

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 7

TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 1977

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- 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 Braithwaite, Mr Carige, Mr Corbett, Mr Groom, Mr Kelly, Mr McLean, Mr McVeigh, Mr E. L. Robinson and Mr Thomson—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.
- Mr Baume, Dr Klugman and Mr I. L. Robinson—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 Drummond and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying that an inquiry be made into the Australian Legal Aid Office.
- Mr Bradfield—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 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 Chipp—from certain citizens praying that international action be initiated against the ban on the import of flour and flour products into the U.S.S.R. which will restrict the observance of the Passover festival by Soviet Jews.
- Mr Katter—from certain citizens praying that representatives of the Rhodesian Government be invited to Australia.
- Mr Lynch—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be continued.
- Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.
- Mr Simon—from certain citizens praying that the Government totally finance national highways and provide half the cost of all other public roads.
- Petitions received.
- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs.
- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—
- Paper:* Mr Morris, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Lynch (Treasurer)—
- Mr Lynch laid upon the Table the following paper:
- Housing industry activity—Minister's notes, dated 22 March 1977.
- Questions without notice continued.

5 PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Representation Act—Notification of determination by the Chief Australian Electoral Officer of the number of Members of the House of Representatives to be chosen in the several States, dated 21 March 1977.

Pursuant to statute:

Representation Act—Certificate of the Chief Australian Electoral Officer of the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth and of the several States as at 21 March 1977.

Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the papers.

6 COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE—ADDITIONAL SERVICES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:

Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the provision, on a trial basis, of additional services at selected offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service.

Mr Willis, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

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

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

7 FIRE BRIGADES—PROTECTION OF COMMONWEALTH PROPERTY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:

Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of new financial arrangements in respect of the protection of Commonwealth property by fire brigade services in the States.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ECONOMIC GROWTH—PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hurford had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The misleading statement by the Prime Minister that the national accounts showed Australia's economic growth was back to normal".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hurford addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 17 March 1977*), viz.:

Immigration policies and Australia's population—Report by the Australian Population and Immigration Council—
Report.

Ministerial statement, 17 March 1977—

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Innes speaking for a period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate resumed.

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

10 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.

Mr Baume addressing the House—

11 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—

Notice Paper changes—Statement by Mr Speaker: Mr Speaker made a statement with reference to changes in the printing of questions on the Notice Paper.

Mr Speaker proposed the question—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.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

Australian National University Act—Statute—No. 118—Academic and Ceremonial Dress Amendment No. 6.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 6—Local Government (No. 3) 1976.

No. 7—Traffic (No. 3) 1976.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Burr, Dr J. F. Cairns, Mr Cohen, Mr Falconer, Mr MacKenzie, Mr Nicholls, Mr Peacock, Mr Simon and Mr Staley.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives