

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 4

TUESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 1976

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable B. M. Snedden) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
 - 2 **PRIVILEGE:** Mr Fry raised a matter of privilege regarding alleged investigations by the Commonwealth Police into his involvement in the impending visit to Australia of 2 members of the Fretilin organisation.
Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) and Mr Scholes also addressed themselves to the matter raised.
Mr Speaker stated that he would consider whether a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege had been made out and would report his opinion on the matter at the next sitting.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Lynch (Treasurer)—from certain students of Mornington High School, Vic. and others praying that the Government reverse its decision to allow the export of uranium.
 - Mr Chapman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the increases in postal charges be diminished or cancelled and special rates be provided for Category A magazines.
 - Mr Connolly—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government remove or substantially increase the \$300 limit on income tax deductibility on personal residential land and water rates.
 - Mr Giles—from certain citizens of the Commonwealth praying that the Government increase the "B Benefits" allowance to children living in isolated districts.
 - Mr Katter—from certain electors of the Division of Kennedy praying that the Australian Broadcasting Control Board be required to provide the electorate of Kennedy with a television service where it is not now provided.
 - Dr Klugman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the introduction of television and radio licence fees, the imposition of a tax levy for Medibank and the introduction of higher charges for drugs dispensed under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme be prevented.
 - Mr McVeigh—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not re-introduced.
 - Mr Scholes—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 Petitions received.
 - 4 **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
 - 5 **PAPERS:** The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:
 - Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Act—Australian Apple and Pear Corporation—First Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for the period 1 September 1974 to 30 June 1975.

Coal Industry Act—Joint Coal Board—Twenty-eighth Annual Report and financial accounts, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974-75.
Pipeline Authority Act—Pipeline Authority—Second Annual Report and financial statements, for year 1974-75.

Postal and Telecommunications Commissions (Transitional Provisions) Act—Postmaster-General's Department—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974-75.

Science and Industry Endowment Act—Report by Auditor-General on accounts of Science and Industry Endowment Fund for year 1974-75.

Wine Overseas Marketing Act—Australian Wine Board—Forty-seventh Annual Report, for year 1974-75.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Innes had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to establish adequate provisions for the implementation of the amnesty for illegal immigrants".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Innes addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 7 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—

Debate resumed.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speeches: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) and Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) each speaking on the Address in Reply for a period not exceeding 40 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

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

- 8 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Newman (Minister for Repatriation) moved—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 24 February 1976, pursuant to statute:

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 67.

Canberra College of Advanced Education Act—Statute—No. 30—Courses and Awards Amendment No. 11.

Customs Tariff—Orders—Developing Country—Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (1975).

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 58, 66.

Defence Act, Naval Defence Act and Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 48.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statements (3) of lands, etc., acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act.

Postal Services Act—Australian Postal Commission—By-laws—

Postal—1975—Amendment No. 3.

Postal (Staff)—

1975—Amendment No. 3.

1976—Amendment No. 1.

Postal Staff (Salaries)—1976—Amendment No. 1.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Groom and Mr I. L. Robinson.

N. J. PARKES,

Clerk of the House of Representatives