

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 51

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 1977

1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Acting Speaker (Mr Lucock) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

2 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Mr Connolly, Mr Dobie and Mr A. P. Whitlam—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 Dobie and Mr Macphee—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying for the negotiation of an excursion air fare for all points in Europe at the level currently charged to Great Britain and certain major European cities.

Mr MacKellar—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 Morris—from certain citizens praying that the Council of the Australian National Gallery have the right to purchase major works of art without Cabinet intervention and that the decision to reject the Council's recommendation to purchase *Grand Nu* be revoked.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Honey Board—Interim report for year 1976–77.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Shipping Commission Act—Australian Shipping Commission—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Commonwealth Electoral Act—Redistribution of Electoral Divisions, 1977—Reports, with Maps, by the Distribution Commissioners (Volumes I) for the States of—

Queensland.

South Australia.

Western Australia.

Suggestions, comments or objections lodged with the Distribution Commissioners (Volumes II) for the States of—

Queensland (with Maps—Appendix to Volume II).

South Australia.

Western Australia.

Ordered—That the Reports, with Maps, by the Distribution Commissioners, be printed.

Industries Assistance Commission Act—Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Rubber tyres and tyre cases, dated 16 September 1977.

- 5 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: 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 Bills:  
13 October 1977—Message No. 61—  
Customs Tariff (Coal Export Duty) Amendment 1977.  
Excise Tariff Amendment 1977.
- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SCHOOLS COMMISSION: Mr Acting Speaker informed the House that Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Fraser Government’s threats to the independence of the Schools Commission”.  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
- 7 OILSEEDS LEVY 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.  
Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.  
On the motion of Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 8 OILSEEDS LEVY COLLECTION AND RESEARCH 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. 62, dated 6 October 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 Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 9 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1977–78: The order of the day having been read for the further consideration of the Bill in committee, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of National Resources, \$52,011,000—

Department of Overseas Trade, \$65,601,000—

Department of the Special Trade Negotiator, \$100,000—

together further debated, and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of Industry and Commerce, \$23,944,000—

Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, \$91,747,000—

Department of Productivity, \$105,278,000—

together debated.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

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The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 10 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 29 TO 31 (1977): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 29, 30 and 31 (1977).  
Debate ensued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Bouchier), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 DISCHARGE OF TARIFF PROPOSALS: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, moved—That the following Tariff Proposals, constituting part of order of the day No. 28, government business, be discharged:  
Customs Tariff (Coal Export Duty) Proposals (1977), and  
Excise Tariff Proposals Nos. 1 and 2 (1977).  
Question—put and passed.
- 12 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1977–78: The House, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

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*In the committee*

## Schedule 2—

## Proposed expenditures—

Department of Industry and Commerce, \$23,944,000—

Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, \$91,747,000—

Department of Productivity, \$105,278,000—

together further debated.

Mr Hodgman addressing the committee—

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

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

Debate continued.

Proposed expenditures agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

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 The House resumed; Mr Martin reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:  
18 October 1977—Message No. 88—States Grants (Housing Assistance) 1977.
- 14 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.
- The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Acting Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

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 PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 October 1977, pursuant to statute:

Agricultural Tractors Bounty Act—Return for year 1976–77.

Book Bounty Act—Return for year 1976–77.

Designs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 176.

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

Metal Working Machine Tools Bounty Act—Return for year 1976–77.

Nitrogenous Fertilizers Subsidy Act—Return for year 1976–77.

Norfolk Island Act—Ordinances—1977—

No. 6—Companies (Amendment) (No. 3).

No. 7—Customs (Amendment) (No. 2).

Nursing Homes Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 180.

Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, Nos. 177, 178.

Phosphate Fertilizers Bounty Act—Return for year 1976–77.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—Postal (Staff)—  
1977—Amendment No. 1.

Trade Marks Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, No. 179.

Weights and Measures (National Standards) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules  
1977, No. 150 (*In substitution for the paper presented on 13 September 1977*).

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except  
Mr Abel, Mr Baillieu, Mr Garrick\*, Mr Giles, Mr Holten\*, Mr Howard, Mr Kelly\*,  
Mr King, Mr McLean, Mr McVeigh, Mr Short and Mr Snedden.

\* On leave

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