

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 61

WEDNESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 1976

1 The House met, at 3 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 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 Jacobi and 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 and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.

Dr J. F. Cairns—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 Chipp—from certain citizens praying that the freeze on European claims to unalienated Crown lands of the Northern Territory be extended and the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976 be amended.

Mr Connolly—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.

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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits.

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 Jull—from certain citizens praying that subsidies for pensioner care in nursing homes be raised and that patients' costs be covered by Medibank.

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that the petrol price equalisation scheme be restored immediately.

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.

Petitions received.

- 3 **MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Lynch (Treasurer) and Senator Cotton (Minister for Industry and Commerce), Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) would act as Treasurer and Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) was acting as Minister for Industry and Commerce. Mr Fraser stated that the Acting Minister for Industry and Commerce would be represented in the Senate by Senator Withers (Minister for Administrative Services).
- 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:
 By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 Department of Overseas Trade—Report for year 1975–76.
 Superannuation scheme for Commonwealth Government employees—Transfer of contributors and pensioners—Report of the Committee of 5, dated October 1976.
 Pursuant to statute:
 Homes Savings Grant Act—Secretary, Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development—Twelfth Annual Report, for year 1975–76.
- 6 **DEFENCE FORCE ACADEMY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the establishment of a Defence Force Academy to provide education at university level for selected members of the Services, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Defence Force Academy—Ministerial statement, 20 October 1976.
 Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
 Debate ensued.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Bourchier), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 7 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence for 1 month be given to the Minister for National Resources (Mr Anthony) on the ground of ill health.
 Question—put and passed.
- 8 **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 failure of the Government to commit itself to the retention of an Australian shipbuilding industry”.
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Young addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 9 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—CHRISTMAS ISLAND AGREEMENT BILL 1976:** Message No. 110, dated 19 October 1976, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to approve an Agreement entered into between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to amend the Christmas Island Agreement 1958*”.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services) 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.
- 10 **MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL:** A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:
 19 October 1976—Message No. 93—States Grants (Capital Assistance) (No. 2) 1976.

- 11 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 Defence, \$2,036,641,000—debated and agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr I. L. Robinson reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 1976-77: 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

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 NEW SOUTH WALES GRANT (NAMOI RIVER WEIRS) 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.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 94, dated 19 August 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 Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—
That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 20 October 1976, pursuant to statute:

Judiciary Act—Rule of Court, dated 20 September 1976 (*in substitution for the paper presented on 5 October 1976*).

Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Social Security—J. D. Boorer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony*, Mr Brown*, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Chipp*, Mr Cotter, Mr Fisher, Mr Lynch, Mr Martin*, Mr O'Keefe, Dr Richardson and Mr Short.

* On leave

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