

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**

No. 3

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 1977

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 Adermann, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Carige, Mr Corbett, Mr Drummond, Mr Giles, Mr Hyde, Mr Kelly, Mr Porter, Dr Richardson, Mr Thomson and Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.

Mr Cohen, Dr Klugman, Mr W. McMahon, Mr Neil, Mr Sinclair and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that increases in the Consumer Price Index be applied to pensions and that future pensions be not reduced as a result of any revision of the Index.

Mr Bradfield, Mr Fife and Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads for the funding of local roads in New South Wales be adopted.

Mr King, Mr Lloyd and Mr Simon—from certain citizens praying that the Government totally finance national highways and provide half the cost of all other public roads.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the zone allowance provisions in the Income Tax Assessment Act be varied.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that an Australian Broadcasting Commission television service be established at Moranbah, Qld.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.

Mr Newman—from certain citizens praying that the mining and sale of uranium be banned.

Mr Newman—from certain citizens praying that further subdivision in the Ruthven Way-Vasey Concourse area in the Shires of Ringwood and Croydon, Vic. be halted and the area be preserved as part of the National Estate.

Mr Newman—from certain citizens praying that cuts in funds for the Australian Heritage Commission be restored and the allocation increased.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that an organisation concerned with better quality television for children be created.

Mr E. G. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Libraries be implemented.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION—SUMMARY OF FIRST REPORT OF NATIONAL POPULATION INQUIRY—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Australia's population—Summary by the Australian Population and Immigration Council of the First Report of the National Population Inquiry.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) 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 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:  
States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes to—  
South Australia—Danggali Conservation Park, dated 10 February 1977.  
Western Australia, dated 22 February 1977.
- 6 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Speaker informed the House that the Leader of the Opposition had nominated Mr Beazley to be a member of the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs in place of Mr Wallis, resigned.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—LEBANESE REFUGEES: 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 Government’s incompetent handling of the Lebanese refugee problem”.  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Innes addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
- 8 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Act 1971*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Sinclair 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.
- 9 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Export Duty Act 1971*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Sinclair 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 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION EXPORT DUTY COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Export Duty Collection Act 1971*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Sinclair 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.
- 11 PROPOSED SESSIONAL ORDERS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notices Nos. 2-8, moved the following motions together, by leave:  
*Hours of meeting and adjournment of sitting:*
- (1) That, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet for the despatch of business on each Tuesday and Wednesday at 2.15 p.m. and on each Thursday at 10.30 a.m.
  - (2) That, unless otherwise ordered, at 10.30 p.m. on each sitting day the Speaker shall propose the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate; if the House be in committee at the time stated, the Chairman shall report progress and upon such report being made the Speaker shall forthwith propose the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate.

Provided that:

- (a) if a division be in progress at the time fixed for interruption such division shall be completed and the result announced,
- (b) if, on the question—That the House do now adjourn—being proposed, a Minister requires the question to be put forthwith without debate, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question,
- (c) nothing in this order shall operate to prevent a motion for the adjournment of the House being moved by a Minister at an earlier hour,
- (d) any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the adjournment shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting, and
- (e) if the question—That the House do now adjourn—is negatived, the House or committee shall resume the proceedings at the point at which they had been interrupted.

Provided further that, if at 11 p.m. the question before the House is—That the House do now adjourn—the Speaker shall interrupt the debate, at which time—

- (f) a Minister may require that the debate be extended until 11.10 p.m. to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised in the preceding adjournment debate; at 11.10 p.m., or upon the earlier cessation of the debate, the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting, or
- (g) if no action is taken by a Minister under paragraph (f), the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting.

*Adjournment debate—Time limits:*

That, in lieu of the time limit specified in standing order 91 for speeches on the “Motion for adjournment of House to terminate the sitting—”, the following time limit shall operate:

“Each Member . . . 5 minutes (no extension of time to be granted):

Provided that, if no other Member rises to address the House, a Member who has already spoken to the motion may speak a second time for a period not exceeding 5 minutes”.

*Routine of business:*

- (1) That, unless otherwise ordered, on those alternate sitting Thursdays when grievance debate is the first order of the day, government business, under standing order 106 or when general business has precedence on the Notice Paper under standing order 104, so much of standing order 101 (routine of business) be suspended as would prevent grievance debate or general business, as the case may be, following “5. Ministerial statements, by leave” and preceding “6. Matter of public importance”.
- (2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this sessional order shall operate for the remainder of this period of sittings.

