

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 15

THURSDAY, 21 APRIL 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 Abel, Mr Cadman, Dr Klugman, Mr Uren and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that increases in the Consumer Price Index be applied to pensions and that future pensions not be reduced as a result of any revision of the Index.

Mr Cadman and Mr Uren—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 the retail petroleum industry be given every consideration.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that private clinics be prevented from performing abortions in the A.C.T. and that abortions not be financed through Medibank.

Mr Fry—from certain electors of the Division of Fraser praying that the staffing level of salaried medical practitioners be restored at Kippax and other A.C.T. health centres.

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

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

Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that education policies and funding priorities reflect public concern and be based on needs, as expressed by certain education authorities.

Mr Wilson—from certain students of Highbury Primary School, S.A., praying that nuclear waste not be dumped near Ayers Rock, N.T.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Price and wage increases—3 month pause—Copies of—

Commonwealth submission to Conciliation and Arbitration Commission on 19 April 1977 in national wage case.

Letter from Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) to the Hon. Mr Justice L. H. Williams, Chairman, Prices Justification Tribunal.

Judgment by Sir John Moore, President of the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, on 19 April 1977 in part heard national wage case.

Lists of—

Employer representatives who met with the Prime Minister and other Ministers, 15 April 1977.

Employee representatives who met with the Prime Minister and other Ministers, 20 April 1977.

Organisations with which the Government has sought co-operation and support. Message to all Australians by Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) advertised in daily newspapers in all capital cities, 16 April 1977.

Press statements by Prime Minister dated—

14 April 1977—Message to employer and employee organisations.

18 April 1977—Income and price restraint.

Statement of determinations made by the Government to specific issues.

Telex messages from Prime Minister to—

Mr J. Burgess, Director, Textile Council of Australia, and the heads of other organisations, dated 14 April 1977.

Ministers, dated 15 April 1977.

Premiers, dated 20 April 1977.

5 ELECTORAL REDISTRIBUTION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the forthcoming electoral redistribution and the appointment of Distribution Commissioners.

6 UNEMPLOYMENT—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE: Mr Willis, pursuant to notice, moved—That a Joint Committee be established to inquire into and report on unemployment in Australia with special reference to:

- (1) the extent of unemployment and the degree to which it has become a long term problem;
- (2) the degree to which unemployment bears particularly upon certain industries, regions and sectors of the workforce;
- (3) the social implications of prolonged large-scale unemployment;
- (4) the applicability to Australia of innovative employment creating schemes operating in other comparable countries;
- (5) the extent to which unemployment could be reduced by implementing and expanding manpower programs;
- (6) other means by which unemployment could be reduced, and
- (7) the extent and nature of possible conflict between the objective of reducing unemployment and other policy objectives.

Debate ensued.

Mr Scholes addressing the House—

Closure: Mr Bouchier moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—

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

AYES, 29

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

NOES, 63

Mr Adermann	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr Porter
Mr Aldred	Mr Ellicott	Mr King	Dr Richardson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Falconer	Mr Lloyd	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Bonnett	Mr Fife	Mr Lusher	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Bouchier	Mr Garland	Mr Lynch	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bradfield	Mr Giles	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Graham	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bungey	Mr Hamer	Mr McLean	Mr Staley
Mr Burr	Mr Haslem	Mr W. McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodges	Mr McVeigh	Mr Sullivan
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Hodgman	Mr Millar	Mr Thomson
Mr Calder	Mr Holten	Mr Moore	Mr Wentworth
Mr Carige	Mr Howard	Mr Neil	Mr Wilson
Mr Chapman	Mr Hunt	Mr Newman	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Cotter	Mr Hyde	Mr Nixon	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Drummond	Mr Kelly	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Corbett

And so it was negatived.

- 7 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Mr Wentworth, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in the opinion of this House, the system of unemployment benefits should be restructured so that some of the current abuses of the scheme can be avoided and, at the same time, more adequate assistance can be given to genuine cases in real need.
The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Wentworth was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Neil had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, Mr Speaker had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr E. G. Whitlam, namely, “The Fraser Government’s improper and unfair efforts to deny unemployment benefits to eligible persons”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 9 PAPER: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
Prices and wages pause—Summary of messages of support.
- 10 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:
20 April 1977—Message No. 5—Referendum (Constitution Alteration) Modification 1977.
- 11 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the Law relating to Income Tax.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 INCOME TAX (COMPANIES AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Income Tax (Companies and Superannuation Funds) Act 1976*.
Bill read a first time.
Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE AND APPROPRIATION FOR PAYMENT OF INCREASES IN SALARIES AND WAGES FOR YEAR, 1976–77—APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 3) 1976–77: Message No. 6, dated 21 April 1977, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced—
- (a) transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1977, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly, and
 - (b) recommending to the House of Representatives an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1977, for the payment of such increases in salaries and wages and payments in the nature of salary, for which provision is made in the attached particulars of proposed

- additional expenditure as have become payable or become payable, or have commenced or commence to be paid, during that year in accordance with any law, or in accordance with an award, order or determination made under a law.
- Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sums appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1976-77*, for the service of the year ending on 30 June 1977.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, CERTAIN PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE 1976-77—APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 4) 1976-77: Message No. 7, dated 21 April 1977, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced transmitting to the House of Representatives particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1977, and recommending an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.
- Mr Lynch (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, additional to the sum appropriated by the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1976-77*, for certain expenditure in respect of the year ending on 30 June 1977.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Lynch moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 STATES GRANTS (DWELLINGS FOR PENSIONERS) AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Dwellings for Pensioners) Act 1974*.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Newman moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 16 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION, WALLGROVE, N.S.W.: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a proposed animal quarantine station, Wallgrove, N.S.W.
- Mr McLeay presented drawings in connection with the proposed work.
- Debate ensued.
- Question—put and passed.
- 17 AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT BOUNTY 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 P. F. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.
- 18 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 10 (1977): Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 10 (1977).
- Debate adjourned (Mr Young), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 19 **AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING EQUIPMENT BOUNTY 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 8, dated 31 March 1977, 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 Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 20 **BED SHEETING BOUNTY 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 9, dated 31 March 1977, 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 Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 21 **AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS BOUNTY AMENDMENT 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—
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 10, dated 31 March 1977, 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 Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 22 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—TERTIARY EDUCATION COMMISSION BILL 1977:** Message No. 9, dated 21 April 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to make provision for and in relation to the Establishment of a Tertiary Education Commission*".
Bill read a first time.
Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 23 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—COMMONWEALTH TEACHING SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 1977:** Message No. 10, dated 21 April 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Commonwealth Teaching Service Act 1972'*".
Bill read a first time.
Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr L. R. Johnson), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 24 **URANIUM INDUSTRY:** Mr Nixon (Acting Minister for National Resources), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in the opinion of this House, the question of further development of the Australian uranium industry, other than to meet export arrangements entered into before December 1972, and the safeguards to be applied to exports under any future contracts should be the subject of further public debate.
Debate ensued.

Mr Chipp moved, as an amendment—That the following words be added to the motion: “and that the House is of the opinion that there should be a moratorium of at least 2 years on the mining and exporting of uranium, as mentioned in the Fox Report, to allow sufficient time for public debate, as recommended by the Fox Report, and for further research into the risks involved and possible future energy sources”.

Debate continued.

Mr Wentworth addressing the House—

25 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 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Dobie, Mr Groom, Mr Jarman, Mr Nicholls*, Mr Peacock and Mr Viner.

* On leave

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