

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 54

TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER 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 MINISTERIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AND ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House of the following ministerial and administrative changes and arrangements:
- Senator Durack had been appointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs following the re-naming of the former Department of Repatriation as the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Responsibility for defence service homes and war graves had been transferred to the new Department.
- In this House Mr Newman (Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development) would represent the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.
- Certain functions had been transferred between various Departments, and, in addition, an Ethnic Affairs Unit would be established in the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs and a Bureau of Industry Economics would be established in the Department of Industry and Commerce.
- During the respective absences abroad of Mr Lynch (Treasurer) and Mr Street (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Public Service Matters and in Women's Affairs), Mr E. L. Robinson (Minister for Post and Telecommunications) was acting as Treasurer and Mr Howard (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) was acting as Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister in Public Service Matters and in Women's Affairs.
- 3 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Garrick, Mr Jacobi, Mr L. R. Johnson, Dr Klugman and Mr Young—from certain citizens praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be maintained, advertising on the A.B.C. be rejected, public funding of the Commission be developed and any general inquiries into broadcasting be conducted publicly.
- Mr Beazley, Dr Cass, Mr Cotter and Mr L. K. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be maintained.
- Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin, Mr Morris and Mr A. P. Whitlam—from certain citizens praying that the M.V. *Australian Trader* be restored to the Tasmanian service.
- Mr Anthony (Minister for National Resources) and Mr Chipp—from certain electors praying that chiropractors' fees be covered by health insurance and be tax deductible.
- Mr Garrick and Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that Medibank be strengthened and extended and be financed from general revenue.

- Mr Haslem and Mr Lusher—from certain citizens praying that a joint Parliamentary team visit Cambodia and the admission of news teams and the sending of a Red Cross relief team to that country be supported.
- Mr L. R. Johnson and Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the previous Government's undertaking on the taxation of moneys due to the Thalidomide Foundation Limited be honoured.
- Mr Uren (Deputy Leader of the Opposition)—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.
- Mr Abel—from certain citizens praying that the optional scheme of health coverage be supported.
- Mr Bryant—from certain citizens praying that the decision to re-introduce bus fares for students travelling to school in the A.C.T. be reconsidered.
- Mr Connolly—from certain citizens praying that the Government remove or substantially increase the \$300 limit on income tax deductibility on personal residential land and water rates.
- Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying that the proposed income equalisation deposit scheme be restricted to genuine primary producers.
- Mr Groom—from certain citizens praying that the Industries Assistance Commission proposals for the apple and pear industry be rejected and the alternative proposals put forward by the industry be adopted.
- Mr Haslem—from certain citizens praying that vacant places in commercial day care centres be used by paying a subsidy to parents in need.
- Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that Mr Ignazio Salemi be permitted to remain in Australia.
- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that milk substitutes for children up to 6 years of age be restored to the schedule of pharmaceutical benefits.
- Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Australian shipbuilding industry.
- Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Assistance Plan be supported.
- Mr Morris—from certain citizens of Newcastle, N.S.W., praying that the Government place immediate orders with the Newcastle State Dockyard and implement the plan to build a graving dock in Newcastle.
- Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that the 1976-77 Budget be re-drafted to provide for economic recovery within the guidelines laid down in the 1975-76 Budget.
- Mr Shipton—from certain students and staff of Christ College and State Colleges of Victoria praying that the immigration of teachers recruited outside Australia be prevented.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

5 PAPERS—PUBLICATION OF PAPER: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—Ninety-eighth meeting, Bundaberg, Qld, 2-3 August 1976.

Australian Council on Awards in Advanced Education—Fourth Annual Report, for 1975.

Australian Wine Board—Interim report for year 1975-76.

Australian Wool Corporation—Interim report for year 1975-76.

Lockheed Aircraft Corporation matter—Procedures for mutual assistance in administration of justice agreed to by the United States Department of Justice and the Australian Attorney-General's Department dated 13 September 1976.

Pursuant to statute:

Broadcasting and Television Act—Australian Broadcasting Control Board—Twenty-eighth Annual Report and financial statement, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1975-76.

Prices Justification Act—Prices Justification Tribunal—Third Annual Report, for year 1975-76.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Consumer Affairs Ordinance—Consumer Affairs Council—Third Annual Report of the operations of the Council and of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, for year 1975-76.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—

(1) That this House, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1908*, authorises the publication of the report of the Australian Capital Territory Consumer Affairs Council and the Australian Capital Territory Consumer Affairs Bureau, for the year 1975-76, and

(2) That the report be printed.

Question—put and passed.

6 COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION—COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the appointment of a committee of inquiry to review the objectives, structure and programs of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

Dr Cass, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

7 ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—FUNDING OF PROGRAMS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning the provision of additional funds for Aboriginal affairs programs and a report on the effectiveness of services financed by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs by Mr D. O. Hay, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Department of Aboriginal Affairs—Review of delivery of services financed by the Department—Report by Mr D. O. Hay, C.B.E., D.S.O., dated 4 June 1976.

Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Bryant and Mr Wentworth, by leave, also made statements with reference to the matter.

8 MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE: A message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:

23 September 1976—Message No. 105—Family Law Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

9 MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:

28 September 1976—Message—

No. 83—Family Law Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

29 September 1976—Message—

No. 84—Social Welfare Commission (Repeal) 1976.

No. 85—

Health Insurance Levy (No. 2) 1976.

Health Insurance Levy Assessment (No. 2) 1976.

National Health Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

Health Insurance Commission Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

Health Insurance Amendment (No. 2) 1976.

10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) moved—That leave of absence be given for 2 months to the honourable Member for Diamond Valley (Mr Brown) on the ground of public business overseas and for 1 month to the honourable Members for Canning (Mr Bungey), Hotham (Mr Chipp) and Bradfield (Mr Connolly) on the grounds of Parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS: Mr E. G. Whitlam (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence be given for 2 months to the honourable Member for Hindmarsh (Mr C. R. Cameron) on the ground of public business overseas, and for 1 month to the honourable Members for Darling (Mr FitzPatrick), Fraser (Mr Fry) and Banks (Mr Martin) on the grounds of Parliamentary business overseas and the honourable Member for Melbourne (Mr Innes) owing to his absence from Australia. Question—put and passed.
- 12 AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—JOINT COMMITTEE—REPORT: Mr Crean brought up the following report from the Joint Committee on the Australian Capital Territory:
Report on the 60th and 61st series of proposed variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs.
Ordered to be printed.
- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—INCOMES AND PRICES REGULATION: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Young had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The Fraser Government’s inconsistent attitudes towards the regulation of incomes and prices”.
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr Young addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.
- 14 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 1976–77: The House, according to order, resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the further consideration of the Bill.

In the committee

Schedule 2—

- Proposed expenditure—Department of Aboriginal Affairs, \$81,529,000—debated and agreed to.
Proposed expenditure—Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, \$32,975,000—debated and agreed to.
Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

Ordered—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said committee.

- 15 ADJOURNMENT: It being past 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 5 October 1976, pursuant to statute:

- Australian Tourist Commission Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 208.
Christmas Island Act—Ordinance—1976—No. 4—Associations Incorporation.
Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificate—G. W. Kemp.
Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 204, 205.
Defence Act, Naval Defence Act and Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 197.
Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 196, 207.
Dried Fruits Levy Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 200.

- Foreign Takeovers Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 203.
 Health Insurance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, Nos. 202, 214, 215, 216.
 Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 212.
 Judiciary Act—Rule of Court, dated 20 September 1976.
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
 Approach lighting purposes—Sydney Airport, N.S.W.
 Pipeline Authority purposes—County of Carruthers, Qld.
 Telecommunication purposes—Dunham Hill, W.A.
 Lighthouses Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 211.
 Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1976—
 No. 40—Radiographers.
 No. 41—Hospitals and Medical Services.
 No. 42—Adoption of Children.
 No. 43—Administrator's Council.
 No. 44—Interpretation.
 No. 45—Disposal of Uncollected Goods.
 Papua New Guinea (Members of the Forces Benefits) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 209.
 Pollution of the Sea by Oil (Shipping Levy) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 210.
 Quarantine Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 206.
 Remuneration and Allowances Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 179
 (*in substitution for the paper presented on 7 September 1976*).
 Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Variation of plan of lay-out of City of Canberra and its environs, dated 1 October 1976.
 Superannuation Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 201.
 Trade Commissioners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 199.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Anthony, Mr Brown*, Mr Bungey*, Mr K. M. Cairns, Mr C. R. Cameron*, Mr Chipp*, Mr Connolly*, Mr Corbett*, Mr FitzPatrick*, Mr Fry*, Mr Giles, Mr Innes*, Mr Lynch, Mr Martin*, Mr Nicholls*, Mr Peacock and Mr Street.

* On leave

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