

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 39

WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 1978

1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.

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

Mr Bungey, Mr Drummond, Mr Hyde, Mr McLean, Mr Shack and Mr Viner—from certain members and ex-members of the citizens forces of Australia praying for the resumption of the award of several distinctive reserve forces decorations and medals for long service and good conduct.

Mr Bradfield, Mr Dobie and Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.

Mr Connolly and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying for the establishment of a fund whereby loans can be made to means tested pensioners for the necessary maintenance of their homes.

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

Mr Bungey—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.

Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that government benefits under schedule 6469 not be withdrawn for first trimester abortions.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying for the provision of funds for the construction and maintenance of an aged persons complex in the Electoral Division of Hughes.

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

Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the report of the Review of International Civil Aviation Policy be released and the introduction of reduced international air fares no longer be deferred.

Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying for the initiation of a national family policy and the use of the concept of family impact statements as a means of highlighting family needs.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Anthony (Acting Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) would act as Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and would represent the Minister for Administrative Services in this House.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

*Paper:* Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Australian Services Canteens Organisation—Termination—Copy of memorandum to staff of ASCO from H. E. Kay, Managing Director, dated 24 May 1978.

Questions without notice continued.

**5 PAPERS:** The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Wheat Board—Interim report for year ended 30 November 1977.  
 International Labour Conference—61st Session, 1976—Reports of the Australian Government, Employers' and Workers' Delegates.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Housing Corporation Act and Defence Service Homes Act—Australian Housing Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation Act—Australian Meat Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 1 July to 30 November 1977.

Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Act—Royal Australian Air Force Veterans' Residences Trust—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Superannuation Act—Commissioner for Superannuation—1st Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77, including an interim report of the Superannuation Fund Investment Trust for year 1976–77.

**6 IMMIGRATION POLICIES AND AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the Government's immigration and population development policies and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Immigration policies and Australia's population—

Committee on overseas professional qualifications (COPQ)—Revised terms of reference.

Immigration categories and procedures.

Ministerial statement, 7 June 1978.

Policy on change of status.

Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Debate ensued.

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

**7 ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—  
 That the House, at its rising, adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow.  
 Question—put and passed.**8 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—DELEGATION OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT:** Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Speaker had received advice from the President of the Senate that, in accordance with the resolution of the Senate of 31 May 1978, Senators Button, Durack, J. R. McClelland, Robertson, Webster and Withers had been nominated to be members of the Commonwealth Parliament Delegation to attend the Constitutional Convention.**9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—RURAL CRISIS:** Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Simon 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 Hayden, namely, "The failure of the Government to adequately respond to the rural crisis".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hayden addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**10 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That government business shall take precedence of general business tomorrow.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**11 DAIRY INDUSTRY STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL 1978:** 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 by Mr Keating who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House calls upon the Minister for Primary Industry to explain how quantitative limits will be imposed at factory level without State Government co-operation”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr Armitage reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

**12 DAIRY INDUSTRY STABILIZATION LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1978:** 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), the Bill was read a third time.

**13 DAIRY PRODUCE AMENDMENT BILL 1978:** 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.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), the Bill was read a third time.

**14 MINISTERS OF STATE AMENDMENT BILL 1978:** 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 Newman (Minister for National Development), the Bill was read a third time.

**15 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 1978:** 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 by Dr Klugman who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the Bill be withdrawn and re-drafted to exclude (a) the concept of optional deductibles, (b) the

banning of bulk billing arrangements for medical services, other than those provided to eligible pensioners and their dependants and (c) an increase from \$2 to \$2.50 in the patient contribution for a pharmaceutical item, and be re-introduced immediately to include the other measures".

Ordered—that Dr Klugman be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr J. L. McMahon addressing the House—

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16 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 Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.05 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Connolly, Mr Falconer, Mr Fraser, Mr Garland, Mr Giles, Mr Humphreys, Mr Innes, Dr Jenkins, Mr Jull, Mr Martyr, Mr Peacock, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr Scholes, Mr Stewart, Mr Street, Mr Whitlam and Mr Young.

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