

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 36

TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 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 **MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND ARRANGEMENTS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that His Excellency the Governor-General had this day accepted the resignation of Mr Ellicott as Attorney-General and had subsequently appointed Senator Durack, formerly Minister for Veterans' Affairs, as Attorney-General. Mr Garland had been appointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs. Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) would represent the Attorney-General in this House and Senator Durack would represent the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the Senate.
 - 3 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—STATEMENT BY MEMBER:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the honourable Member for Wentworth from making a statement to this House.
Question—put and passed.
 - 4 **MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH (MR ELLICOTT)—RESIGNATION FROM MINISTRY—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Ellicott made a statement with respect to his resignation from the portfolio of Attorney-General.
Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) and Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.
Mr Bowen asked leave to make a statement.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.
 - 5 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
Mr Baume, Mr Chapman, Mr Cohen, Mr Giles, Mr Goodluck, Mr Hunt, Mr Lucock, Mr McLeay, Mr Moore, Mr Wentworth, Mr E. G. Whitlam and Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
Mr Beazley, Mr Garland, Mr Howard and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions be reversed.
Mr Bryant and Mr Falconer—from certain students in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
Mr Bowen, Mr Bryant, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Hurford, Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that public debate on a replacement constitution be encouraged, a directly elected constitutional convention be convened and a referendum be conducted on its resolutions.
Mr Dobie, Mr Hunt, Mr L. R. Johnson, Dr Klugman, Mr Morris and Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that private nursing homes be subsidised to allow pensioner patients to retain \$6 per week for personal use and that certain other action be taken in connection with pensioner benefits.

Mr Armitage, Dr Klugman, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that there be no self-regulation in the broadcasting and television media and that the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal be dismissed.

Mr Connolly, Mr Howard and Mr Wentworth—from certain citizens praying that the part of a deceased person's estate which passes to the surviving spouse be free from federal estate duty.

Mr Holten and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.

Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr Morris—from certain members of the Australian Association for Better Hearing and others praying that consideration be given to waiving costs for special telephone equipment required by hearing impaired members of the public.

Mr P. F. Johnson and Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that stricter control over television and radio programs be implemented.

Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that a gambling casino not be established in the Australian Capital Territory.

Mr Bryant—from certain citizens of the Australian Capital Territory praying that certain action be taken to maintain and extend children's library facilities in the A.C.T.

Mr Cohen—from certain citizens praying that Australian Government support for the Australian Assistance Plan be continued.

Mr Goodluck—from certain members of Parents Without Partners (Australia) Inc. and others praying that lone fathers receive a pension on the same basis as supporting mothers.

Mr Goodluck—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 Hamer—from certain citizens praying that any change to the Australia Council's Community Arts Program be postponed until consultation takes place between the Government and the groups involved.

Mr Haslem—from certain citizens praying that a portion of Canberra Avenue in the A.C.T. be kept free of heavy vehicles.

Mr Innes—from certain citizens and residents from overseas praying that political asylum be granted to Mr Hishamuddin Rais.

Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that a certain member of the Schools Commission be prevented from directing public criticism of an objectionable kind towards the Minister for Education.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained and certain other action be taken in connection with the A.B.C. and broadcasting.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that the means test on aged pensions be abolished.

Mr Simon—from certain citizens of the Division of McMillan praying that estate duty be phased out over the next 5 years.

Petitions received.

- 6 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS MOVED: Mr Neil having given a notice of motion—
Mr Young moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the honourable Member for St George moving forthwith the motion of which he has given notice for the next sitting.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

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

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

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Mr Aldred	Mr Falconer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Anthony	Mr Fisher	Mr Lucock	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Baillieu	Mr Garland	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Baume	Mr Gillard	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Short
Mr Birney	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLean	Mr Simon
Mr Bouchier	Mr Graham	Mr McLeay	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bradfield	Mr Groom	Sir William McMahon	Mr Staley
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Hamer	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr Brown	Mr Haslem	Mr Macphree	Mr Sullivan
Mr Bungey	Mr Hodges	Mr Martyr	Mr Thomson
Mr Burr	Mr Howard	Mr Millar	Mr Viner
Mr Cadman	Mr Hunt	Mr Moore	Mr Wentworth
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Hyde	Mr Newman	Mr Wilson
Mr Calder	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	Mr Yates
Mr Carige	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O'Keefe	
Mr Chapman	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock	
Mr Connolly	Mr Katter	Mr Porter	
Mr Cotter	Mr Kelly	Dr Richardson	<i>Tellers:</i>
Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr E. L. Robinson	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Ellicott	Mr King	Mr I. L. Robinson	Mr Corbett

And so it was negatived.

