

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 67

THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 1978

- 
- 1 The House met, at 10.30 a.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 J. J. Brown, Dr Edwards, Mr MacKellar and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
    - Mr Anthony, Mr Jarman and Mr Lusher—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.
    - Dr Blewett and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying for continued and increased Federal subsidies to maintain all existing South Australian country rail services.
    - Mr C. K. Jones and Mr Wallis—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 Baume—from certain residents of the Electoral Division of Macarthur praying that support be given to the general business motion of the honourable Member for Hume concerning medical benefits for abortion.
    - Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that Parliament debate the Report of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships, facilitate public debate and take certain other action in connection with the Report.
    - Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.
    - Mr Fisher—from certain citizens praying that Aboriginal land rights in the States be recognised in a manner similar to their recognition in the Northern Territory and that certain other action be taken in connection with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in Queensland.
    - Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying for the immediate reversal of current economic strategy so as to create employment, redistribute wealth and restore the real value of pensions and other Government benefits.
    - 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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the decision to index pensions annually be reviewed and that all pensions be adjusted quarterly.
    - Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that indirect tax measures, such as a Retail Turnover Tax or a Value Added Tax, not be introduced.
    - Mr Killen—from certain citizens praying for the award of a medal to members of the World War II *Jaywick* and *Rimau* commando expeditions.
    - Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that benefits for abortion be kept as an allowable benefit under the medical benefits funds.

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

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

Petitions received.

- 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 PAPER: The following paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:  
Australian Capital Territory Fire Brigade—4th Annual Report by the Fire Commissioner, for year 1977–78.
- 5 PAPER: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:  
Copy of a telegram to Mr I. Sinclair concerning legal representation for A. Walsh Investments, dated 9 November 1978.
- 6 GRIEVANCE DEBATE: Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 106, the order of the day having been read—  
Question proposed—That grievances be noted.  
Debate ensued.  
It being 12.45 p.m., the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 106.  
Question—That grievances be noted—put and passed.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—TAX INCREASES: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Willis and Mr E. C. Cameron 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 Willis, namely, “The Government’s attempt to conceal the full extent of the increased tax burden on low and middle income earners as from the beginning of this month”.  
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—  
Mr Willis addressed the House.  
Discussion ensued.  
Discussion concluded.
- 8 FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Howard (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the Government’s foreign investment policy, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:  
Foreign investment in Australia—Report, dated September 1978.  
Mr Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) moved—That the House take note of the paper.  
Debate ensued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Graham), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 TRADE PRACTICES AMENDMENT BILL 1978—LEGISLATION COMMITTEE: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That the date for the report of the legislation committee on the Trade Practices Amendment Bill 1978 be 23 November 1978 in lieu of 14 November 1978.  
Question—put and passed.
- 10 WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL 1978: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Sinclair moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Dr Cass), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 11 AIR NAVIGATION (CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL 1978: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Air Navigation (Charges) Act 1952*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Morris), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 STATES GRANTS (URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT) AMENDMENT BILL 1978: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Urban Public Transport) Act 1978*.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Morris), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 13 LOANS (TAXATION EXEMPTION) BILL 1978: Mr Howard (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the exemption from taxation of certain documents and payments relating to certain overseas borrowings by or on behalf of the Commonwealth.  
Bill read a first time.  
Mr Howard moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr Morris), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 STATES GRANTS (ROADS) 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.  
*Message from the Governor-General*: Message No. 92, dated 10 October 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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), the Bill was read a third time.
- 15 MATERNITY LEAVE (AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES) 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 SUPERANNUATION 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 Viner (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister), the Bill was read a third time.
- 17 PAPER: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), during a personal explanation, presented the following paper:  
Copy of a telegram to Mr Speaker from Mr A. Walsh, dated 9 November 1978.

18 PRIMARY INDUSTRY BANK AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 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 J. J. Brown 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 is of the opinion that the Bill takes no account of the Prime Minister’s 1977 election promise to provide through the Primary Industry Bank long term credit at concessional interest rates”.

Debate continued.

Mr Braithwaite addressing the House—

---

19 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

---

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 9 November 1978, pursuant to statute:

Christmas Island Act—Regulation—1978—No. 1 (Police Force Ordinance).

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determination—1978/12—Holders of public offices on the Australian Overseas Projects Corporation and other bodies.

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunication Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 28.

Telecommunications (General)—Amendment No. 18.

---

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

\*On leave

---

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