

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 8

WEDNESDAY, 23 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 **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR:** Mr Speaker informed the House that the Honourable Tupuola Efi, M.P., Prime Minister of Western Samoa, was within the precincts. With the concurrence of honourable Members, the distinguished visitor was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Abel, Mr Armitage, Mr Baume, Mr Bradfield, Mr Ellicott, Mr Fife, Dr Klugman, Mr Lucock, Mr Neil, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Sinclair and Mr Sullivan—from certain members of the Service Station Association of N.S.W. Ltd and others praying that in implementing the findings of the Royal Commission on Petroleum the needs of the motoring public and retail petroleum industry be given every consideration.
 - Mr Bonnett, Mr Braithwaite, Mr Goodluck, Mr McVeigh and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that the Government's long-term policy be to provide 50 per cent of funds for roads.
 - Mr Gillard, Dr Klugman, Mr W. McMahon, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Sinclair—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 Bouchier and Mr Lloyd—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 Cadman—from certain citizens praying that the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Libraries be implemented.
 - Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the continuation and growth of symphony orchestras throughout Australia be ensured.
 Petitions received.
 - 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 5 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 - Nuclear safeguards—Copies of letters, dated 4 February 1977, from the Prime Minister to the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Canada, together with a copy of a reply from President Carter, dated 11 March 1977.

Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:

Securities Industry Act of New South Wales—Report of Inspector on certain matters concerning Patrick Partners from 1 July 1974 to 6 August 1975—Part 1, dated 21 December 1976.

6 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—GENERAL REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Kelly (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:

Public Works Committee Act—Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works—40th General Report.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Kelly and Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MEDIBANK: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Dr Cass had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government's Medibank changes to satisfy the community's need for health insurance".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Cass addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTION) BILL 1977: 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 Sainsbury), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

9 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY: Ordered—That order of the day No. 2, government business, be postponed until 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.

Papers: Mr Calder, by leave, during his speech, presented the following papers:

Aboriginal land claims in the Northern Territory—

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976—Objections of traditional Aboriginal landowners—Summary statement, together with transcripts of discussions and submissions.

Copy of letter, dated 14 March 1977, from Mr P. Willson, Associate to His Honour Mr Justice Ward, to Mr W. T. Hare, Director, Northern Territory Reserves Board, with attachment.

Debate continued.

Dr Edwards addressing the House—

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

The House continuing to sit until 11.03 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 March 1977, pursuant to statute:

Christmas Island Act—

Ordinances—1977—

No. 1—Prohibited Imports.

No. 2—Importation of Dogs and Cats (Amendment).

No. 3—Wild Animals and Birds (Amendment).

Regulations—1977—No. 1 (Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance of the Colony of Singapore in its application to, and as in force in, the Territory of Christmas Island).

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Crown Lands Ordinance—Statements of reasons by Minister for revocation of land reserved in the Northern Territory at—

Alice Springs

Katherine

States Grants (Schools) Act 1976—Statement of particulars of direction given by Minister under sub-section 33 (4).

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

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