*Select committee reports:*

That, unless otherwise ordered, for the remainder of this period of sittings, so much of standing order 343 be suspended as would prevent a protest or dissent being added to the report of a select committee of this House.

*Quorum—Count of Members:*

- (1) That, for the purposes of determining a quorum of Members, a Member who is in any of the lower galleries or officials’ seats, behind the bar of the House or in either of the side alcoves at the time when the attention of the Speaker or the Chairman of Committees is called to the lack of a quorum or who remains in any of those areas after attention has been so called, shall not be counted to determine whether a quorum is present.
- (2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this sessional order shall operate for the remainder of this period of sittings.

*Quorum:*

- (1) That, unless otherwise ordered, for the remainder of this period of sittings, if it appears that a quorum of Members is not present following—
  - (a) the report by the tellers of a division of the House (standing order 44),

- (b) the counting of the House after a Member has drawn attention to the want of a quorum (standing order 45),
- (c) the report by the Chairman of Committees that a quorum is not present in consequence of a report by the tellers of a division of the committee or the counting of the committee, and the Speaker orders the counting of the House (standing order 46)—

the Speaker may, if he is satisfied that there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time, announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; if at that stated time there be not a quorum present the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting day.

- (2) That the provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

*Division bells:*

That, unless otherwise ordered, for the remainder of this period of sittings, when successive divisions are taken, and there is no intervening debate after the first division, so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the division bells for the ensuing division being rung for 1 minute only.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Bourchier), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

12 COMMONWEALTH DAY: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, moved—

- (1) That this House—

- (a) notes the agreement of governments of the member countries of the Commonwealth that from this year the second Monday in March shall be observed throughout the Commonwealth as Commonwealth Day;
- (b) notes the common heritage which member countries of the Commonwealth share;
- (c) commends the maintenance of the institution of the Commonwealth as a unique forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas between member countries, irrespective of race, creed, culture or colour;
- (d) commends the observance of Commonwealth Day as an opportunity for all Australians to re-affirm their commitment to the Commonwealth, and
- (e) notes with pleasure that Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, will be present in Australia on Commonwealth Day in 1977.

- (2) That the terms of this resolution be conveyed to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

13 SESSIONAL ORDERS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motions of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) relating to proposed sessional orders (*see* entry No. 11, pages 8-10)—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the motions be agreed to—put and passed.

14 TOURISM—SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Howard (Minister representing the Minister for Industry and Commerce), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Select Committee be appointed:

- (a) to examine the significance and potential of tourism in the Australian economy and whether it has special features in comparison with other industries, with particular reference to its effects on:
  - (i) employment,
  - (ii) balance of payments aspects,
  - (iii) the community's knowledge of Australia and the Australian heritage,
  - (iv) community health and welfare, and
  - (v) regional development and decentralisation;

- (b) to identify the short and long term issues facing the industry in Australia;
  - (c) to examine the importance of the various modes of transport in the development of tourism to and within Australia;
  - (d) to examine the roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth, State and local governments and the industry in relation to the development and promotion of tourism;
  - (e) to assess the adequacy and the availability of statistical and other information relating to tourism, and
  - (f) to report on its investigations into these matters and to recommend action that might be taken by the Commonwealth Government or by the Commonwealth Government in co-operation with State and local governments and the tourist industry to alleviate any problems identified by the committee during the course of its investigations.
- (2) That the committee recognise the responsibility of the States in these matters and seek their co-operation in all relevant aspects.
  - (3) That the committee consist of 8 members, 5 to be nominated by the Prime Minister and 3 to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition.
  - (4) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the Speaker.
  - (5) That the committee elect as Chairman of the committee one of the members nominated by the Prime Minister.
  - (6) That the committee elect a Deputy Chairman who shall perform the duties of the Chairman of the committee at any time when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are not present shall elect another member to perform the duties of the Chairman at that meeting.
  - (7) That the committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of 3 or more of its members, and to appoint the Chairman of each sub-committee who shall have a casting vote only, and refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
  - (8) That a majority of the members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee.
  - (9) That members of the committee who are not members of a sub-committee may take part in the public proceedings of that sub-committee but shall not vote or move any motion or constitute a quorum.
  - (10) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.
  - (11) That the committee have power to move from place to place.
  - (12) That any sub-committee have power to move from place to place, adjourn from time to time and to sit during any sittings or adjournment.
  - (13) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to authorise publication of any evidence given before it and any document presented to it.
  - (14) That the committee be provided with necessary staff, facilities and resources.
  - (15) That the committee in selecting particular matters for investigation take account of the investigations of other Parliamentary committees and avoid duplication.
  - (16) That the committee have leave to report from time to time and that any member of the committee have power to add a protest or dissent to the committee's report.
  - (17) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to consider and make use of the minutes of evidence and records of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Tourism appointed in the First Session of the Thirtieth Parliament.
  - (18) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

