

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 69

TUESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 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 Beazley, Mr Dobie and Mr J. L. McMahon—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 J. L. McMahon, Mr Stewart and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the 1976-77 Budget be redrafted to provide for economic recovery within the guidelines laid down in the 1975-76 Budget.

Mr Beazley and Mr McLean—from certain citizens praying that the means test on all aged pensions be abolished immediately.

Mr Jones and Mr Morris—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.

Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs)—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 Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—from certain citizens praying that the States Grants (Schools) legislation recommended by the Schools Commission be passed and the Commission's functions, independence and parent and teacher representation be maintained.

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

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

Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens praying that a Sunday be designated and publicised as a national day of prayer for the healing of the nation.

Mr Moore—from certain citizens praying that the Queensland Symphony Orchestra be continued.

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 Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the House call on Sir John Kerr to resign as Governor-General.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Department of the Capital Territory—Report for year 1975–76.

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—ADP equipment and parts, dated 18 August 1976.

Petroleum—Royal Commission—Fifth Report—Towards a national refining policy, dated 7 October 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Dairy Adjustment Act—Dairy Adjustment Programs—Further Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Tasmania, dated 5 October 1976.

Repatriation Act—War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5—Reports for year 1975–76.

5 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:

12 November 1976—Message No. 127—Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AUSTRALIAN LEGAL AID OFFICE: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Bowen had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The systematic dismantling of the Australian Legal Aid Office by the Government".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bowen addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 24 AND 25 (1976): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 24 and 25 (1976).

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

8 DAIRYING INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND PROMOTION LEVY 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 Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), the Bill was read a third time.

9 STATEMENTS: Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), by leave, made a statement correcting an answer given by him earlier this day relating to the distribution from his office, on Thursday, 11 November 1976, of copies of a ministerial statement concerning uranium exports.

Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Bowen, by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.

10 STATES GRANTS (WATER RESOURCES ASSESSMENT) 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. 128, dated 21 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 **PAY-ROLL TAX (TERRITORIES) ASSESSMENT 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 MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 4 to 7, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 13 **QANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED (LOAN GUARANTEE) 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.
- 14 **AIRLINE EQUIPMENT (LOAN GUARANTEE) 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 Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 10 to 14, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 16 **ACTS INTERPRETATION 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 Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 17 **INSURANCE (DEPOSITS) 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 Ellicott (Attorney-General), the Bill was read a third time.
- 18 **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE VETERANS' RESIDENCES 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 McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.
- 19 **ADJOURNMENT:** Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction) 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 2.15 p.m.
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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 16 November 1976, pursuant to statute:

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

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1976/11 Holders of public offices on the Australian Statistics Advisory Council and another body.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 16 November 1976.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 6.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony*, Mr Brown*, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Connolly, Mr Crean, Mr Fife and Mr Nicholls*.

* On leave

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