

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 123

TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 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 Bowen, Mr Cadman, Mr Howard, Mr Hunt, Mr L. R. Johnson, Dr Klugman, Mr Morris, Mr O'Keefe and Mr West—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 Aldred, Mr Burns, Mr Fife, Mr Jarman, Mr Nixon, Mr Peacock and Mr Shipton—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.

Mr Calder, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Fisher, Mr Lusher, Mr McVeigh, Mr Millar and Mr Nixon—from certain citizens praying that the National Women's Advisory Council be abolished.

Mr Aldred, Mr Hurford, Mr Jarman and Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that a humane policy be adopted to assist refugees to enter Australia.

Dr Blewett, Mr C. R. Cameron and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that subsidies to pre-schools be increased to provide adequate pre-school services in South 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 Haslem—from certain citizens praying that the National Health Scheme patient contribution rate not be increased.

Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying that the Department of Health directive to charge Community Health Centre patients be rescinded.

Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that the Red Army Choir be denied entry into Australia.

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

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the fee policy on overseas students be revoked.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that federal funding to State schools be restored to 1974-75 levels, that the independence of the Schools Commission be maintained and that tied grants be made to Queensland to ensure achievement of national standards.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Government proposals to sell publicly owned enterprises be rejected.

Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that funds be provided to improve the standard of living of the Aboriginal people.

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 Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Post Office agency in Hemmings Street, Dandenong West, Vic., be reopened.
Petitions received.

- 3 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the respective absences abroad of Mr Howard (Treasurer), Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Mr Garland (Minister for Special Trade Representations), Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Finance) was acting as Treasurer, Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) was acting as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Anthony (Minister for Trade and Resources) was acting as Minister for Special Trade Representations.
- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:
By Mr Speaker, pursuant to statute:
Commonwealth Banks Act—Commonwealth Banking Corporation, Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia, Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia and Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia—Reports and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1978-79.
By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
Department of the Capital Territory—Report for year 1978-79.
Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Fixed resistors, dated 26 July 1979.
Pursuant to statute:
Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Australian Dried Fruits Control Board—Final report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 1 July to 31 December 1978.
- 6 AUSTRALIAN FISHING ZONE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the commencement, on 1 November 1979, of a 200 nautical mile Australian fishing zone, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
Australian fishing zone—
Map.
Ministerial statement, 25 September 1979.
Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Mr Keating was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed. Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 7 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:
24 September 1979—Message No. 179—
Tasmanian Native Forestry Agreement 1979.
Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Amendment (No. 2) 1979.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INCOME TAX LAW: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that both Mr Willis and Mr Neil 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 Willis, namely, "The use of the income tax law for party political purposes".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Willis addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

9 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1979-80—BUDGET DEBATE: 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Willis, viz.—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the second reading, this House condemns the Fraser Government for presenting a budget which—*

- (1) reduces the real living standards of Australian families;
- (2) will increase unemployment to the highest level in the nation’s history;
- (3) facilitates and stimulates the recent fresh outbreak of inflation;
- (4) ensures that economic growth will be well below the nation’s productive capacity;
- (5) fails to introduce an effective job creation program, particularly for the young;
- (6) savagely reduces the allocation of funds for job training and re-training program;
- (7) will be responsible for the highest level of tax and total revenue collections in the nation’s history;
- (8) forces State and local governments either to reduce their services or increase their charges, and
- (9) intensifies the lack of credibility of the Prime Minister and his government and adds to their long list of broken promises”—

Debate resumed.

Mr Jull addressing the House—

10 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 10.59 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 25 September 1979, pursuant to statute:

Customs Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 185.

Primary Industry Bank Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 184.

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1979-80—

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A—MEMBERSHIP: Members of Estimates Committee A to consider the proposed expenditure for—

Parliament—

Government Members:

Mr Burr, Mr Cadman, Mr Cairns, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Lucock, Mr Lusher, Mr Ruddock, Mr Simon, Mr Wilson and Mr Yates.

Opposition Members:

Mr Bryant, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Scholes and Mr Young. (Sir Billy Snedden—Speaker, was in attendance.)

Department of Administrative Services—

Mr J. E. McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services).

Government Members:

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Cotter, Mr Dean, Mr Fisher, Mr Jull, Mr MacKenzie, Mr Neil, Mr Wilson and Mr Yates.

Opposition Members:

Mr Holding, Mr Jacobi, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr B. O. Jones and Mr Young.

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet—

Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister) acting for Mr Fraser (Prime Minister).

Government Members:

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Cotter, Mr Dean, Mr Fisher, Mr Jull, Mr MacKenzie, Mr Neil, Mr Wilson and Mr Yates.

Opposition Members:

Mr Holding, Mr Jacobi, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr B. O. Jones and Mr Young.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B—MEMBERSHIP: Members of Estimates Committee B to consider the proposed expenditure for—

Department of the Treasury—

Department of Finance—

Advance to the Minister for Finance—

Mr E. L. Robinson (Acting Treasurer and Minister for Finance).

Government Members:

Mr Baume, Mr Bradfield, Mr Dobie, Mr Hyde, Mr Katter, Mr McLean, Mr Moore, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Sainsbury and Mr Short.

Opposition Members:

Mr Armitage (*discharged during consideration*), Mr Dawkins, Mr B. O. Jones, Mr Kerin, Mr Martin (*nominated during consideration*) and Mr Willis.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Bungey, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Corbett, Dr Edwards, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Garland, Mr Hodgman*, Mr Howard, Dr Jenkins*, Mr C. K. Jones*, Mr Lloyd*, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Peacock, Mr Shack and Mr Thomson.

*On leave

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