

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 9

THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 1981

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 Beazley, Mr R. J. Brown, Mrs Child, Mr Cunningham, Mr Free, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Milton, Mr Mountford and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that funding of children's services be restored to at least the real value of funding allocated in the 1975-76 Budget and future allocations be spent in full for the purposes designated.

Mr Beazley, Mr Campbell, Mr Carlton and Mr McLean—from certain residents of Western Australia praying that steps be taken to formulate an airline policy providing for greater competition so that prices and service are determined by free market forces.

Mr Humphreys and Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that Service Pensions be extended to all merchant seamen who served in theatres of war.

Mr Hunt and Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that the Travelling Post Office service be retained in New South Wales.

Mrs Kelly and Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that family allowances be increased immediately and indexed, but not be taxed.

Mr J. J. Brown—from certain citizens praying that taxpayers' money not be used for abortions, subsidies for abortion referral centres be eliminated and Australia's Human Rights Charter include rights for the unborn.

Mr Campbell—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to allow child-care expenses as a deductible item from taxpayers' assessable income.

Mr Carlton—from certain citizens praying that the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence investigate alleged genocidal activities of the Romanian Government against native born Hungarians and, if such allegations are established, to call upon the United Nations to take appropriate action.

Dr Cass—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to deny unemployment benefits to unemployed persons under 18 years of age be unconditionally withdrawn and that certain other action be taken in regard to unemployment benefits and employment policies.

Mr Holding—from certain residents of Victoria praying that unemployed persons under 18 years of age not be denied unemployment benefits.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to require labelling of perfumes, cosmetics and toilet preparations to indicate any use of animal ingredients during manufacture.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that requests for export permits covering mineral sand products from Moreton Island, Qld, be refused.

Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that plant variety rights legislation not be introduced until full and informed public discussion of the issues has taken place.

Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that tax laws be reformed to allow joint incomes to be equally divided, for taxation purposes, between husband and wife.
 Mr Wallis—from certain residents of Hallett in the Electoral Division of Grey praying that the existing local passenger services on the Adelaide to Burra and Peterborough line in South Australia be retained.

Petitions received.

- 3 WENTWORTH ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT: Mr Speaker informed the House that it was his intention to issue a writ, on Tuesday, 3 March, for the election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Wentworth, in the State of New South Wales, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Honourable Robert James Ellicott, Q.C. The dates in connection with the election would be fixed as follows:

Date of nomination	Thursday, 19 March 1981.
Date of polling	Saturday, 11 April 1981.
Date of return of writ	On or before Tuesday, 12 May 1981.

- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—
Paper: Mr Street (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Aid to Kampuchea—Briefing notes, dated 16 February 1981.
 Questions without notice continued.

- 5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Broadcasting Tribunal—Annual Report and financial statements, for year 1979–80.

Australian Research Grants Committee—Report on grants approved for 1981.

Canberra Retail Markets Trust—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Canberra Theatre Trust—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Files and Rasps (Developing Country Preferences)—Interim report, dated 30 October 1980 (No. 252).

Tanned and finished leather; dressed fur, dated 17 June 1980 (No. 245).

Wooden components for use in louvred doors, etc. (By-law), dated 30 May 1980 (No. 243).

Wooden louvred goods—Short term assistance, dated 10 October 1980 (No. 251).

Nominal Defendant, Australian Capital Territory—Annual Report for 1979.

Registrar of Motor Vehicle Dealers, Australian Capital Territory—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Small business education and training in Australia—Summary report by National Training Council on a national survey, dated May 1980.

Pursuant to statute:

Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—28th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Australian Tourist Commission Act—Australian Tourist Commission—Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1979–80.

Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act—Commissioner for Employees' Compensation—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Industries Assistance Commission Act—Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Certain soft sided containers, dated 17 November 1980 (No. 51).

Industrial Research and Development Grants Act and Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act—Australian Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.

