

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 74

THURSDAY, 23 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 Armitage, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Kerin 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 Dobie, Mr Graham, Dr Klugman and Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that small businessmen and their employees be retained in the retail oil industry.
 - Mr Corbett, Mr Hodges and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
 - Mr Armitage and Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying for the appointment of an independent inquiry into the Australian Broadcasting Commission to investigate the qualifications of commissioners and certain other matters.
 - Mr Haslem and Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to prevent water pollution in the Australian Capital Territory.
 - Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.
 - Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that major traditional Aboriginal land areas be resumed from the States eventually to become defined Aboriginal community co-operatives.
 - Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that bulk billing and other features of Medibank be maintained.
 - Mr Johnston—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 Kerin—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 Porter—from certain citizens praying for continued and increased Federal subsidies to maintain all existing South Australian country rail services.
 - Mr I. L. Robinson—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 Simon—from certain citizens praying that any request from Jacob Prai and Otto Ondowame for political asylum in Australia be approved.

Petitions received.

- 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPERS: Mr Speaker, pursuant to statute, presented:
 Audit Act—Supplementary Report of the Auditor-General upon other accounts,
 for year 1977–78.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

- (1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the Supplementary Report of the Auditor-General, for the year 1977–78, and
- (2) That the paper be printed.

Question—put and passed.

The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—4th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 26 June 1977 to 24 June 1978.

Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report for year 1977–78—Statement by Senator Webster (Minister for Science).

Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission—1st Annual Report, for period 22 March to 30 June 1978—Statement by Senator Durack (Attorney-General).

Foreign Affairs and Defence—Joint Committee—Report on industrial support for defence and allied matters—Government response, dated November 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Anglo-Australian Telescope Agreement Act—Anglo-Australian Telescope Board—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Australian War Memorial Act—Board of Trustees of the Australian War Memorial—15th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission—Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission—1st Annual Report, for period 22 March to 30 June 1978.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority—6th Report, for year 1977–78.

Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act—Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Board—5th supplement to 25th Report, for period 1 July to 30 September 1972.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Director of Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Parliament Act—Proposal, together with location sketch, for the erection within the Parliamentary zone of a viewing platform on Capital Hill.

Primary Industry Bank Act—1st Report on the operation of Part II of the Act, dated 23 November 1978.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Australian Capital Territory—Statement of receipts and expenditure for year 1977–78.

Consumer Affairs Ordinance—Consumer Affairs Council—5th Annual Report of the operations of the Council and of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, for year 1977–78.

Mr Sinclair, by leave, moved—

- (1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of the Australian Capital Territory Consumer Affairs Council and the Australian Capital Territory Consumer Affairs Bureau, for the year 1977–78, and
- (2) That the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

- 5 NEW AND PERMANENT PARLIAMENT HOUSE—JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Speaker (Joint Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent Parliament House:

Proposed erection of a viewing platform on Capital Hill—Report, dated 22 November 1978.

Ordered to be printed.

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

22 November 1978—Message—

No. 170—Wheat Industry Stabilization Amendment 1978.

No. 171—Maternity Leave (Australian Government Employees) Amendment 1978.

No. 172—Superannuation Amendment 1978.

No. 173—Public Service Amendment 1978.

No. 174—Remuneration and Allowances Amendment 1978.

No. 176—Income Tax Assessment Amendment (No. 3) 1978.

No. 177—Income Tax Assessment Amendment (No. 4) 1978.

No. 178—Income Tax (Non-Resident Companies) 1978 (*without requests*).

No. 179—Income Tax (Companies and Superannuation Funds) Amendment 1978.

No. 180—Income Tax (Rates) Amendment (No. 2) 1978.

No. 181—Air Navigation (Charges) Amendment 1978.

No. 182—Life Insurance Amendment 1978.

- 7 ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING—Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House, at its rising, adjourn until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

Question—put and passed.

- 8 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.

- 9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INTERNATIONAL AIRFARES: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Morris, Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Hodgman had each 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 Morris, namely, “The Government’s failure to introduce lower international airfares”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Morris addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 10 AUSTRALIA—PAPUA NEW GUINEA—NEGOTIATIONS ON MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND ON OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO TORRES STRAIT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the approval of the text of the Treaty concerning the maritime boundary between Australia and Papua New Guinea and on other matters relating to Torres Strait, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Australia—Papua New Guinea—Negotiations on maritime boundaries and on other matters relating to Torres Strait—Ministerial statement, 23 November 1978.

