corbett*, Mr FitzPatrick*, Mr Fraser, Mr Fry*, Mr Garrick, Mr Giles, Mr Hunt, Mr Innes*, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Lynch, Mr Martin*, Mr Nicholls*, Mr Peacock and Mr Street.

* On leave

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