

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 22

TUESDAY, 7 APRIL 1981

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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 Free, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr Mountford—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 Duffy—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praying that any proposal to deny unemployment benefits to unemployed persons under 18 years of age be unconditionally withdrawn and that certain other action be taken in regard to unemployment benefits and employment policies.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 Fisher—from certain residents of Victoria praying that musicians dismissed from the A.B.C. Melbourne Showband be reinstated and that funds be made available to enable the band to continue.
 - Mr Free—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Macquarie praying that Telecom Australia be directed to provide an adequate service to subscribers and users in the 047 telephone zone.
 - 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 Service Pensions be extended to all merchant seamen who served in theatres of war.
 - 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 Morris—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.
 - Mr Nixon—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.
 - Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to have a national referendum on immigration.
 - Mr Peacock—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant breeders' rights in Australia be rejected.
 - Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that militant unions not be permitted to hold the country to ransom and that a forceful and resolute stand be taken against union militancy.
 - Mr Spender—from certain citizens praying that laws be passed to outlaw discrimination in employment and in the provision of unemployment benefits, based upon race, ethnic origin, marital status and sex.
 - Mr Spender—from certain citizens praying that family allowances be increased immediately and indexed, but not be taxed.

Petitions received.

- 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:
 By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 Astronomy in Australia: Developments in the 1980s—Report by Astronomy Advisory Committee, dated July 1980.
 Australian Plague Locust Commission—Annual Report, for year 1979–80.
 Pursuant to statute:
 Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations Act—Advisory Council for Inter-government Relations—4th Annual Report, for year ended 31 August 1980.
 Commonwealth Teaching Service Act—Commonwealth Teaching Service Commissioner—Report for 1980.
 National Health Act—9th Annual Report on the operations of the registered medical and hospital benefits organizations, for year 1978–79.
- 5 FISHING INDUSTRY—SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Nixon (Minister for Primary Industry), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to the lifting of the freeze on the number of vessels fishing for southern bluefin tuna in certain waters off Australia.
 Mr Kerin, by leave, also made a statement on the matter.
- 6 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:
 2 April 1981—Message—
 No. 64—Income Tax (International Agreements) Amendment 1981.
 No. 65—Commonwealth Banks Amendment 1981.
- 7 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—REPORTS—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Connolly (Chairman) presented the following reports from the Joint Committee of Public Accounts:
 185th Report—Finance Minute on the 176th Report, together with a summary of that Report.
 186th Report—Expenditure from Advance to the Minister for Finance (Appropriation Acts 1979–80).
 187th Report—Reports of the Auditor-General for year 1978–79.
 Severally ordered to be printed.
 Mr Connolly and Mr Beazley, by leave, made statements in connection with the reports.
 Dr Theophanous asked leave to make a statement.
 Objection being raised, leave not granted.
- 8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ENERGY POLICY—RUNDLE PROJECT: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Keating, Mr Baume and Mr Connolly 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 Keating, namely, “The failure of the Government’s energy strategy as illustrated by the shelving of the Rundle project”.
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Keating addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 9 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—C.S.I.R.O. MARINE LABORATORIES, HOBART, TAS.: 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: C.S.I.R.O. Marine Laboratories, Hobart, Tas.

Mr McVeigh presented plans in connection with the proposed work.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.

10 **DESIGNS AMENDMENT BILL 1981**: Mr Thomson (Minister for Science and Technology), for Mr McVeigh (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Designs Act 1906*, and for related purposes. Bill read a first time.
 Mr Thomson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

11 **PATENTS AMENDMENT BILL 1981**: Mr Thomson (Minister for Science and Technology), for Mr McVeigh (Minister for Housing and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Patents Act 1952*, and for related purposes. Bill read a first time.
 Mr Thomson moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr J. J. Brown), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

12 **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.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Armitage, in the Chair)—

AYES, 44

Mr Beazley	Mr Duffy	Dr Jenkins	Mr Morris
Mr Bowen	Dr Everingham	Mr Johnson*	Mr Morrison
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Mountford
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Scholes
Mr Campbell	Mr Hawke	Mrs Kelly	Mr Scott
Mr Charles	Mr Holding	Mr Kent	Dr Theophanous
Mrs Child	Mr Howe	Mr Kerin	Mr Uren
Mr Cross	Mr Humphreys*	Dr Klugman	Mr Wallis
Mr Cunningham	Mr Hurford	Mr McLeay	Mr West
Mrs Darling	Mr Innes	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Willis
Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Milton	Mr Young

NOES, 68

Mr Adermann	Mr Cowan	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock
Mr Anthony	Mr Dean	Mr Katter	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Dobie	Mr Killen	Mr Robinson
Mr Birney	Mr Drummond	Mr Lloyd	Mr Rocher
Mr Bouchier	Dr Edwards	Mr Lusher	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fife	Sir Phillip Lynch	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fisher*	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shack
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Goodluck	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Shipton
Mr Bungey	Mr Groom	Mr McLean	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Hall	Sir William McMahon	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Harris	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Hicks	Mr Macphree	Mr Tambling
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hodges*	Mr Millar	Mr Thomson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Howard	Mr Moore	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Hunt	Mr Newman	Mr Viner
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Nixon	Mr White
Mr Connolly	Mr Jarman	Mr O'Keefe	Mr Wilson

*Tellers

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the Address be agreed to—put and passed.

- 13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICE: Mr Fife (Minister for Education), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 39, general business, being called on forthwith.

Question—put and passed.

- 14 PUBLIC EXPENDITURE—PROPOSED REDUCTION OF FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY: Mr Groom, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House—

- (1) expresses disappointment that, in 1981, public expenditure is estimated to increase in real terms by 3%, and that receipts will be higher, as a percentage of G.D.P., than in any previous year, and
- (2) is of the opinion that the Government should move quickly to substantially reduce the size and costs of the Federal bureaucracy, so as to allow a cut in personal income tax giving ordinary Australians greater incentive and more discretion over how their earnings are to be spent.

Mr Wilson (Minister for Home Affairs and Environment) moved—That Mr Groom be granted an extension of time.

Question—put.

The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Millar, in the Chair)—

AYES, 58

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Hyde	Mr Ruddock
Mr Anthony	Mr Cowan	Mr Jarman	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Baume	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Shack
Mr Birney	Mr Drummond	Mr Katter	Mr Shipton
Mr Bouchier	Dr Edwards	Mr Killen	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fife	Mr Lloyd	Mr Spender
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fisher	Mr Lusher	Mr Street
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie*	Mr Tambling
Mr Bungey	Mr Goodluck	Sir William McMahon	Mr Thomson
Mr Burr	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Tuckey
Mr Cadman	Mr Hall	Mr Moore	Mr Viner
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Harris	Mr Newman	Mr White
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hicks	Mr Porter	Mr Wilson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hodges*	Mr Robinson	
Mr Chapman	Mr Hunt	Mr Rocher	

NOES, 40

Mr Armitage	Mr Dawkins	Mr Jacobi	Mr Mildren
Mr Beazley	Mr Duffy	Dr Jenkins	Mr Milton
Dr Blewett	Dr Everingham	Mr Johnson*	Mr Morrison
Mr Bowen	Mr Free	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Mountford
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Scholes
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Hawke	Mr Kent	Mr Scott
Mr Campbell	Mr Holding	Mr Kerin	Mr Uren
Mrs Child	Mr Howe	Dr Klugman	Mr West
Mr Cross	Mr Humphreys*	Mr McLeay	Mr Willis
Mrs Darling	Mr Hurford	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Young

*Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Willis moved, as an amendment—That all words after “House” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words:

- “(1) noting (a) the damaging impact of Government cut-backs in public services on economic growth, the social infrastructure and on people in need, and
 (b) the inefficiencies created in the Public Service by the Government’s imposition of severe staff ceilings,
 (2) condemns the damaging economic policies which have brought about these results and calls for the adoption of policies which will provide an adequate level of public services and staff and reallocation of public expenditure so as to ensure justice and equity in the use of public funds”.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr Sainsbury be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mrs Darling addressing the House—

15 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 7 April 1981, pursuant to statute:

Defence Act—Determinations—1981—

No. 9—Flying Allowance, Diving Allowance and Extra Risk Allowance.

No. 10—Uniform Maintenance Allowance.

Defence Amendment Act—Interim Determinations—Statutory Rules 1981, Nos. 53, 54, 55, 56, 57.

States Grants (Schools Assistance) Act 1980—Statement of particulars of direction given by Minister under sub-section 13 (2).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Cohen.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives