

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 37

WEDNESDAY, 7 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 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Bradfield, Dr Edwards, Mr Lucock, Mr McLeay and Mr E. L. Robinson—
from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Mr Abel and Mr Ruddock—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 D. M. Cameron and Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying for the implementation of stricter control over television and radio programs.
 - Dr Cass and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to end commercial whaling.
 - Mr Lusher and Mr McLean—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 Abel—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 Bradfield—from certain citizens praying for the reversal of the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions.
 - Mr Burr—from certain citizens praying that a repeater station be installed to improve Australian Broadcasting Commission radio reception in the Swansea area, Tas.
 - Mr Crean—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 Fisher—from certain citizens praying that unemployment beneficiaries be allowed to earn up to \$20 per week before unemployment benefits are reduced.
 - Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying that private clinics be prevented from performing abortions in the A.C.T.
 - Mr Katter—from certain citizens praying that representatives of the Rhodesian Government be invited to Australia.
 - Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that any legislation permitting abortions to be carried out in the A.C.T. be opposed.
 - Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens of Sydney, N.S.W., praying that the principles on which federal funding for education are based be re-examined and that certain powers be restored to the Australian Schools Commission.
 - Mr Short—from certain employees of the shoe manufacturing industry, Ballarat, Vic., praying that the Industries Assistance Commission operate as an effective advisory body and that a viable shoe manufacturing industry be retained.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Department of Education—Report for 1976.

Norfolk Island—Report for year 1975–76.

Pursuant to statute:

Curriculum Development Centre Act—Curriculum Development Centre Council—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975–76.

Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operation of Act for 1976.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreement, dated 15 August 1977, relating to financial assistance to New South Wales and Victoria for reimbursement to landholders (Albury-Wodonga).

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS:

Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Young 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 Young, namely, "The complete failure of the Government to provide structural adjustment programs".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Young addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1977: The order of the day having been read for the second reading—Mr Howard (Minister representing the Attorney-General) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

7 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 Young addressing the House—

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

Mr Howard (Minister for Special Trade Negotiations) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Debate continued.

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

8 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Staley (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11.54 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 September 1977, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff Act—Orders—

Developing country—Nos. 4, 5, 6 (1977).

Exemption from primage duty—No. 1 (1977).

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land acquired for—

Road widening purposes—Alice Springs, N.T.

Telecommunications purposes—Cardiff, N.S.W.

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

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 15.

Telecommunications (Staff)—Amendment No. 14.

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

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