15 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—PROPOSED JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a Joint Select Committee be appointed to examine and report on—
  - (a) the operation of provisions of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* relating to the identification of traditional owners of Aboriginal land and the means of establishing the views of such owners to the satisfaction of the relevant Land Council;
  - (b) the adequacy of provisions of the laws of the Northern Territory relating to entry to Aboriginal land, the protection of sites of significance, wildlife conservation and entry to seas adjoining Aboriginal land, and
  - (c) any other matters referred by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.
- (2) That the committee consist of the 5 members of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs nominated by the Prime Minister, the 3 members of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, and 3 Senators nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and 3 Senators nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (3) That every nomination of a member of the committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the committee elect as Chairman of the committee one of the members nominated by the Prime Minister or by the Leader of the Government in the Senate.
- (5) That the committee elect a Deputy Chairman who shall perform the duties of the Chairman of the committee at any time when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the committee, and at any time when the Chairman and Deputy Chairman are not present at a meeting of the committee, the members present shall elect another member to perform the duties of the Chairman at that meeting.
- (6) That the committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of 3 or more of its members and to refer to any such sub-committee any of the matters which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (7) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons papers and records, to move from place to place and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament.
- (8) That 7 members of the committee constitute a quorum of the committee, and a majority of the members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee.
- (9) That in matters of procedure the Chairman or Deputy Chairman presiding at the meeting have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of voting, have a casting vote, and that, in other matters, the Chairman or Deputy Chairman have a deliberative vote only.
- (10) That the committee be provided with all necessary staff, facilities and resources.
- (11) That the committee or a sub-committee have power to authorise publication of any evidence given before it and any document presented to it.
- (12) That the committee have leave to report from time to time, that its final report be presented by 18 August 1977 and that any member of the committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report.
- (13) That the committee or any sub-committee have power to consider and make use of the minutes of evidence and records of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory appointed during the First Session of the Thirtieth Parliament.
- (14) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.
- (15) That a message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

16 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE—ABORIGINAL HEALTH: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That the following matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs: The health problems of Aborigines with particular attention to—
  - (a) the prevalence of different types of disease suffered by Aborigines and Aboriginal communities;
  - (b) the relationship between Aboriginal health and environmental, social and cultural factors;
  - (c) the effectiveness of existing health care programs for Aborigines generally, and the adequacy of Western European-type health services to cope with the health problems of Aborigines, and
  - (d) alternative methods of health care delivery that take account of Aborigines' life styles, including camp situations.
- (2) That the committee consider ways and means by which—
  - (a) persons with appropriate qualifications can be encouraged to assist Aborigines achieve a better standard of health, and
  - (b) Aborigines including traditional healers can participate in the development and delivery of health care services to their own communities, and in any modification of existing services.
- (3) That the committee recommend possible courses of action.

Question—put and passed.

17 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE SPEECH OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of Her Majesty The Queen be agreed to:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN:

We, Your Majesty's loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

The presence in Australia of Your Majesty and of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh has once again brought the greatest pleasure to Your Australian people. We, their representatives in this House, are grateful for the opportunity to re-affirm our allegiance to you as our Queen.

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Goodluck addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.55 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

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PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 10 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement of particulars of direction given by Minister under sub-section 7 (3).

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Connor, Mr Falconer, Mr FitzPatrick and Mr Nicholls.

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J. A. PETTIFER,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives