

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

WEDNESDAY, 19 AUGUST 1981

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 Charles, Mrs Child, Mr Cunningham, Mr Duffy, Mr Hawke, Mr Holding, Mr Innes, Dr Jenkins, Mr B. O. Jones, Mr Kent, Mr Mildren, Mr Milton, Dr Theophanous and Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying that insulin syringes for diabetics be made available on the National Health Scheme and insulin prescriptions revert to 10 bottles.

Mrs Child, Mr Dawkins, Mr Free, Mr Milton, Mr Morris and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to sell Trans Australia Airlines be rejected.

Mr Beazley, Mr Free, Mr Howe, Mr Johnson and Mr C. K. Jones—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to re-introduce a system of health care based on ability to pay and that access to health care be based on medical need.

Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Cross, Mr Falconer and Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying that the value of family allowances be restored and then indexed and the spouse rebate be increased to \$1,342 per year.

Mrs Child, Mr Howe, Mr Innes, Mr B. O. Jones and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained, community health program funding and services be increased, the means test be abandoned and certain other action be taken in relation to the health care needs of the community.

Mr N. A. Brown, Mr E. C. Cameron, Mr Innes and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that immediate and positive action be taken to avert further poverty and suffering in the community by raising the level of all pensions and benefits to the poverty line and by reconsidering the recent Government decisions taken in relation to the health system.

Mrs Child, Mr Dawkins, Mr Innes and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that post-secondary tuition fees not be introduced, the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme be extended to meet the financial needs of students, and certain other action be taken in relation to tertiary and adult education.

Mr Braithwaite, Mr D. M. Cameron and Dr Everingham—from certain members of Parents and Citizens Associations praying that the Schools Commission and Curriculum Development Centre be retained in their original form and certain funding proposals and schools improvement programs be retained.

Mr Connolly, Dr Edwards and Mr Fry—from certain citizens praying that family allowances be indexed to cover future price rises and single-income families be helped by introducing optional income-splitting for taxation purposes.

Mr D. M. Cameron and Mr Cross—from certain citizens praying that requests for export permits covering mineral sand products from Moreton Island, Qld, be refused.

- Mr Dawkins and Mr Milton—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to allow child-care expenses as a deductible item from taxpayers' assessable income.
- Mr Fry and Mrs Kelly—from certain citizens praying that small businessmen in the Belconnen Mall, A.C.T., be encouraged and assisted to own their premises in the Mall.
- Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr Uren—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth funding of health services be continued at an improved level and the recommendations of the Committee of Review of Commonwealth Functions not be proceeded with.
- Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that Australian military participation in the proposed Sinai peacekeeping force not be ratified unless that force is fully controlled by the United Nations.
- Mr Beazley—from certain citizens praying that women's refuges, health centres and rape crisis centres be funded under special purpose grants administered federally under one Department and certain other actions be taken to ensure the continuing effectiveness of women's services.
- Dr Blewett—from certain residents of South Australia praying that the offer of Darwin or any other location as a base or depot for American B-52 bombers be withdrawn and any request by the United States Government for the use of bases in Australia be rejected.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain residents of Western Australia in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mrs Child—from certain citizens praying that sanitary products for women be brought under the scrutiny of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee and certain other actions be taken in regard to the possible threat posed to the health of women by toxic shock syndrome.
- Mrs Child—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to grant a service pension to ex-service personnel who did not serve overseas.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that funds not be allocated for the development of roads or dams in South-West Tasmania but be provided instead for the preservation of the area.
- Mr Cunningham—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to prevent the Australian Postal Commission implementing any plan which will downgrade postal and mail services.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that the recent decisions made with respect to tertiary education be rescinded and no steps be taken towards the re-introduction of fees for tertiary education.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that funding of community kindergartens be restored to 1976 levels.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth's constitutional and legislative powers be used to grant full land rights and self-management to the Aboriginal people of Queensland.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that the decision to pass the responsibility of funding of women's and children's refuges and health and crisis centres to the States be reversed and certain other actions be taken to consolidate the existing services and develop new initiatives for women and children in the community.
- Mr Dawkins—from certain citizens praying that post-secondary tuition fees not be re-introduced.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying that certain recommendations of the Law Reform Commission discussion paper on Privacy and Personal Information be rejected and some other means be found to protect children from the excessive abuse of some parents.
- Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that service pensions be extended to all merchant seamen who served in theatres of war.

- Dr Everingham—from certain electors praying that diplomatic contracts be made with countries with whom Australia has differences and certain other actions be taken to increase conciliation and arbitration with all nations of the world to avoid international disputes.
- Mr Fry—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Fraser, praying that L. J. Hooker Pty Ltd be urged to renew the lease of George Karkazis of Blamey Place, Campbell, A.C.T.
- Mr Giles—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to apply a sales tax or an excise on wine be rejected.
- Mr Giles—from certain residents of the District Council of Bute, S.A. praying that the Bute Post Office retain the classification of an official post office.
- Mr Holding—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 Johnson—from certain citizens praying that financial assistance be provided to State and local authorities to combat the Brazilian weed, *Salvinia molesta*, in the Georges River, N.S.W., and that steps be taken to ensure that Commonwealth instrumentalities along the river are not contributing to the pollution problem.
- Mr Johnson—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to legislate for the establishment of plant variety rights in Australia be rejected.
- Mr Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney, not be extended and that no related decisions be taken without consultation with affected communities.
- Mrs Kelly—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 Kerin—from certain citizens praying that Australia exert its influence on the Republic of Korea to secure the release of all prisoners of conscience, seek fair and open trials for all political prisoners and the commutation of existing death sentences on humanitarian grounds.
- Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that the importance of the club industry be recognised and that any proposal to increase the excise on beer be rejected.
- Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to bring all family allowances and social security benefits up to levels which would make them equivalent in real monetary terms to the time when they were set.
- Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that the importance of the hotel industry be recognised and that any proposal to increase the excise on beer be rejected.
- Mr MacKellar—from the Order of the White Cross International and certain citizens praying that the Plant Variety Rights Bill 1981 be rejected.
- Mr McLeay—from certain citizens praying that the plight of senior citizens be eased by the introduction of proxy voting at elections, the application of the means test only when the pension reaches \$150 per week and the fixing of the base pension at 30% of average weekly earnings.
- Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
- Mr Ruddock—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
- Mr Wallis—from certain citizens praying that the fuel parity pricing policy be reviewed in relation to the opal mining industry.
- Mr Wallis—from certain residents of Tarcoola, S.A. praying that a remote areas television earth station be installed to enable residents of Tarcoola and surrounding areas to receive television via the Intelsat Satellite,

Petitions received,

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Distinguished visitors: Mr Speaker informed the House that members of the Nigerian Parliament's Committee on Federal Capital Development, led by Senator Alhaji Rufair, Chairman of the Committee, were present in the gallery. On behalf of the House, Mr Speaker extended to the visitors a very warm welcome.

Questions without notice continued.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Defence Science and Technology Organisation—

Independent external review—

Report, dated 9 October 1980.

Government response to report.

Internal review into objectives and procedures—

Report, dated 7 October 1980.

Government response to report.

Film Censorship Board—Report on activities, for 1980.

Finance—Advance to Minister for Finance—Statements for—

May 1981.

June 1981.

July 1981.

Pursuant to statute:

Wheat Marketing Act—Australian Wheat Board—

Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year ended 30 November 1980.

5 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HOUSING: Mr 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 Government's imposition of increasing hardship on first home buyers, existing home buyers and people renting homes, resulting from rising interest rates, declining availability of housing finance and cutbacks in public housing expenditure".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Uren addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

6 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—GENERAL BUSINESS NOTICES: Mr McVeigh (Minister for Housing and Construction), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent notice No. 29, general business, being called on forthwith and, after the conclusion of consideration of that business, notice No. 8, general business, being called on.

Question—put and passed.