Mr Groom (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—REMUNERATION TRIBUNALS AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1978: Message No. 175, dated 22 November 1978, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Remuneration Tribunals Act 1973’*”.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Street (Minister representing the Minister for Administrative Services) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate, by leave, ensued.
- Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
- Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
- On the motion of Mr Street, the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 JOINT COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER: Mr Hodges (Chairman) presented the following report from the Joint Committee on Publications: Australian Government Publishing Service and its role in Commonwealth printing and publishing 1964–1978, dated November 1978, together with the transcript of evidence of the committee.
- Ordered—That the report be printed.
- Mr Hodges, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
- 13 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 1978: Mr Howard (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the law relating to income tax.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Howard moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 NORFOLK ISLAND BILL 1978: Mr Ellicott (Minister for Home Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to provide for the government of Norfolk Island.
- Bill read a first time.
- Mr Ellicott moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
- Debate adjourned (Mr Innes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 15 AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUITS CORPORATION 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. 102, dated 15 November 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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), the Bill was read a third time.
- 16 DRIED VINE FRUITS EQUALIZATION LEVY 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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), the Bill was read a third time.
- 17 DRIED VINE FRUITS EQUALIZATION 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. 103, dated 15 November 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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), the Bill was read a third time.

- 18 **DRIED FRUITS EXPORT CHARGES 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 McLeay (Minister for Construction), the Bill was read a third time.
- 19 **NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 3) 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.
 Dr Klugman, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Bill be referred to a legislation committee for report by 24 November 1978.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and negatived, there being a dissentient voice.
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
 On the motion of Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), the Bill was read a third time.
- 20 **CONDUCT OF MEMBERS—MANNER OF QUESTIONING AND DEBATE—STATEMENT BY MR SPEAKER:** Mr Speaker made a statement relating to the application of the standing orders and practice of the House to the questioning of Ministers and to remarks critical of the personal conduct of Members.
- 21 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 48A AND STANDING ORDER 103:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That standing order 48A (Adjournment of House) and standing order 103 (11 o'clock rule) be suspended for this sitting.
 Debate ensued.
 The debate having been closed by Mr Sinclair having spoken in reply—
 Mr L. R. Johnson, by leave, again addressed the House.
 Mr Keating, by leave, addressed the House.
 Mr Sinclair, by leave, again addressed the House.
 Question—put and passed.
- 22 **NEW SOUTH WALES GRANT (CHRYSOTILE CORPORATION) 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. 104, dated 22 November 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 E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance), the Bill was read a third time.
- 23 **STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS 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.
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 105, dated 26 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 Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 24 STATES GRANTS (TERTIARY EDUCATION 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—
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 106, dated 15 November 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 Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.
- 25 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:
 23 November 1978—Message—
 No. 183—Atomic Energy Amendment (No. 2) 1978.
 No. 184—Customs Amendment 1978.
- 26 QUEENSLAND GRANT (SPECIAL 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.
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 107, dated 15 November 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.
- 27 COUNCIL OF EUROPE—PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY—30TH ORDINARY SESSION—REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: Mr C. K. Jones, by leave, presented the following paper:
 Council of Europe—Parliamentary assembly—30th ordinary session, 28 September—4 October 1978—Report of the Australian Delegation.
- 28 BOUNTY (COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES) 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.
 The House continuing to sit until after 12 midnight—
 FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 1978
 Debate continued.
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 108, dated 15 November 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.
- 29 TRADE UNION TRAINING AUTHORITY 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.
 Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
 Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.
 On the motion of Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), the Bill was read a third time.

30 PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

International Labour Organisation—International Labour Conference—Conventions—

No. 148—Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration), 1977.

No. 149—Nursing Personnel, 1977.

Recommendations—

No. 156—Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration), 1977.

No. 157—Nursing Personnel, 1977.

Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations), by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the papers.

Mr Young, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

31 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES SCHEME—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr McLeay (Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's response to the report of the Standing Committee on Expenditure on the Defence Service Homes Scheme, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Expenditure—Standing Committee—Report on the Defence Service Homes Scheme—Government response—Ministerial statement, 23 November 1978.

Mr Ellicott (Minister for Home Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

32 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 1.31 a.m., adjourned until this day at 10 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 23 November 1978, pursuant to statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Australian Bureau of Statistics—Proposal for collection of information—1978—No. 8—New topic to be included in population survey, March 1979.

Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Employment and Industrial Relations—C. V. Mansell.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bryant*, Mr Garland, Mr Hyde, Mr Jacobi and Mr Shipton*.

* On leave

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