

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 82

TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 1979

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 N. A. Brown, Mr Bryant, Mr Howe, Mr L. R. Johnson, Dr Klugman, Mr Morris, Mr Nixon, Mr O'Keefe, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Scholes and Mr Willis—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 J. J. Brown, Mr Cadman, Mr Connolly, Mr Dobie, Mr MacKellar, Mr Martin, Mr Neil, Mr Ruddock and Mr Stewart—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

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

Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the taxation law be amended to permit registered tax agents to trade for a full year and lodge income tax returns at the close of the respective tax year.

Mr J. J. Brown—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.

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 Cass—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—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to prevent payment of medical benefits for unnecessary abortions.

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 Lucock—from certain citizens praying that the Government assume responsibility for Aboriginal affairs at Aurukun and Mornington Island.

Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that all Yugoslav Airlines services between Australia and Yugoslavia be discontinued.

Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying for continued and increased Federal subsidies to maintain all existing South Australian country rail services.

Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying for the resignation of Members who have not honoured an election undertaking to retain twice-yearly adjustments of social security pensions in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic action be taken concerning the detention of members of the South African Young Christian Workers Movement.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 on the Medical Benefits Schedule be maintained.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying for Commonwealth Government intervention on behalf of the people of Aurukun and Mornington Island to provide guaranteed tenure of land and real self-management.

Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the House reject the motion of the honourable Member for Hume concerning medical benefits for abortion and support abortion as a claimable item under all health benefits.

Petitions received.

3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Howard (Treasurer), Mr Garland (Minister for Special Trade Representations) and Mr Groom (Minister for Housing and Construction), Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance) was acting as Treasurer, Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources) was acting as Minister for Special Trade Representations, Mr McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services) was acting as Minister for Housing and Construction and Mr Newman (Minister for National Development) was representing the Minister for Science and the Environment in this House.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT—REPORT OF STUDY GROUP—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Structural adjustment—Report of study group—Volume 1, dated March 1979.

Mr Fraser, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Structural adjustment—Report of study group—Ministerial statement, 6 March 1979.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.

Ordered—That Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.

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

6 INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of achievements in the Government's international civil aviation policy and the implementation of new international air fares.

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

7 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS—REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Viner (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to establish a working party to review the administrative arrangements associated with unemployment benefits, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Unemployment benefits—Review of administrative arrangements—Ministerial statement, 6 March 1979.

Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NATIONAL COMPANIES AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), Mr E. C. Cameron and Mr Dean 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 Bowen, namely, “The failure of the Government to introduce national companies and securities legislation causing financial loss to many people, as evidenced by Associated Securities Limited failure”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Bowen addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 9 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—FAMILY LAW AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Message No. 217, dated 1 March 1979, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Family Law Act 1975’*”.

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 Innes), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 10 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

5 March 1979—Message No. 122—

States Grants (Urban Public Transport) Amendment 1979.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Amendment 1979.

Postal Services Amendment 1979.

- 11 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 13 (1979): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 13 (1979).

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

- 12 EXCISE 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 Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

- 13 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment: 6 March 1979—Message No. 218—Patents Amendment 1979.

- 14 NATIONAL FITNESS 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.
Mr Ellicott (Minister for Home Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a third time.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a third time.

15 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 10.55 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 6 March 1979, pursuant to statute:
Customs Tariff Act—Order—Developing Country—No. 1 (1979).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Chapman, Mr Garland, Mr Graham, Mr Groom, Mr Howard, Mr Hurford, Mr Macphee and Mr I. L. Robinson.

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