

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

No. 60

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 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 Dobie, Dr Edwards, Mr Hodges, Mr Martin and Mr Stewart—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Mr Bouchier and Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Hunt and Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying for a halt in the automation of rural telephone exchanges pending a Parliamentary inquiry.

Mr Macphee and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that Radio 3CR Melbourne be required to adhere to the broadcasting standards laid down for all other radio stations and that legislation be enacted against incitement to racial hatred and violence.

Mr C. R. Cameron—from certain citizens praying for the replacement of the 1978-79 Budget by a budget which increases the level of economic activity, lowers unemployment, assists the disadvantaged and revives business and consumer confidence.

Mr Haslem—from certain citizens praying that immediate steps be taken to adopt the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships and further evaluate its recommendations.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying for the abandonment of present restrictive economic policies in favour of an expansionary budget.

Mr L. K. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that a commitment be made to reduce unemployment progressively.

Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that proposed changes to Medibank not be implemented and that there be consultation with the trade unions and the community.

Mr MacKenzie—from certain citizens praying that no measures be taken to implement those recommendations of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships that will further undermine and weaken marriage, child-care or the family.

Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying for the rejection of any legislation introducing annual adjustments of pension rates.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that handcrafted articles be exempted from sales tax and certain other action be taken in relation to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry, Leader of the House and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Mr Lynch (Minister for Industry and Commerce), Mr Adermann (Minister for Veterans' Affairs) was acting as Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer

Affairs) was acting as Leader of the House, Senator Carrick (Minister for Education) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Killen (Minister for Defence) was representing the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs in this House and Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) would act as Minister for Industry and Commerce.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Conditions for eligibility for bed sheeting bounty, dated 7 August 1978.

Schools Commission—Programs for 1979—Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education), dated 17 October 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Parliament Act—Proposals for the construction within the Parliamentary zone of—

Cooling tower, together with site plans and a perspective sketch.

Police guard boxes, together with a site plan.

6 PRICES JUSTIFICATION TRIBUNAL—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of changes the Government proposed to make following its review of the role and functions of the Prices Justification Tribunal and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Prices Justification Tribunal—Ministerial statement, 18 October 1978.

Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

7 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE: Mr Fife (Acting Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That Mr J. J. Brown be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, and that, in his place, Mr Kerin be appointed a member of the Committee.

Question—put and passed.

8 PAPER—STATEMENTS: Mr Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Australian Parliamentary Delegation—Report of visit to Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, 30 June to 26 July 1978.

Ordered to be printed.

Mr Groom and Dr Blewett, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.

9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTEREST RATES: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The failure of the Government to meet its promise to reduce interest rates by two percent over 12 months”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hayden addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

10 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1978–79: 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 expenditures—

Department of National Development, \$49,967,000—

Department of Trade and Resources, \$118,890,000—

Department of the Special Trade Representative, \$462,000—

together agreed to

## Proposed expenditures—

Department of Industry and Commerce, \$19,554,000—

Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, \$103,942,000—

Department of Productivity, \$125,506,000—

together debated and agreed to.

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

The House resumed; Mr Jarman reported accordingly.

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

- 11 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1978-79: The House, according to order, again resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

*In the committee*

## Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditure—Department of Primary Industry, \$109,256,000—debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditure—Department of Transport, \$311,581,000—debated.

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

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

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

- 12 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

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

Mr Viner required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.07 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 18 October 1978, pursuant to statute:

Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 193.

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

Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 192.

Wheat Tax Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 191.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Baillieu, Mr Birney\*, Mr Bradfield, Mr Bryant\*, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Cotter, Mr Dawkins, Mr Garland, Mr Innes, Mr Jacobi\*, Dr Jenkins, Mr Lucock\*, Mr Macphee, Mr Peacock, Mr Ruddock, Mr Shipton\*, Mr Sinclair and Mr Young.

\* On leave

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