

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 59

THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 1976

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

Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—from certain citizens praying that crimes and barbarisms in Chile be exposed through international agencies and that all aid to Chile cease until the full restoration of democratic rights there.

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 Cotter—from certain citizens of Western Australia praying that television services be introduced to Laverton, W.A.

Mr Crean—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Dr Edwards—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 Groom—from certain citizens praying that a minimum farm gate price of 65c per pound for butter fat be underwritten.

Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be supported.

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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the previous Government's undertaking on the taxation of moneys due to the Thalidomide Foundation Limited be honoured.

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 Young—from certain citizens praying that a total economic boycott of South Africa be implemented, all diplomatic and political links with that country be cut and victims of apartheid be offered immediate aid.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Cadman (Chairman) brought up the Report from the Select Committee on Specific Learning Difficulties entitled "Learning difficulties in children and adults", together with the minutes of proceedings of the Committee.

Ordered—That the report be printed.

Mr Cadman, Mr Innes, Mr McVeigh, Dr Klugman and Mr Shipton, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

Mr Cadman, by leave, made a further statement on the matter.

Mr Speaker also made a statement in connection with the report.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, moved—That the House take note of the paper.

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

5 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Dr Klugman brought up the following report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:

Dual Nationality.

Dr Klugman, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

6 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Connolly (Chairman) brought up the following report from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts: One hundred and sixty-first Report—Treasury Minutes on the One hundred and fifty-second and One hundred and fifty-fourth Reports together with summaries of those reports.

Ordered to be printed.

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

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—LEBANESE PEOPLE—AUSTRALIA'S OBLIGATIONS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Innes had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Fraser Government to provide the facilities necessary to meet Australia's stated obligations to the Lebanese people in general and particularly to relatives of Australian residents".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Innes addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES: Ordered—That notices Nos. 1 and 2, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

9 STATES GRANTS (FRUIT-GROWING RECONSTRUCTION) BILL 1976: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States with respect to the Provision of Assistance to Persons engaged in Fruit-growing.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

10 SOCIAL SERVICES AMENDMENT 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 by Mr Hayden who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while not opposing the Bill, the House deplors the inequities which arise from the Government’s failure to—

- (a) carry out its election promise to legislate for immediate and automatic increases in pensions and benefits in line with the Consumer Price Index;
- (b) index dependants’ allowances to meet increases in the cost of living;
- (c) increase the supplementary benefit;
- (d) provide for the automatic adjustment of unemployment and sickness benefits for those under 18 years of age, and
- (e) protect the incomes of those pensioners adversely affected by provisions in this legislation”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Messages from the Governor-General:* The following messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced:

No. 88, dated 7 October 1976, recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill, and

No. 89, dated 13 October 1976, recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of an amendment to be moved to the Bill by a Minister.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and debated.

Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security) moved the following amendment: Clause 32, page 11, line 10, after “to a person” insert “(other than a person who is permanently blind)”.

Debate continued.

*Closure:* Mr Hunt moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the amendment be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Hunt, by leave, the House adopted the report.

Mr Hunt, by leave, moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

11 REPATRIATION ACTS 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 by Mr Hayden who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “while not opposing the Bill, the House deplors the inequities which arise from the Government’s failure to—

- (a) carry out its election promise to legislate for immediate and automatic increases in pensions and benefits in line with the Consumer Price Index;

- (b) index dependants' allowances to meet increases in the cost of living, and
- (c) protect the incomes of those pensioners adversely affected by provisions in this legislation".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

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

*Messages from the Governor-General:* The following messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced:

No. 90, dated 7 October 1976, recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill, and

No. 91, dated 13 October 1976, recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of an amendment to be moved to the Bill by a Minister.

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 Hunt (Minister for Health), the following amendment was made:  
 Clause 19, page 8, line 31, after "to a person" insert "(other than a person who is permanently blind)".

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Hunt, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 92, dated 13 October 1976, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT 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—

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 HANDICAPPED PERSONS ASSISTANCE 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 Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security), the Bill was read a third time.

- 15 STATES (PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING) BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to Entitle the States to Share in the Personal Income Tax Collections of the Commonwealth.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PERSONAL INCOME TAX SHARING) BILL 1976: Mr Lynch (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to Entitle Local Governing Bodies in the States to Share in the Personal Income Tax Collections of the Commonwealth. Bill read a first time.  
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Hurford), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 17 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:  
14 October 1976—Message No. 109—States Grants (Capital Assistance) (No. 2) 1976.
- 18 ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION—STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Bryant to be a member of the Standing Committee on Environment and Conservation in place of Mr Young, resigned.
- 19 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.

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*In the committee*

Schedule 2—

Ordered—That, in lieu of the order of 13 October 1976 that the committee next consider the proposed expenditure for the Attorney-General's Department, the committee next consider the proposed expenditure for the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, \$144,832,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development, \$61,769,000—

Department of Construction, \$188,273,000—

together debated.

Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) addressing the committee—

It being 10.30 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

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The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

*Adjournment negatived:* The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditures agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

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The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

20 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) 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 Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

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PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 14 October 1976, pursuant to statute:

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

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Brown\*, Mr Bungey\*, Mr C. R. Cameron\*, Dr Cass, Mr Chipp\*, Dr Edwards, Mr FitzPatrick\*, Mr Lusher, Mr Martin\*, Mr Moore, Mr Peacock and Mr Simon.

\* On leave

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