

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 95

WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY 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 Adermann, Mr Aldred, Mr Armitage, Mr Bouchier, Mr Bowen, Mr Bradfield, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr N. A. Brown, Mr Burns, Mr Cairns, Mr D. M. Cameron, Dr Edwards, Mr Falconer, Mr Fife, Mr Fisher, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Gillard, Mr Howard, Mr Hunt, Mr James, Mr Jarman, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr Johnston, Mr B. O. Jones, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Kerin, Dr Klugman, Mr Lucock, Mr MacKenzie, Mr J. L. McMahon, Sir William McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Neil, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Ruddock, Mr Scholes, Mr Shipton, Mr Short, Mr Street 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 Anthony, Dr Edwards, Mr Ellicott, Mr Keating, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKellar, Mr Ruddock and Mr Street—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 N. A. Brown, Mr Burns, Mr Gillard, Mr Jacobi, Mr Johnston, Mr Macphee and Mr Neil—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Mr Martyr and Mr Ruddock—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 Baume—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 action be taken to improve the retirement conditions of all sections of the Australian workforce that are not supported by superannuation or long service leave schemes.

Mr Fisher—from certain citizens praying that pensions be adjusted at 6 monthly intervals.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying for the establishment of a fund whereby loans can be made to means tested pensioners for the necessary maintenance of their homes.

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

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

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that public debate on a replacement constitution be encouraged, a directly elected constitutional convention be convened and a referendum be conducted on its resolutions.

- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to eliminate the practice of intensive livestock farming.
- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain electors of Victoria praying that compensation benefits paid to injured Commonwealth Government employees be increased and then adjusted automatically.
- Dr Klugman—from certain electors of New South Wales in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Katter—from certain citizens praying that the A.C.T. Termination of Pregnancy Ordinance be retained.
- Mr Katter—from certain residents of Muttaborra and district in the Electoral Division of Kennedy praying that the Muttaborra district be included in the second phase of the remote areas television program.
- Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain residents of Newtown, N.S.W., praying that the proposal of the Major Airport Needs of Sydney Study to construct a new runway at Kingsford-Smith Airport be rejected.
- Mr I. L. Robinson—from certain citizens praying that the supporting parents benefit and the widows pension be combined to form a single lone parent pension.
- Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying that funds be provided to enable a full program of mental health services to be continued and expanded in New South Wales.
- Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that a commitment be made to reduce unemployment progressively.
- Mr Simon—from certain students of Drouin High School, Vic., praying that a protest be sent to the Canadian Government objecting to the slaughter of Harp Seal pups.
- Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying that the importation of seal products be prohibited and that a protest be sent to the Canadian Government objecting to the slaughter of the Harp Seal.

Petitions received.

- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) and Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) was acting as Minister for Health and was representing the Minister for Social Security in this House, and Mr Groom (Minister for Housing and Construction) was acting as Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

- 5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of 21st Meeting held at Canberra, 1 September 1978.

Department of Foreign Affairs—Report for 1978.

Education Research and Development Committee—8th Annual Report, for year 1977–78—Statement by Senator Carrick (Minister for Education).

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Chokes and ballasts (Developing country preferences), dated 15 March 1979.

C-zero cassettes (Developing country preferences), dated 23 February 1979.

Nuts, bolts and screws, dated 1 February 1979.

Parliament House—Competition document for 1st stage of competition, dated 2 May 1979.

Pursuant to statute:

Dried Fruits Research Act—Dried Fruits Research Committee—7th Annual Report, for year 1977–78.

Education Research Act—Education Research and Development Committee—8th Annual Report, for year 1977–78.

International Monetary Agreements Act—Report on operations of the Act and, in so far as they relate to Australia, of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for year 1977-78.

Prices Justification Act—Prices Justification Tribunal—Report on price increases for period 1 July to 31 December 1978.

- 6 STEVEDORING INDUSTRY—REPORT AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Street (Minister for Industrial Relations), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Stevedoring Industry—A review of the new arrangements in the Stevedoring Industry first twelve months—Report, dated 21 March 1979—
and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report.
Mr Young, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the report.
- 7 DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER: Mr McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the names of the Distribution Commissioners appointed for the redistribution of the State of Western Australia into Electoral Divisions.
Mr Dawkins, Mr McLean and Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.
Mr McLeay, by leave, made a further statement on the subject, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Western Australia—Analysis of initial proposals of Distribution Commissioners.
- 8 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL: 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 Bill:
5 April 1979—Message No. 138—Family Law Amendment 1979.
- 9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MINERAL EXPORT POLICY: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Keating had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The threat to the national interest by State parochialism and division between the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister over mineral export policy".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Keating addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 10 NATURALLY OCCURRING LPG—INCREASE IN EXCISE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Newman (Minister for National Development), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to increase the excise on naturally occurring LPG, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Naturally occurring LPG—Increase in excise—Ministerial statement, 2 May 1979.
Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
Debate ensued.
Debate adjourned (Mr Hodges), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 4 (1979): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Excise Tariff Proposals No. 4 (1979).
Debate adjourned (Mr Willis), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 1978-79: 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 Willis who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the provisions of the Bill, the House—

- (a) condemns the Government’s failure to adopt an economic strategy designed to reduce unemployment;
- (b) deplores its failure to fulfil its promises to reduce inflation and interest rates, and notes with alarm that both are now increasing;
- (c) rejects the Government’s determination to place the blame for its economic failures on wage earners, trade unions and the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, and
- (d) expresses its disgust at the Government’s perverted and wasteful expenditure priorities as exemplified by its allocation of substantial funds in this Bill to indulge the travelling comfort of the Ministry whilst increasing the deprivation of the under-privileged”.

Debate continued.

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

13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Staley (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.24 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 2 May 1979, pursuant to statute:

- Norfolk Island Act—Ordinances—1979—
- No. 1—Boarding-houses (Amendment).
- No. 2—Land Titles (Aliens).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr Dobie, Mr Hunt, Mr MacKellar, Mr Scholes and Mr Shack.

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