Sugar Agreement Act—Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee—Annual Report and statements of receipts and payments certified by the Auditor-General, for year 1979–80.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—NURSING HOME BENEFITS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Dr Blewett had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Government induced confusion over nursing home benefits reflecting as it does the general incoherence of its policy towards the aged”.
- The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Dr Blewett addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 7 DAIRYING RESEARCH AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Dairying Research Act 1972*, and for related purposes.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 8 DRIED VINE FRUITS STABILIZATION LEGISLATION REPEAL BILL 1981: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to repeal certain legislation relating to dried vine fruits and for related purposes.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT UNDERWRITING BILL 1981: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act relating to the underwriting of returns from the export from Australia of apples and pears.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 APPLE AND PEAR STABILIZATION AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Apple and Pear Stabilization Act 1971*, to repeal certain related Acts, and for other purposes.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 AUSTRALIAN APPLE AND PEAR CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Act 1973*.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Nixon moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 12 CURRENCY AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Howard (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Currency Act 1965*.
- Bill read a first time.
Mr Howard moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
Debate adjourned (Mr Uren), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

- 13 SHIPPING REGISTRATION BILL 1981: Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act providing for the registration of ships in Australia, and for related matters.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Hunt 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.
- 14 FLAGS AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Flags Act 1953*.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Hunt 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.
- 15 NAVIGATION AMENDMENT BILL 1981: Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Navigation Act 1912*, and for related purposes.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Hunt 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.
- 16 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—ARMY HOUSING, TOWNSVILLE, QLD:
 Mr McVeigh (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—
 That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration and report: Provision of Army housing at Townsville, Qld.
 Question—put and passed.
- 17 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:
 MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:
 We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Kent, viz.*—
 That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Government:
 (1) has failed to adequately respond to—
 (a) record unemployment;
 (b) a high and worsening level of inflation;
 (c) reduced and falling family living standards, and
 (d) the highest taxation burden in the nation's history;
 (2) allows unsatisfactory administration of foreign investment guidelines which permit an uncritical and open-door policy to the takeover of Australian industry and resources to continue, and
 (3) makes no long-term provision for assistance to manufacturing industry and farming industries, which are likely to be severely disadvantaged as a result of successive exchange rate revaluations and substantially increased imports in the context of resources development”—
 Debate resumed.
 Ordered—That Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.
 Debate continued.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Tuckey), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

18 PAPERS: Mr Viner (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister), pursuant to statute, presented the following papers:

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—

Determination accompanied by statement regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1980—No. 503—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.

Opinion, and annexure, addressed to Prime Minister by Senator Durack (Attorney-General), dated 26 February 1981.

19 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

26 February 1981—Message—

No. 30—National Companies and Securities Commission Amendment 1981.

No. 31—Companies (Acquisition of Shares) Amendment 1981.

No. 32—Securities Industry Amendment 1981.

No. 33—Companies and Securities (Interpretation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment 1981.

20 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Mr Kent, viz.*—That the following words be added to the Address: “, but note that the Government:

- (1) has failed to adequately respond to—
 - (a) record unemployment;
 - (b) a high and worsening level of inflation;
 - (c) reduced and falling family living standards, and
 - (d) the highest taxation burden in the nation's history;
- (2) allows unsatisfactory administration of foreign investment guidelines which permit an uncritical and open-door policy to the takeover of Australian industry and resources to continue, and
- (3) makes no long-term provision for assistance to manufacturing industry and farming industries, which are likely to be severely disadvantaged as a result of successive exchange rate revaluations and substantially increased imports in the context of resources development”—

Debate resumed.

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

21 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Hodgman required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.01 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 26 February 1981, pursuant to statute:

Bounty (Bed Sheeting) Act—Return for period 1 November 1979 to 31 October 1980.

Bounty (Polyester-Cotton Yarn) Act—Return for period 1 October 1979 to 31 August 1980.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1981—

- Nos. 1 and 2—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 3—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 4—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.†
- No. 5—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 6—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 7—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
- No. 8—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.†
- No. 9—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and another.
- No. 10—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†
- No. 11—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 12—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.
- No. 13—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 14—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 15—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 16—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 17—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 18—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.†
- No. 19—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).†
- No. 20—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- Nos. 21 to 23—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.
- No. 24—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 25—Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association of Australia.
- No. 26—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 27—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 28—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).†
- No. 29—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 30—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- († Not accompanied by statement)

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr J. J. Brown, Mrs Darling and Mr Sainsbury.

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