

AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 20

WEDNESDAY, 7 APRIL 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 James raised as a matter of privilege certain remarks made in the House by the honourable Member for St George (Mr Neil) on 6 April 1976 during the adjournment debate. Mr James also raised a matter of privilege regarding remarks allegedly made in the Queanbeyan Court of Petty Sessions on 5 April 1976 by Mr D. Rofe, Q.C., concerning a speech in the House by the honourable Member for Hunter (Mr James) on 1 April 1976. Mr James produced a copy of the *Canberra Times* of 6 April 1976 containing a report on the court proceedings.
Mr Speaker stated that he would consider whether a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege existed and whether the matter had been raised at the earliest opportunity 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 Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Falconer, Mr Fry, Mr Jarman and Mr King—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government reverse the decision to cut 1975-76 overseas development assistance, reaffirm Australia's commitment of assistance of a minimum of 0.7% of G.N.P. and establish an independent statutory authority to administer such assistance.
 - Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Morris, Mr Scholes and Mr Wallis—from certain citizens of Australia praying that milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits.
 - Mr Braithwaite—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Cadet forces be re-instated.
 - Mr D. M. Cameron—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Commission of Community Relations be abolished, and its work become the function of the Department of Immigration.
 - 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 Fry—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Government withdraw all aid from and trade with Indonesia until all its forces are withdrawn from East Timor, recognise the Democratic Republic of East Timor, grant a transmitting licence to supporters of the Democratic Republic of East Timor to operate their radio in Darwin and hold a full investigation into the deaths of 5 Australian journalists in East Timor.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Jarman—from certain members of the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.

Mr King and Mr Lucock—from certain members of the Horsham Field Naturalists' Club and certain members of the Newcastle Flora and Fauna Protection Society, respectively, in terms similar to the last preceding petition.

Mr Wentworth—from certain members of the Polish National Council in New South Wales praying that the resolution adopted at the public meeting held on 27 March 1976 at Sydney Town Hall be brought to the attention of the Parliament and, through the Australian Ambassador, to the attention of the United Nations Organization Committee on Decolonization.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 BRISBANE AIRPORT—REPORT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
Brisbane airport—Economic evaluation of alternative development strategies—
Report by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated July 1975.

Mr K. M. Cairns, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY: Mr Speaker reminded the House that the Address in Reply would be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House at 5.15 p.m. this day.

Mr Speaker said he would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other honourable Members, would accompany him to present the Address.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—POLISH PEOPLE—FREEDOMS: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Wentworth had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The need for the Parliament to make known its repugnance to the recent assault upon the few remaining freedoms of the Polish people, an assault which throws light on the international tactics of creeping Communism".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Wentworth addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That the business of the day be called on.

Question—put and passed.

8 ADJOURNMENT DEBATE—TIME LIMITS: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), for Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That, in lieu of the time limit specified in standing order 91 for speeches on the "Motion for adjournment of House to terminate the sitting—", the following time limit shall operate:

"Each Member . . . 5 minutes (no extension of time to be granted):

Provided that, if no other Member rises to address the House, a Member who has already spoken to the motion may speak a second time for a period not exceeding 5 minutes".

(2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this sessional order shall operate from Tuesday, 27 April 1976 to Thursday, 6 May 1976, inclusive.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9 ADJOURNMENT OF SITTING: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), for Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—

(1) That, in lieu of the final proviso to the sessional order of 18 February 1976 relating to the adjournment of sittings, the following proviso be substituted:

“Provided further that, if at 11.00 p.m. the question before the House is—
That the House do now adjourn—the Speaker shall interrupt the debate, at which time—

(f) a Minister may require that the debate be extended until 11.10 p.m. to enable Ministers to speak in reply to matters raised in the preceding adjournment debate; at 11.10 p.m., or upon the earlier cessation of the debate, the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting, or

(g) if no action is taken by a Minister under paragraph (f), the Speaker shall forthwith adjourn the House until the time of its next meeting.”.

(2) That, unless otherwise ordered, this amendment of the sessional order of 18 February 1976 shall operate from Tuesday, 27 April 1976, to Thursday, 6 May 1976, inclusive.

Question—put.

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

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Mr Abel	Mr Dobie	Mr Kelly	Dr Richardson
Mr Adermann	Mr Drummond	Mr Killen	Mr E. L. Robinson
Mr Aldred	Dr Edwards	Mr King	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Baillieu	Mr Ellicott	Mr Lloyd	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baume	Mr Falconer	Mr Lusher	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Birney	Mr Fife	Mr Lynch	Mr Shipton
Mr Bonnett	Mr Garland	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Bouchier	Mr Giles	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr Bradfield	Mr Gillard	Mr McLean	Mr Staley
Mr Braithwaite	Mr Goodluck	Mr McLeay	Mr Street
Mr Brown	Mr Graham	Mr W. McMahan	Mr Sullivan
Mr Bungey	Mr Haslem	Mr McVeigh	Mr Thomson
Mr Burr	Mr Hodges	Mr MacPhee	Mr Viner
Mr Cadman	Mr Hodgman	Mr Martyr	Mr Wentworth
Mr K. M. Cairns	Mr Holten	Mr Millar	Mr Wilson
Mr Calder	Mr Howard	Mr Moore	Mr Yates
Mr Carige	Mr Hunt	Mr Neil	
Mr Chapman	Mr Hyde	Mr Newman	
Mr Chipp	Mr Jarman	Mr Nixon	
Mr Connolly	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr O'Keefe	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Corbett	Mr Jull	Mr Peacock	Mr D. M. Cameron
Mr Cotter	Mr Katter	Mr Porter	Mr Fisher

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Mr Armitage	Mr Crean	Mr Jones	Mr A. P. Whitlam
Mr Beazley	Mr FitzPatrick	Mr Keating	Mr Willis
Mr Bowen	Mr Fry	Dr Klugman	Mr Young
Mr Bryant	Mr Hurford	Mr J. L. McMahan	
Dr J. F. Cairns	Mr Innes	Mr Martin	
Mr C. R. Cameron	Mr Jacobi	Mr Scholes	
Dr Cass	Dr Jenkins	Mr Stewart	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Cohen	Mr L. K. Johnson	Mr Uren	Mr James
Mr Connor	Mr L. R. Johnson	Mr Wallis	Mr Nicholls

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Suspension of sitting: At 4.58 p.m., Mr Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of sitting: At 8.00 p.m., Mr Speaker resumed the Chair.

10 PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY: Mr Speaker reported that, accompanied by honourable Members, he had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's

Speech on the Opening of the First Session of the Thirtieth Parliament, agreed to by the House on 30 March 1976, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:

Mr Speaker,

Thank you for your Address in Reply which you have just presented to me.

It will be my pleasure and my duty to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives, to which the Address gives expression.

- 11 MOTOR VEHICLE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Howard (Minister representing the Minister for Industry and Commerce)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 30 March 1976*), viz.:

Motor vehicle policy—Ministerial statement, 30 March 1976—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 HOME SAVINGS GRANTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Newman (Minister for Repatriation)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 31 March 1976*), viz.:

Home savings grants—Ministerial statement, 31 March 1976—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE—SECOND REPORT: Mr Hodges (Chairman) brought up the Second Report from the Publications Committee (sitting in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate). The report is as follows:

SECOND REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and other Papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

Bankruptcy Act—Eighth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Act—Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Commission—Fourteenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

Crown of thorns starfish—Advisory Committee on research into the crown of thorns starfish—Report for period August 1971 to December 1975.

Mainline upgrading—Reports by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated November 1975—Evaluation of a range of options for the—

Melbourne-Serviceton rail link.

Melbourne-Sydney rail link.

Port Pirie—Economic evaluation of harbour improvements—Report by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated October 1975.

Public libraries—Report of Committee of Inquiry, dated 27 February 1976.

Social Welfare Commission Act—Social Welfare Commission—Report on the Australian Assistance Plan, dated February 1976.

J. C. HODGES,
Chairman

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Mr Hodges, by leave, moved—That the report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

14 STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS) BILL 1976: 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—Mr Bowen 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 11.00 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 7 April 1976, pursuant to statute:

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—
By-laws—
Telecommunications (General)—Amendments Nos. 3, 4.
Telecommunications (Staff)—Amendment No. 6.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Garrick and Mr Groom*.

* On leave

N. J. PARKES,
Clerk of the House of Representatives