7 BAHAI FAITH IN IRAN: Mr Carlton, having amended, by leave, notice No. 29, general business, moved—That this House—

(1) expresses its grave concern over the persecution of the adherents of the Baha'i faith in Iran by the regime of the Ayatollah Khomeini, and notes with alarm and abhorrence the continuing executions of Iranian Baha'is purely on the grounds of their religious faith;

- (2) calls upon the Government of Iran to release from custody those Baha'is who have been unjustly detained, and to restore the holy places, properties, community centres and companies that have been confiscated;
- (3) commends the Australian Government for its assistance to Australian Baha'is in expressing their protest to the Iranian Government, and
- (4) requests the Australian Government to continue to lend its support to moves in international forums designed to restore to the Iranian Baha'is their freedom to live in peace and practice their religion in harmony with their fellow citizens of other faiths.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

8 PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES OF THE HOUSE—PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE: Mr Scholes, pursuant to notice, moved—

- (1) That a standing committee be appointed to maintain a continuing surveillance of the practices and procedures of the House of Representatives with a view to making recommendations which would enhance the role of the House and its operational efficiency.
- (2) That the committee consist of 4 Government Members and 4 Opposition Members to be appointed by Mr Speaker after consultation with the Party Whips.
- (3) That Mr Speaker also appoint a Chairman of the Committee who shall have a casting vote only.
- (4) That any additional terms of appointment of the committee be the subject of a subsequent resolution of the House.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negated.

9 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 1981: 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.

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

10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Viner (Minister for Industrial Relations) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Closure: Mr Hodges moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 59

Mr Adermann	Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Cowan	Mr Howard	Mr Rocher
Mr Birney	Mr Dean	Mr Hyde	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bourchier	Mr Drummond	Mr Jull	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bradfield	Dr Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fife	Sir Phillip Lynch	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bungey	Mr Fisher*	Mr MacKellar	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Street
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLean	Mr Tambling
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Macphee	Mr Tuckey
Mr Carlton	Mr Harris	Mr Moore	Mr White
Mr Chapman	Mr Hicks	Mr Nixon	Mr Wilson
Mr Coleman	Mr Hodges*	Mr Peacock	

NOES, 38

Mr Armitage	Mr Cunningham	Mr Jacobi	Mr Milton
Mr Beazley	Mrs Darling	Mr Johnson*	Mr Morrison
Dr Blewett	Mr Dawkins	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Scott
Mr Bowen	Mr Duffy	Mr C. K. Jones	Dr Theophanous
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Free	Mr Keating	Mr Wallis
Mr Campbell	Mr Hawke	Mr Kent	Mr West
Mr Charles	Mr Holding	Dr Klugman	Mr Willis
Mrs Child	Mr Howe	Mr McLeay	Mr Young
Mr Cohen	Mr Humphreys*	Mr J. L. McMahon	
Mr Cross	Mr Hurford	Mr Mildren	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—being accordingly put—
The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Millar, in the Chair)—

AYES, 60

Mr Adermann	Mr Coleman	Mr Hodges*	Mr Peacock
Mr Anthony	Mr Connolly	Mr Hodgman	Mr Porter
Mr Baume	Mr Cowan	Mr Howard	Mr Rocher
Mr Birney	Mr Dean	Mr Hyde	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bouchier	Mr Drummond	Mr Jull	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bradfield	Dr Edwards	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Shipton
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Fife	Sir Phillip Lynch	Mr Sinclair
Mr Bungey	Mr Fisher*	Mr MacKellar	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Street
Mr D. M. Cameron	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLean	Mr Tambling
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
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Mr Campbell	Mr Hawke	Mr Kent	Mr West
Mr Charles	Mr Holding	Dr Klugman	Mr Willis
Mrs Child	Mr Howe	Mr McLeay	Mr Young
Mr Cohen	Mr Humphreys*	Mr J. L. McMahon	
Mr Cross	Mr Hurford	Mr Mildren	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then the House, at 10.44 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 19 August 1981, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff Act—Orders—Developing country—Nos. 4, 5 (1981).

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—Postal—1981—
Amendment No. 4.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Dobie and Mr Morris.

J. A. Pettifer,

Clerk of the House of Representatives