7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Darwin Reconstruction Act—Darwin Reconstruction Commission—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Medical Research Endowment Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for 1975.

Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) (Superannuation) Regulations—Papua New Guinea Superannuation Board—Report of Commissioner for year 1972–73.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement of financial assistance granted to each State in 1976.

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

25 August 1977—Message—

No. 67—Diesel Fuel Tax (No. 1) Amendment 1977 (*without requests*).

No. 68—Diesel Fuel Tax (No. 2) Amendment 1977 (*without requests*).

No. 69—Liquefied Gas (Road Vehicle Use) Tax Amendment 1977 (*without requests*).

No. 70—International Fund for Agricultural Development 1977.

9 MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILL: A message from His Excellency the Administrator was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill:

26 August 1977—Message No. 45—International Development Association (Further Payment) 1977.

- 10 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—FARM OPERATING COSTS: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Keating and Mr Hodgman 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, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Keating, namely, "Government actions responsible for substantial increases in farm operating costs".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Keating addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1977: Message No. 71, dated 25 August 1977, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Family Law Act 1975' to fix a maximum age for Judges of the Family Court of Australia and for related purposes*".

Bill read a first time.

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

- 12 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1977-78—BUDGET DEBATE: 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 Wentworth), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 13 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that the Prime Minister had nominated Mr Baillieu to be a member of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory in place of Mr MacKenzie, resigned.

- 14 URANIUM—AUSTRALIAN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS—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 Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the papers (*presented on 25 August 1977*), viz.:

Uranium—Australian policy—Ministerial statements, 25 August 1977—

Australian policy—Mr Fraser (Prime Minister).

Development decisions—Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources).

Environmental protection—Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development).

Health aspects of development—Mr Hunt (Minister for Health).

Impacts on Aboriginal society—Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).

International implications—Mr Sinclair (Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs)—

And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition), viz.—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "this House rejects the Government's precipitate decision, without sufficient public debate in Australia and negotiation overseas, to renew the mining and export of uranium by Australia in the absence of:

- (a) commitments by customer countries to apply effective and verifiable safeguards against the diversion of Australian uranium from peaceful nuclear purposes to military nuclear purposes,
- (b) international safeguards which will ensure that the export of Australian uranium will not contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increased risk of nuclear war,
- (c) procedures for the storage and disposal of radio-active wastes which will eliminate any danger posed by such wastes to human life and the environment, and
- (d) adequate measures to safeguard the environment and national parks and protect Aboriginal rights and interests"—

Debate resumed.

Mr Calder addressing the House—

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

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.05 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 6 September 1977, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 142.

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 136.

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificates—A. R. Coleman, A. J. Jackson, D. P. Stanton.

Curriculum Development Centre Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 144.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 137.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, Nos. 140, 141.

Defence Act, Naval Defence Act and Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, Nos. 138, 139.

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

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 143.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 40—Building Societies.

No. 41—Pharmacy.

Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 145.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1977—

No. 560—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.†

Nos. 561 and 562—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 563—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.

No. 564—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

No. 565—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

No. 566—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia and others.

No. 567—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia.

No. 568—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

No. 569—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.

No. 572—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.

No. 573—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.

Nos. 574 and 575—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

No. 576—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.

Nos. 577 to 587—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 588—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

(†Not accompanied by statement)

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1977—

No. 36—Attachment of Wages Limitation (Amendment).

No. 37—Motor Traffic (Amendment) (No. 4).

No. 38—Companies (Amendment).

No. 39—Public Health (Prohibited Drugs) (Amendment).

No. 40—Venereal Diseases (Amendment).

No. 41—Alsatian Dogs (Repeal).

No. 42—Dog Control (Amendment).

Regulations—1977—

No. 18 (Motor Traffic Ordinance).

No. 19 (Companies Ordinance).

No. 20 (Business Names Ordinance).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Abel, Mr Adermann, Mr Bonnett, Mr Chipp, Mr Dobie, Mr Drummond, Mr Fife, Mr Fry, Mr Garrick, Mr Holten, Dr Jenkins, Mr Lusher, Mr Nicholls, Mr Scholes and Mr Wallis.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives