

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 66

WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 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 Connolly, Mr Ellicott, Mr Gillard, Mr Kerin, Mr Neil and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Lloyd, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKenzie and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Ellicott and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the position of staff elected commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Commission continue and that the election of a new commissioner proceed.

Mr Hurford and Mr Uren—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 Jarman and Mr C. K. Jones—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.

Mr Bradfield—from certain citizens praying that the former post office building in Kogarah, N.S.W., be given to the people of Kogarah as a women's rest centre and community aid centre.

Dr Cass—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.

Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that a broadly representative Schools Commission be maintained to determine national priorities in education and other matters.

Mr Fisher—from certain citizens praying that any request from Jacob Prai and Otto Ondowame for political asylum in Australia be approved.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that lone fathers receive a pension on the same basis as supporting mothers.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for any abortion except one performed when the mother's life is endangered.

Mr Holding—from certain citizens praying that the Parliament debate the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, facilitate public debate and take certain other action in connection with the Report.

Mr Jarman—from certain citizens of Nunawading, Vic., praying that the Social Security Act be amended to permit unemployment beneficiaries to work part-time without loss of all unemployment benefits.

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

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.

Mr Lusher—from certain citizens praying for a halt in the automation of rural telephone exchanges pending a Parliamentary inquiry.

Mr Lusher—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Cunningham praying that support be given to the general business motion of the honourable Member for Hume concerning medical benefits for abortion.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that expenditure on post-school education and Government schools be substantially increased and that certain other action be taken in connection with post-school education.

Mr Viner—from certain citizens praying that items which currently permit benefits for abortion be removed from the Standard Medical Benefits Table and that other funding of medical benefits schemes for the same purpose cease.

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 Construction—Report for year 1977–78.

Department of Productivity—Report for year 1977–78.

School Finance in Australia—Discussion paper by Schools Commission—  
Paper, dated October 1978.

Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education), dated 7 November 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Independent Schools (Loans Guarantee) Act—Statement of guarantees and payments for year 1977–78.

Racial Discrimination Act—Commissioner for Community Relations—3rd Annual Report, for year 1977–78.

5 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

7 November 1978—Message—

No. 148—Dairying Industry Research and Promotion Levy Amendment 1978  
(without requests).

No. 149—Dairying Industry Research and Promotion Levy Collection 1978.

No. 151—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Amendment 1978.

6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH INSURANCE: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Dr Klugman and Mr Shack 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 Dr Klugman, namely, “The failure of the Government to adequately and equitably provide for the health insurance needs of the community”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Klugman addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (NATIONAL STANDARDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1978: Message No. 150, dated 7 November 1978, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Weights and Measures (National Standards) Act 1960’*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Garland (Minister representing the Minister for Science) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 8 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—GARDEN ISLAND DOCKYARD, N.S.W.—WORKSHOP, AMENITIES BUILDING AND SERVICES: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Garden Island Dockyard, N.S.W.—Workshop, amenities building and services.

Mr McLeay presented plans in connection with the proposed work.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 TASMANIA GRANT (THE MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED) AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1978: 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*

Bill, as a whole—

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance), the following amendment was made, after debate: Clause 3, omit the clause, substitute the following clause:

“ 3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) omitting ‘ 30 June 1978 ’ and substituting ‘ 30 September 1978 ’; Approval of  
execution of  
agreements

and

(b) adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:

‘ (2) Approval is given to the execution, on behalf of the Commonwealth, of an agreement or agreements between the Commonwealth and Tasmania for the payment by the Commonwealth to Tasmania, for the purpose of assisting the continuation of the operation of The Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company Limited’s mine at Mount Lyell in Tasmania from 1 October 1978 to 30 June 1980, inclusive, of amounts not exceeding in the aggregate whichever is the lesser of—

(a) one-half of the sum of any payments made by Tasmania to the Company for the purpose of assisting the continuation of the operation of that mine during that period; or

(b) \$3,800,000.’ ”.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr E. L. Robinson, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 10 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) 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.

