

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 55

WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 1977

- 1 The House met, at 3.35 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 Cohen, Mr Morris and Mr Sullivan—from certain volunteer firemen of the New South Wales Fire Brigade Service praying that income tax relief be provided on the earnings of N.S.W. volunteer firemen.
 - Mr Hunt and Mr Morris—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 Jones and Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Mr Lucock and Mr Lusher—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 Connolly—from certain citizens praying that there be no mining or exporting of uranium in the next 5 years while alternatives and consequences are fully debated.
 - Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that financial assistance be granted to pregnancy help services, funds not be provided for services specialising in elective abortions and there be no payment of abortion claims under the Medical Benefits Schedule.
 - Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that the mining, selling and export of uranium not be permitted.
 - Mr Jones—from certain electors of the Newcastle and Hunter region, N.S.W., praying for continued and expanded funding for the Hunter Region Working Women's Group.
 - Mr Jones—from certain citizens praying that Australia cease commercial whaling and observe the 10 year moratorium called for by the United Nations.
 - Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that education funding be restored to the level advocated in the 1975 Schools Commission report.
 - Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that payments of abortion claims under the Medical Benefits Schedule cease except for those abortions carried out in hospitals as a certified medical procedure to prevent the death of the mother and certain other action be taken in connection with pregnancy help services.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not introduced.
 - 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 Viner—from certain citizens praying for the reversal of the decision withdrawing financial assistance from students of non-State tertiary institutions.

Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic action be taken concerning the death, while in detention in South Africa, of Mr Steve Biko, President of the Black Peoples Convention.

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 Postal Commission—Extracts from Annual Report, for year 1976–77.
Australian quarantine arrangements—Review by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Commonwealth Grants Commission—44th Report (1977) on special assistance for States.
States Grants (Dwellings for Pensioners) Act—3rd Annual Statement by Minister for year 1976–77.

5 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Fry (Deputy Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:

Report on the 64A series of proposed variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Fry, by leave, made a statement with reference to the report.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETIES: Mr 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 Government’s failure to safeguard deposits with permanent building societies and to encourage loans by them”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr E. G. Whitlam addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Beazley (Deputy Chairman), by leave, made a statement informing the House of the decision of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to broaden its inquiry into the status of Soviet Jewry and to rename the sub-committee conducting the inquiry the “Sub-Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union”.

8 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3) 1977: Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to income tax. Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

9 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE—LEAVE TO MOVE NOT GRANTED: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) asked leave to move 5 motions without notice. Objection being raised, leave not granted.

10 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent—

(1) The moving forthwith of 5 motions relating to the proposed redistribution into Electoral Divisions of the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

- (2) Upon resumption of the debate on a motion relating to the proposed redistribution into Electoral Divisions of the State of New South Wales, reference being allowed in the debate to the proposed redistribution into Electoral Divisions of the States of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Question—put.

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

AYES, 68

Mr Adermann	Mr Drummond	Mr King	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Aldred	Dr Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Anthony	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lusher	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Falconer	Mr Lynch	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Birney	Mr Fife	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Bonnett	Mr Fisher	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Bouchier	Mr Garland	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Bradfield	Mr Gillard	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr Bungey	Mr Goodluck	Mr Macphee	Mr Sullivan
Mr Burr	Mr Graham	Mr Martyr	Mr Viner
Mr Cadman	Mr Groom	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Haslem	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr Calder	Mr Hodgman	Mr Neil	
Mr Carige	Mr Hunt	Mr Newman	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Nixon	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Connolly	Mr Jull	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Corbett
Mr Cotter	Mr Katter	Mr Peacock	
Mr Dobie	Mr Killen	Mr Porter	

NOES, 31

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative by an absolute majority.

- 11 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES—PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House of Representatives approves of the redistribution of the State of New South Wales into Electoral Divisions as proposed by Messrs C. I. White, L. N. Fletcher and C. W. Prince, the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the said State into Divisions, in their Report laid before the House of Representatives on 25 October 1977, and that the names of the Divisions suggested in the Report, and indicated in the map referred to therein, be adopted, except that the name “Macquarie” be substituted for “Lawson”. Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF VICTORIA—PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House of Representatives approves of the redistribution of the State of Victoria into Electoral Divisions as proposed by Messrs L. J. Abbott, J. E. Mitchell and E. L. Richardson, the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the said State into Divisions, in their Report laid before the House of Representatives on 25 October 1977, and that the names of the Divisions suggested in the Report, and indicated in the map referred to therein, be adopted. Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF QUEENSLAND—PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House of Representatives approves of the redistribution of the State of Queensland into Electoral Divisions as proposed by Messrs F. J. Coleman, J. M. Serisier and R. M. Seymour, the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the said State into Divisions, in their Report

laid before the House of Representatives on 18 October 1977, and that the names of the Divisions suggested in the Report, and indicated in the map referred to therein, be adopted.

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

- 14 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA—PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House of Representatives approves of the redistribution of the State of South Australia into Electoral Divisions as proposed by Messrs A. J. Walsh, G. H. C. Kennedy and H. D. Winterbottom, the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the said State into Divisions, in their Report laid before the House of Representatives on 18 October 1977, and that the names of the Divisions suggested in the Report, and indicated in the map referred to therein, be adopted.

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

- 15 ELECTORAL DIVISIONS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA—PROPOSED REDISTRIBUTION: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House of Representatives approves of the redistribution of the State of Western Australia into Electoral Divisions as proposed by Messrs B. S. Nicholls, J. F. Morgan and A. E. Tonks, the Commissioners appointed for the purpose of redistributing the said State into Divisions, in their Report laid before the House of Representatives on 18 October 1977, and that the names of the Divisions suggested in the Report, and indicated in the map referred to therein, be adopted.

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

- 16 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1977-78: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Science, \$186,760,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Postal and Telecommunications Department, \$164,446,000—debated.

Mr Wilson rising to address the committee—

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 proposed expenditure be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Ordered—That the order for the consideration of the proposed expenditures agreed to by the committee on 20 September be varied by next considering the proposed expenditure for the Department of Defence.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Defence, \$2,186,180,000—debated.

It being 10.30 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.

Adjournment negatived: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Mr Bryant addressing the committee—

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

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed—Mr Bryant dissenting.

And the question—That the proposed expenditure be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

Proposed expenditure—Attorney-General's Department, \$56,824,000—debated.

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

The House resumed; Dr Jenkins reported accordingly.

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

17 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) moved—That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 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 26 October 1977, pursuant to statute:

Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1977, Nos. 189, 190, 191.

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

No. 667—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.

No. 668—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 669—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.

No. 670—Customs Officers' Association of Australia, Fourth Division.

No. 671—Commonwealth Works Supervisors Association.

No. 672—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

No. 673—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.

No. 674—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia.

No. 675—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.

No. 676—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 677—Australian Workers' Union.†

(† not accompanied by statement)

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Garrick, Mr Giles, Mr Hodges, Mr Howard, Mr Jarman, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Kelly, Mr McLean, Sir William McMahan, Dr Richardson, Mr Short, Mr Thomson and Mr Wallis.

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