

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 76

MONDAY, 6 DECEMBER 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 Birney, Mr Connolly, Mr Dobie, Mr Haslem, Mr Hurford, Mr Jacobi and Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.

Mr Hayden and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the House call on Sir John Kerr to resign as Governor-General.

Mr J. L. McMahon 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 Carige—from certain electors of the Division of Capricornia praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that representatives of listeners be included on the proposed Broadcasting Council.

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

Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that a public telephone be installed at the Half-Way House at Coombah, N.S.W.

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 Garland—from certain citizens praying that the House ensure the continuation and growth of the Australian Broadcasting Commission's public concerts program and its symphony orchestras.

Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that all present services provided by the Australian Broadcasting Commission be continued.

Mr Jacobi—from certain citizens praying that Australia take no part in the mining, processing, use, distribution or export of uranium, except for medical purposes and urgent steps be taken to develop alternate, safe energy sources.

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 milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits.

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.

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 Millar—from certain citizens praying that the Prime Minister investigate the impact of the Government's decision relating to mining on Fraser Island.

Mr Moore—from certain citizens praying that the Government (1) cease the mining and export of uranium until safe disposal methods have been guaranteed, (2) increase expenditure on research into safe, clean and inexhaustible sources of energy and (3) aid underdeveloped countries in their efforts to secure a share of world energy resources.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: Mr Speaker presented the following paper:

Australian Constitutional Convention—Resolutions adopted at meeting held in Hobart, 27–29 October 1976.

The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Children's services program—Statement by Senator Guilfoyle (Minister for Social Security), dated 3 December 1976.

Department of Science—Report for year 1975–76.

Indicators of community well-being—Report to Department of Social Security by Professor T. Vinson and Mr R. Homel—

Report, dated September 1976.

Statement by Senator Guilfoyle (Minister for Social Security).

Pursuant to statute:

States Grants (Dwellings for Pensioners) Act—Second Annual Statement by Minister for year 1975–76.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—EMPLOYMENT FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS:

Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Willis had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The grim employment prospects for school leavers".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Willis addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

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

6 December 1976—Message—

No. 160—States Grants (Water Resources Assessment) 1976.

No. 162—Pay-roll Tax (Territories) Assessment Amendment 1976.

No. 163—Roads Acts Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

No. 164—Customs Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

No. 165—Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Amendment 1976.

No. 166—Narcotic Drugs Amendment 1976.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS BILL 1976: Message No. 143, dated 1 December 1976, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act relating to the Protection of Certain Shipwrecks and Relics of Historic Significance*".

Bill read a first time.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—OMBUDSMAN BILL 1976: The following message from the Senate was reported: Message No. 161

Mr Speaker,

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to Provide for the Appointment of a Commonwealth Ombudsman, and to Define his Functions and Powers*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendment indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendment the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

C. L. LAUCKE
President

The Senate
Canberra, 3 December 1976

Ordered—That the amendment be taken into consideration, in committee of the whole House, forthwith.

In the committee

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE

Page 7, clause 5, sub-clause (2), after paragraph (d), insert the following new paragraph:

"(da) action that a person employed in the Public Service of the Northern Territory as a member of the staff of the Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory takes, or purports to take, by virtue of his being a member of that staff;"

On the motion of Mr Ellicott (Attorney-General), the amendment was agreed to, after debate.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Ellicott, the House adopted the report.

9 BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976 [No. 2]: 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 Dr Cass who moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "the House is of the opinion that the Bill should be withdrawn and redrafted because—

- (a) there has been inadequate time for proper public consideration of the Government's proposals in relation to broadcasting;
- (b) it fails to establish a proper basis for public broadcasting in Australia, and
- (c) it is inconsistent with the principles enunciated for the structure of broadcasting in Australia by the report of the Postal and Telecommunications Department on Australian Broadcasting".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

AYES, 67

Mr Adermann	Dr Edwards	Mr Hyde	Mr Millar
Mr Aldred	Mr Ellicott	Mr Jarman	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Baume	Mr Falconer	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Porter
Mr Birney	Mr Fife	Mr Jull	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Bonnett	Mr Fisher	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bouchier	Mr Giles	Mr Kelly	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bradfield	Mr Gillard	Mr Killen	Mr Short
Mr Bungey	Mr Goodluck	Mr King	Mr Staley
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sullivan
Mr Calder	Mr Groom	Mr Lusher	Mr Thomson
Mr Carige	Mr Hamer	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Viner
Mr Chapman	Mr Haslem	Mr McLean	Mr Wentworth
Mr Chipp	Mr Hodges	Mr McLeay	Mr Wilson
Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr W. McMahan	Mr Yates
Mr Cotter	Mr Holten	Mr McVeigh	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Dobie	Mr Howard	Mr Macphee	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Drummond	Mr Hunt	Mr Martyr	Mr Corbett

NOES, 28

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clause 1—

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

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

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

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

6 December 1976—Message—

No. 167—Stevedoring Industry Charge Amendment (No. 2) 1976 (*without requests*).

No. 168—Stevedoring Industry (Temporary Provisions) Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

No. 169—Stevedoring Industry Amendment 1976.

No. 170—Prices Justification Amendment 1976.

No. 171—National Health Amendment (No. 4) 1976.

11 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY: Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 2 to 10, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

12 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT 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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Viner—Minister Assisting the Treasurer), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

13 COUNCIL FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—DISBANDMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the disbandment of the Council for Aboriginal Affairs.

Mr L. R. Johnson, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

Mr Bryant asked leave to make a statement in connection with the matter.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

14 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT 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.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

- 15 LOAN (INCOME EQUALIZATION DEPOSITS) 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.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 140, dated 1 December 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 LOAN (DROUGHT BONDS) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 17 INCOME TAX (COMPANIES AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 18 SEAMEN'S COMPENSATION 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.

Adjournment negatived: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr Hunt (Minister representing the Minister for Social Security) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

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

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hunt, the Bill was read a third time.

- 19 COMPENSATION (COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) 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.
- 20 UNITED STATES NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION (CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES) 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.

21 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) 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 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 6 December 1976, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 257.

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificates—R. I. Campbell, M. F. Tory.

Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 259.

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

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 255.

Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 256.

Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 258.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony*, Mr Baillieu, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Cadman, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Hayden, Mr Nicholls and Mr Simon.

* On leave

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