

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 81

THURSDAY, 1 MARCH 1979

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 Adermann, Mr Baume, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Lucock, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Scholes and Mr West—from certain citizens praying that pension payments be restored to twice-yearly adjustments and that pensions and unemployment benefits be raised to 30% of average weekly earnings.

Mr Armitage, Mr Cadman, Mr Dobie, Mr Falconer and Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Mr Dobie, Mr Drummond, Mr Martyr and Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Dr Blewett—from certain citizens praying that a communications satellite system for Australia not be established.

Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.

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 L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the decision not to establish a National Natural Disaster Insurance Scheme be reconsidered.

Mr E. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the draft decision of the Trade Practices Commission to abandon the existing newsagency system not be accepted.

Petitions received.

3 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE—LEAVE TO MOVE NOT GRANTED: Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) asked leave to move a motion without notice.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Mainline upgrading—Evaluation of a range of options for the Kalgoorlie-Perth rail link—Report by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated September 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Oilseeds Levy Collection and Research Act—Oilseeds Research Committee—1st Annual Report, for year 1977-78.

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.

Rural Finance Settlement Commission of Victoria—Loan to Beggs family—Statements by Members: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a statement concerning a loan made by the Rural Finance Settlement Commission of Victoria to certain members of the Beggs family.

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

Debate continued.

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—UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Young 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 Young, namely, "The gross inadequacies of the Government's measures to assist the unemployed". The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—Mr Young addressed the House. Discussion ensued. Discussion concluded.
- 8 DEFENCE FORCE (RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1979: Mr Killen (Minister for Defence), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948* and the *Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act 1973*. Bill read a first time. Mr Killen moved—That the Bill be now read a second time. Debate adjourned (Mr Scholes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE: Ordered—That notice No. 3, government business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 10 PRICES JUSTIFICATION AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Prices Justification Act 1973*. Bill read a first time. Mr Fife 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.
- 11 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 5) 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 Howard (Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.
- 12 INCOME TAX AVOIDANCE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Howard (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of steps taken by the Government to curb income tax avoidance.
- 13 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate, dated 1 March 1979, were reported—
- (a) concurring in the resolutions of the House relating to amendments to the resolutions of appointment of the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory, the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law Act, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and the Joint Standing Committee on the New and Permanent Parliament House—Message No. 214.

(b) returning the following Bill without amendment: Message No. 216—Audit Amendment 1979.

14 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FOREIGN ANTITRUST JUDGMENTS (RESTRICTION OF ENFORCEMENT) BILL 1979: Message No. 215, dated 1 March 1979, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to make provision for restricting the recognition and enforcement in Australia of certain foreign judgments obtained in antitrust proceedings*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General) 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.

15 REPATRIATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Adermann (Minister for Veterans' Affairs), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to repatriation and related matters.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Adermann moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

16 PAY-ROLL TAX (TERRITORIES) ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1979: 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 MacKellar (Minister Assisting the Treasurer), the Bill was read a third time.

17 POULTRY INDUSTRY LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1979: 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 Adermann (Minister Assisting the Minister for Primary Industry), the Bill was read a third time.

18 POULTRY INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1979: 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. 121, dated 21 February 1979, 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 Adermann (Minister Assisting the Minister for Primary Industry), the Bill was read a third time.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.58 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr C. R. Cameron, Dr Cass, Mr Chapman, Mr Giles, Sir William McMahon, Mr Macphee, Mr Shipton, Mr Short and Mr Wilson.

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