

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 80

THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 1982

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **DEATH OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MALAYSIA (TAN SRI DATO'SYED NASIR ISMAIL):** Mr Speaker informed the House of the death, on 16 March 1982, of Tan Sri Dato'Syed Nasir Ismail, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia. Mr Speaker expressed sympathy to the late Speaker's family and the Parliament of Malaysia.
 - 3 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 4 **DRUG TRAFFICKING—COMMONWEALTH-NEW SOUTH WALES JOINT TASK FORCE—DRAFT PRESS RELEASE—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPERS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Drug trafficking—Commonwealth-New South Wales Joint Task Force—Draft press release.
Mr Fraser, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Drug trafficking—Commonwealth-New South Wales Joint Task Force—Draft press release—Ministerial statement, 18 March 1982.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the papers.
Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
 - 5 **PAPERS:** Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:
Mike Walsh Show, 22 February 1982—Interview with Prime Minister—Copy of transcript.
Prime Minister's press conference, Sydney, 22 February 1982—Copy of transcript.
 - 6 **LEAVE OF HOUSE FOR ADDUCTION OF OFFICIAL RECORDS—ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO DRUG TRAFFICKING:** Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That this House grants leave for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Drug Trafficking to adduce the official records of the proceedings in the House in which references were made to matters relevant to the inquiry, viz.:
Parliamentary Debates, House of Representatives for
(a) 11 March 1982, pages 890 to 891, 893 to 894, 921 to 927;
(b) 16 March 1982, pages 959, 960, 967 to 976, 976 to 988, and
(c) 18 March 1982, pages 1127 to 1133.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

- 7 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE:** A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:
17 March 1982—Message No. 228—States (Tax Sharing and Health Grants) Amendment 1982.
- 8 POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY:** Ordered—That orders of the day Nos. 1 and 2, Privilege, relating to the consideration of reports from the Committee of Privileges, be postponed until 23 March 1982.
- 9 PARLIAMENT — PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TERMS OF HOUSES:** Mr Burr, pursuant to notice, moved—That this House is of the opinion that the term of the House of Representatives should be extended to 4 years and the term of the Senate to 8 years and therefore calls on the Government to conduct a referendum in conjunction with the next general election to propose to the Australian people appropriate amendments to the Constitution.
Debate ensued.
Mr Ruddock addressing the House—
It being 2 hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 109.
Ordered—That the time for the discussion of notice No. 1 be extended until 12.15 p.m.
Debate continued.
The time allotted for precedence to general business having expired, the debate was interrupted, Mr Scholes was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed, and the resumption of the debate was made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 10 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:** Mr Bungey (Chairman) presented the following report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works: Final report relating to the upgrading of airport facilities for the introduction of domestic wide-body aircraft (2nd report of 1982).
Ordered to be printed.
Mr Scott and Mr Bungey, by leave, made statements in connection with the report.
- 11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—VIETNAM VETERANS—JUDICIAL INQUIRY:** Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Holding had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The rejection by the Government of a judicial inquiry sought by Vietnam veterans, as influenced by the Prime Minister’s previous decision as Minister for Defence”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Holding addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Mrs Darling addressing the House—
Mr Bouchier moved—That the business of the day be called on.
Question—put and passed.
- 12 PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Bowen, Mr J. J. Brown, Mr Johnson and Mr Kerin—from certain citizens praying that information on proposed plant variety rights legislation be made freely available and an analysis of costs and benefits involved be undertaken.
- Mrs Darling and Mr Moore—from certain citizens praying that the proposed sales tax on books, magazines and newspapers be withdrawn from the Budget proposals.
- Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that Family Radio Limited’s application for a broadcasting licence be supported and more category “S” F.M. licences be made available in Brisbane.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that telegram services be retained at a standard and cost that will not disadvantage the ordinary citizen.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that telephone installation and rental charges be brought in line with those in North America and fees for local calls be abolished.

Mrs Darling—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.

Mrs Darling—from certain citizens praying that any proposal to establish a ceiling on the allowable amount of savings in pensioners' non-interest bearing accounts not be proceeded with.

Mr Falconer—from certain citizens praying that any industries assistance recommendations that may subject hearing aids to import duty be rejected.

Mr Goodluck—from certain citizens praying that the annual registration fee for periodicals be reviewed with a view to exempting smaller clubs and organisations from its requirements.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the importation of marine mammal by-products be banned and an international ban on the slaughter of marine mammals be supported.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the Sex Discrimination Bill 1981 be passed.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that carcass trade be promoted and that exports of live animals for slaughter be banned.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that sun screen lotions be made deductible products under health insurance schemes.

Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that legislation be enacted to require the production of annual statistics on the numbers of live animals involved in research and that the National Health and Medical Research Council be required to develop humane and responsible standards of conduct for research using live animals in laboratories.

Mr Johnson—from certain residents of Australia praying that urgent steps be taken to formulate and approve a social security agreement with the Italian Government and that certain questions related to pensions of Italian immigrants be resolved urgently within the agreement.

Mr Kent—from certain citizens praying that the present children's services program be maintained and no recommendations of the Spender report be implemented without full consultation with community groups.

Mr Morrison—from certain citizens praying that the Senate's requested amendments to the Sales Tax Bills be supported.

Dr Theophanous—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.

Dr Theophanous—from certain citizens praying that the rights of Australian workers in the automotive industry be protected by rejecting any proposal to reduce the level of tariff protection for the industry.

Petitions received.

13 **AFGHANISTAN DAY:** Mr Street (Minister for Foreign Affairs), pursuant to notice, moved—That this House—

- (1) recalls that on 19 February 1980 it condemned the invasion of Afghanistan on 27 December 1979 by the Soviet Union as a gross violation of the United Nations Charter and of Afghanistan's non-aligned status;
- (2) notes that the international community, in particular the United Nations General Assembly, has repeatedly called for the immediate withdrawal of the foreign troops from Afghanistan and reaffirmed the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government free from outside intervention;

- (3) deplores the continued fighting within Afghanistan, the tragic loss of life and destruction of property, and the suffering of the Afghan civilians who have been subjected to sustained and increasing military harassment, bombing and disruption;
- (4) views with deep concern the plight of approximately 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan;
- (5) notes that 21 March has been traditionally celebrated by the Afghan people as the beginning of their New Year;
- (6) welcomes the decision by the European Parliament to designate 21 March 1982 as Afghanistan Day and make it the occasion on which international attention again should be focussed on the Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, and
- (7) declares also its intention to designate 21 March 1982 as a day for Australians to convey to the world their desire for the USSR to withdraw unconditionally from Afghanistan and allow a free, independent and truly no-aligned Afghanistan to be re-established.

Debate ensued.

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

- 14 **EXCISE TARIFF (COAL) AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** Mr Viner (Minister for Industrial Relations) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Tariff Act 1921*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 15 **COAL INDUSTRY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** Mr Viner (Minister for Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *States Grants (Coal Mining Industry Long Service Leave) Act 1949* and the *Coal Research Assistance Act 1977*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 16 **ROADS GRANTS AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** Mr Hunt (Minister for Transport), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Roads Grants Act 1981*.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Hunt moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

- 17 **REPATRIATION AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** 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 by Dr Blewett who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not denying this Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that the Bill should provide for:

- (1) repatriation benefits for those who served in peacekeeping forces before 1 November 1981;
- (2) eligibility for service pensions for all Allied ex-merchant mariners as is provided for Allied ex-servicemen, and
- (3) amendment to the *Repatriation Act 1920*, and related Acts, to provide equality of repatriation entitlements as between veterans of World War I, World War II and the conflicts in Malaya and Vietnam, as is presently provided for World War II veterans under section 101 (1) (b) of that Act”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.
The House divided (the Deputy Speaker, Mr Drummond, in the Chair)—

AYES, 62

Mr Adermann	Mr Dobie	Mr Jull	Mr Rocher
Mr Baume	Dr Edwards	Mr Katter	Mr Ruddock
Mr Bourchier	Mr Falconer	Mr Killen	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Bradfield	Mr Fife	Sir Phillip Lynch	Mr Shack
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Fisher	Mr MacKellar	Mr Shipton
Mr Bungey	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie*	Mr Sinclair
Mr Burr	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLean	Mr Spender
Mr Cadman	Mr Groom	Mr McVeigh	Mr Street
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hall	Mr Macphee	Mr Tambling
Mr I. M. D. Cameron	Mr Harris	Mr Moore	Mr Thomson
Mr Carlton	Mr Hicks	Mr Newman	Mr Tuckey
Mr Chapman	Mr Hodges*	Mr Nixon	Mr Viner
Mr Coleman	Mr Hodgman	Mr O'Keefe	Mr White
Mr Connolly	Mr Howard	Mr Peacock	Mr Wilson
Mr Cowan	Mr Hunt	Mr Porter	
Mr Dean	Mr Hyde	Mr Robinson	

NOES, 46

Mr Armitage	Mrs Darling	Mr Johnson*	Mr Morris
Mr Beazley	Mr Dawkins	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Morrison
Dr Blewett	Mr Duffy	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Mountford
Mr Bowen	Dr Everingham	Mr Keating	Mr Scholes
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Fry	Ms Kelly	Mr Scott
Mr R. J. Brown	Mr Hawke	Mr Kent	Mr Uren
Mr Campbell	Mr Holding	Mr Kerin	Mr Wallis
Dr Cass	Mr Howe	Dr Klugman	Mr West
Mr Charles	Mr Humphreys*	Mr McLeay	Mr Willis
Mr Cohen	Mr Hurford	Mr McMahan	Mr Young
Mr Cross	Mr Jacobi	Mr Mildren	
Mr Cunningham	Dr Jenkins	Mr Milton	

* Tellers

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Message from the Governor-General: Message No. 128, dated 11 March 1982, from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced recommending an appropriation of revenue for the purposes of the Bill.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Thomson (Minister representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs), the Bill was read a third time.

18 **CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 9 (1982):** Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 9 (1982).

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

19 **PAPER:** Mr Moore (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Hand and machine scales; drawing and mathematical calculating instruments, etc., dated 9 December 1981 (No. 289).

20 **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AMENDMENT BILL 1982:**

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.

Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

Leave granted for third reading to be moved forthwith.

On the motion of Mr Hodgman (Minister for the Capital Territory), the Bill was read a third time.

- 21 **OVERSEAS STUDENTS CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** 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 by Mr Dawkins who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that charges should not be levied against needy students from any developing country”.

Mr Beazley (seconder) 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 a later hour this day.

- 22 **HOUSING POLICY REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Mr Howard (Treasurer), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the results of a review of Government housing policy and consequent changes in that policy, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Housing policy review—Ministerial statement, 18 March 1982.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Sinclair, by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Uren speaking for a period not exceeding 30 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr Dean), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

- 23 **MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 1982:** Message No. 229, dated 13 March 1982, from the Senate was reported transmitting for the concurrence of the House a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976’ and the ‘Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Amendment Act 1979’, and for related purposes*”.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner (Minister representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Papers: Mr Viner, during his speech, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following papers:

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act—Proposed amendments—Copies of—

Letters from—

Senator Baume, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, to—

Mr G. Blitner, Chairman, Northern Land Council, dated 12 October 1981.

Fr T. Brennan, M.S.C., Manager, Tiwi Land Council, dated 12 October 1981.

Mr S. Scrutton, Chairman, Central Land Council, dated 12 October 1981.

Mr G. Blitner to Senator Baume, dated 10 February 1982.

Fr T. Brennan to Senator Baume, dated 10 November 1981.

Mr S. Scrutton to Senator Baume, dated 7 December 1981.

Telexes from—

Mr G. Blitner to Mr W. Gray, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, dated 10 March 1982(2).

Mr W. Gray to C. Clare, General Manager, Northern Land Council, dated 10 March 1982.

G. Niegmann, Principal Legal Officer, Northern Land Council and J. Coldrey, Principal Legal Officer, Central Land Council to Senator Baume, dated 16 March 1982.

Mr S. Scrutton to Mr W. Gray, dated 10 March 1982.

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

- 24 **AFGHANISTAN DAY—ORDER OF DAY FOR NEXT SITTING—RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION:** Mr Fife (Minister for Education), by leave, moved—That the resolution of the House this day making the resumption of debate on the motion on Afghanistan Day an order of the day for the next sitting be rescinded, and that the resumption of debate be made an order of the day for this sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 25 **AFGHANISTAN DAY:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Street (Minister for Foreign Affairs) relating to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and a proposal to designate 21 March 1982 as Afghanistan Day (*moved earlier this day, see entry No. 13*)—

Question—put and passed.

- 26 **HOUSING POLICY REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented this day*), viz.:

Housing policy review—Ministerial statement, 18 March 1982—

Debate resumed.

Mr Armitage addressing the House—

- 27 **ADJOURNMENT:** It being 10 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until 10.30 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until Tuesday next at 1.45 p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 18 March 1982, pursuant to statute:

Customs Tariff Act—Order—Developing Country—No. 2 (1982).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr N. A. Brown, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mrs Child and Mr Jarman.

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