Mr Willis 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 is of the opinion that the Bill—

- (1) takes no account of the Government’s responsibility to allocate resources efficiently and equitably,
- (2) will further retard provision of infrastructure essential to the effective functioning of the economy,
- (3) will further depress the already severely depressed building and construction industry and
- (4) will further increase unemployment”.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr J. J. Brown be granted an extension of time.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.  
The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Dr Jenkins, in the Chair)—

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Mr Aldred	Mr Connolly	Mr Hyde	Mr O'Keefe
Mr Anthony	Mr Cotter	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr Peacock
Mr Baillieu	Mr Dean	Mr Johnston	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Drummond	Mr Jull	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Birney	Dr Edwards	Mr Katter	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Bouchier	Mr Ellicott	Mr Killen	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bradfield	Mr Falconer	Mr Lloyd	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fife	Mr Lusher	Mr Shack
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fisher	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Bungey	Mr Garland	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Burns	Mr Giles	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Gillard	Mr McLeay	Mr Staley
Mr Cadman	Mr Goodluck	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Cairns	Mr Graham	Mr Martyr	Mr Viner
Mr Calder	Mr Groom	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Haslem	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hodgman	Mr Neil	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Carlton	Mr Howard	Mr Newman	Mr Corbett
Mr Chapman	Mr Hunt	Mr Nixon	Mr Hodges

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Mr Armitage	Mr Holding	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Dr Blewett	Mr Howe	Mr Kerin	Mr West
Mr Bowen	Mr Humphreys	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Willis
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Hurford	Mr Martin	
Mr Dawkins	Mr Innes	Mr Morris	
Dr Everingham	Mr James	Mr Scholes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr FitzPatrick	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Stewart	Mr L. K. Johnson
Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Uren	Mr L. R. Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 88, dated 16 August 1978, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue and moneys for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES (NORTHERN TERRITORY PAY-ROLL TAX) 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 Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 SALES TAX AMENDMENT BILLS (NOS. 1 TO 9) 1978: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the Bills be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed—Bills together read a second time.

Leave granted for third readings to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development), the Bills were together read a third time.

- 13 BOUNTY (METAL-WORKING MACHINE TOOLS) 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.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 89, dated 14 September 1978, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.  
 The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

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*In the committee*

- Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.  
 On the motion of Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the following amendment was made:  
 Schedule, page 10, omit—  
     “Class 4  
     Machine tools other than machine tools included in Class 2, 3 or 4.”,  
 substitute—  
     “Class 4  
     Machine tools other than machine tools included in Class 1, 2 or 3.”,  
 Bill, as amended, agreed to.  
 Bill to be reported with an amendment.

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The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.  
 On the motion of Mr Fife, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 14 BOUNTY (DRILLING MACHINES) 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.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 90, dated 14 September 1978, 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 Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 METAL WORKING MACHINE TOOLS BOUNTY 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.  
*Message from the Governor-General:* Message No. 91, dated 14 September 1978, 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 Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and passed.  
 And then the House, at 10.49 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.
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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 8 November 1978:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Treaties—Text of—

Signed for Australia—

- (1) Exchange of Letters, dated 3 and 25 May 1978, between Australia and the Asian Development Bank constituting an Agreement concerning an Australian contribution of \$A220,000 to the Technical Assistance Special Fund of the Asian Development Bank.
- (2) Exchange of Notes, dated 18 September 1978, between Australia and the People's Republic of China constituting an Agreement concerning the establishment of Consulates-General.
- (3) Exchange of Letters, dated 10 November 1976 and 14 September 1978, between Australia and Papua New Guinea constituting an Agreement concerning a loan for the purchase of certain assets of the Australian Overseas Telecommunications Commission in Papua New Guinea.
- (4) Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques approved by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1976, signed for Australia, subject to ratification, on 31 May 1978.

Signed and ratified for Australia—

- (5) Nice Agreement concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks of 15 June 1957, as revised at Stockholm on 14 July 1967, and at Geneva on 13 May 1977, signed for Australia on 21 December 1977 and ratified by Australia on 4 January 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Regulations—1978—No. 19 (Health Commission Ordinance).

Trade Practices Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 212.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Bryant\*, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Jacobi\*, Mr Lucock\*, Mr Lynch, Sir William McMahon and Mr Shipton\*.

\* On leave

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