

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 120

TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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- 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 Armitage, Mr Baume, Mr Bowen, Mr Fife, Mr Graham, Mr Hunt, Mr James, Mr Kerin, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr O'Keefe and Mr Ruddock—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the 1980 level of education expenditure to Government schools be restored and increased in real terms.
 - Mr Hunt and Mr Martin—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that the *Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act 1977* be repealed.
 - Mr Fisher—from certain electors of Victoria in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
 - Mr Jarman and Mr Short—from certain citizens praying that a humane policy be adopted to assist refugees to enter Australia.
 - Mr Morris and Mr Shipton—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 Chapman—from certain citizens praying that subsidies to pre-schools be increased to provide adequate pre-school services in South Australia.
 - Mr Chapman—from certain citizens praying that medical insurance legislation be introduced to cover psychological services as provided by Dr Burckhardt of South Australia.
 - Mr Fisher—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 Fraser—from certain citizens praying that the National Women's Advisory Council be abolished.
 - Mr Fraser—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Wannon praying that the price of L.P. gas be reduced.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that a Bill of Rights be introduced to describe and protect political and human rights.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the Copyright Amendment Bill be changed to meet the needs of handicapped persons.
 - Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to prohibit any further exploitation of local fishing resources by foreign enterprises and that assistance be given to develop the local fishing industry.
 - Mr Hyde—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Government proposals to sell publicly owned enterprises be rejected.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the allowable private income level earned by sheltered workshop invalid pensioners be doubled to \$40 per week and then indexed.

Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the Working Environment Division of the Department of Productivity remain sited in a major industrial city.

Mr Short—from certain residents of Ballarat, Vic., praying that Australia Post issue a commemorative stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of Apex Clubs in 1981.

Mr Staley—from certain residents of Sydney praying that the marine radio licence fee be set at \$2 for each frequency.

Mr West—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to increase the marine radio licence fee be reconsidered.

Petitions received.

- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Garland (Minister for Special Trade Representations), Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources) was acting as Minister for Special Trade Representations.

- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

- 5 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT AND PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPER: Mr Speaker, pursuant to statute, presented:

Audit Act—Report of the Auditor-General for year 1978–79, together with certificates of exempt accounts in respect of prescribed Departments and organizations, accompanied by the Minister for Finance's Statements.

Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance), 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 Auditor-General for the year 1978–79, and
- (2) That the paper be printed.

Question—put and passed.

- 6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Dairy Corporation—Interim report for year 1978–79.

Australian Egg Board—Interim statement for year 1978–79.

Australian Electoral Office—Report for year 1978–79.

Australian National Gallery—Report and financial statement, for year 1978–79.

Department of Social Security—Interim report of the Director-General for year 1978–79.

Department of Trade and Resources—Report for year 1978–79.

Pursuant to statute:

Australia-Japan Foundation Act—Australia-Japan Foundation—2nd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Australian Citizenship Act—Return for year 1978–79.

Dairying Research Act—Dairying Research Committee—7th Annual Report, for year 1978–79.

Environment (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for projects related to the environment in—

New South Wales, dated 14 June 1979.

Western Australia, dated 1 June 1979.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Health Commission Ordinance—Capital Territory Health Commission—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1977–78.

Trade Practices Act—Trade Practices Commission—5th Annual Report, for year 1978–79.

- 7 AUSTRALIA AND THE THIRD WORLD—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Australia and the third world—Report of the Committee on Australia's Relations with the Third World, dated 10 April 1979—
 and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper.
 Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a statement in connection with the paper.
- 8 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the Committee of Privileges, when considering the matter referred to it on 11 September 1979, have power to send for persons, papers and records.
 Question—put and passed.
- 9 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ASSISTANCE TO YOUNG HOME MAKERS: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Uren had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Australian Government to introduce policies to effectively assist young home makers offset rising prices of housing and land".
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Uren addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 10 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS: Ordered—That the government business intervening before order of the day No. 8 be postponed until a later hour this day.
- 11 AUSTRALIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION 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.
 Ordered—That Mr Bowen (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.
 Mr Bowen moved, as an amendment—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: "the Bill be withdrawn and re-drafted to provide—
- (a) that annual reports be presented to Parliament on the general operation of the Act and in particular the exercise of Special Powers under Part III, Division 2 of the Bill;
 - (b) that regular periodic judicial audit be conducted into the Australian Security Intelligence Organization to ensure—
 - (i) that it complies with its charter and the law;
 - (ii) that it does not unjustifiably infringe civil liberties; and
 - (iii) that it operates effectively and efficiently;
 - (c) that the responsible Minister be fully informed by the Director-General of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization with respect to any matter, other than the contents of files relating to particular individuals, on which he has sought information and advice;
 - (d) that the Leader of the Opposition be fully and regularly briefed on all aspects of the operation of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, including the exercise of its Special Powers under Part III, Division 2 of the Bill;
 - (e) the proper financial accountability of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization, including the auditing of its accounts by the Auditor-General, as recommended by the Hope Report;
 - (f) the redefinition of the concept of 'security', and in particular the element of 'subversion', in order to narrow its scope and limit the possibility of its misapplication;
 - (g) the restriction of the circumstances in which, and the times for which, warrants may be issued under Part III, Division 2 of the Bill;

- (h) that the security appeals system be given retrospective operation as recommended in the Hope Report;
- (i) that no person be denied notification of the existence of an adverse security assessment made about that person; and
- (j) the communication of information purporting to identify an Australian Security Intelligence Organization employee or agent to be penalised only when such information would endanger the safety of such person or itself be seriously prejudicial to security”.

Debate continued.

Mr Ruddock addressing the House—

12 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 tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 18 September 1979, pursuant to statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—G. R. Jensen.

Commonwealth Employees (Redeployment and Retirement) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 183.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1979—

No. 27—Sewerage Rates (Amendment).

No. 28—Water Rates (Amendment).

No. 29—Rates (Amendment).

No. 30—Building (Amendment).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Connolly, Mr Corbett, Dr Edwards, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Garland, Mr Hodgman*, Dr Jenkins*, Mr P. F. Johnson, Mr C. K. Jones*, Mr Keating, Mr Lloyd* and Mr J. L. McMahon.

* On leave

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