

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

## No. 2

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 1978

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 Baume, Mr Cadman, Mr Howard and Mr O'Keefe—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.

Mr N. A. Brown—from certain citizens praying that Schedule 3 of the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act be amended to include lawnmowers and lawn edgers.

Mr Cadman—from certain citizens praying that a Sunday be designated and publicised as a national day of prayer for the healing of the nation.

Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that a public telephone be installed at the Half-Way House at Coombah, N.S.W.

Mr Howard—from certain citizens of Sydney, N.S.W., praying that the principles on which federal funding for education is based be re-examined and that certain powers be restored to the Australian Schools Commission.

Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that the Handicapped Children's Allowance not be subjected to a means test.

Mr Jull—from certain citizens praying for the negotiation of an excursion air fare for all points in Europe at the level currently charged to Great Britain and certain major European cities.

Mr Scholes—from certain citizens praying that legislation abolishing health insurance rebates for treatment of cancer patients by Dr Milan Brych in the Cook Islands be not introduced.

Mr Wilson—from certain electors praying that recipients of unemployment benefits be required to be available for a period of community service.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: Mr Speaker presented, pursuant to statute:

Audit Act—Supplementary Report of the Auditor-General upon other accounts, for year 1976–77.

The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting—Sydney, 13 to 16 February 1978—Communique.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Agricultural wheeled tractors exceeding 105 kW, dated 18 August 1977.

Ceramic tableware, dated 21 July 1977.

Certain internal combustion piston engines and parts therefor, dated 16 May 1977.

Certain spun yarns and wool textiles and other goods, dated 19 July 1977.

Further short term assistance arrangements for textiles, clothing and footwear, dated 25 October 1977.

Glucose and glucose syrups, dated 22 June 1977.

Mushrooms (NAFTA), dated 11 November 1977.

Paradichlorobenzene (By-law), dated 24 August 1977.

Transformers and inductors, dated 27 May 1977.

Snowy Mountains Council—19th Annual Report, for year 1976–77.

Pursuant to statute:

Australian Capital Territory Electricity Supply Act—Australian Capital Territory Electricity Authority—14th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Australian Tourist Commission Act—Australian Tourist Commission—10th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Act—Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Commission—16th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Criminology Research Act—

Australian Institute of Criminology—Board of Management—5th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Criminology Research Council—5th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Honey Industry Act—Australian Honey Board—14th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Housing Loans Insurance Act—Housing Loans Insurance Corporation—13th Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

Repatriation Act—War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5—Reports for year 1976–77.

Stevedoring Industry Act—Australian Stevedoring Industry Authority—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976–77.

- 5 ELECTION PETITION: The Clerk laid upon the Table a copy of an election petition, dated 23 January 1978, which he had received from the Deputy District Registrar of the High Court, Adelaide, sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns, under section 196 of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* 1918, viz.: Petition of Helen Therese Berrill in the matter of a poll held in the State of South Australia for the Electoral Division of Boothby and in the matter of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. Time and place of the hearing of the petition—Tuesday, 14 March, at Sydney.

- 6 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—UNEMPLOYMENT—GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Connolly had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Hayden, namely, "The Government's responsibility for the worst unemployment since the Great Depression".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hayden addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

7 EXCISE TARIFF PROPOSAL NO. 1 (1978): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Excise Tariff Proposal No. 1 (1978).  
Debate adjourned (Mr Young), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

8 STANDING ORDERS—AMENDMENTS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), pursuant to notice, moved—That the standing orders of the House be amended as set out hereunder—

(1) That standing order 40 be amended by omitting “half-past two o’clock p.m.” and substituting “fifteen minutes past two o’clock p.m.”.

(2) That standing order 44 be amended by adding:

“: Provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; but if at that time there be not a quorum the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting day.”.

(3) That standing order 45 be amended by adding:

“: Provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; but if at that time there be not a quorum the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting day.”.

(4) That standing order 46 be amended by omitting all words after “rung,” and substituting “and if within two minutes a quorum be then present the Speaker shall forthwith leave the Chair and the committee shall resume: but if after the expiration of two minutes there be not a quorum the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting day: Provided that if the Speaker is satisfied there is likely to be a quorum within a reasonable time he shall announce that he will take the Chair at a stated time; if at that time a quorum be then present the Speaker shall forthwith leave the Chair and the committee shall resume; but if there be not a quorum the Speaker shall adjourn the House to the next sitting day.”.

(5) That, after standing order 46, the following new standing order be inserted:

“46A. For the purposes of determining a quorum of Members, a Member who is in any of the lower galleries or officials’ seats, behind the Bar of the House or in either of the side alcoves at the time when the attention of the Speaker or the Chairman of Committees is called to the lack of a quorum and who remains in any of those areas after attention has been so called, shall not be counted to determine whether a quorum is present.”.

(6) That, after standing order 48, the following new standing order be inserted:

“48A. At 10.30 p.m. on each sitting day the Speaker shall propose the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate; if the House be in committee at the time stated, the Chairman shall report progress and upon such report being made the Speaker shall forthwith propose the question—That the House do now adjourn—which question shall be open to debate. No amendment can be moved to this question:

Provided that—

(a) if a division be in progress at the time fixed for interruption such division shall be completed and the result announced;

- (b) if, on the question—That the House do now adjourn—being proposed, a Minister requires the question to be put forthwith without debate, the Speaker shall forthwith put the question;
- (c) a motion for the adjournment of the House may be moved by a Minister at an earlier hour;
- (d) any business under discussion and not disposed of at the time of the adjournment shall be set down on the Notice Paper for the next sitting, and
- (e) if the question—That the House do now adjourn—is negatived, the House or committee shall resume the proceedings at the point at which they had been interrupted:

Provided further that, if at 11 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.”.

- (7) That standing order 91 be amended by omitting “Motion for adjournment of House to terminate the sitting—

Each Member . . . . . 10 minutes”,  
and substituting “Question for adjournment of House to terminate the sitting—  
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”.

- (8) That standing order 101 be amended by adding:

“: Provided that on those alternate sitting Thursdays when ‘Grievance debate’ is first order of the day, government business, under standing order 106 or when general business has precedence on the Notice Paper under standing order 104, ‘Grievance debate’ or general business, as the case may be, shall precede ‘6. Matter of public importance.’ ”.

- (9) That, after standing order 200, the following new standing order be inserted:  
“200A. When successive divisions are taken, and there is no intervening debate after the first division, the bells for the ensuing division shall be rung for one minute only.”.
- (10) That standing order 343 be amended by omitting “, but no protest or dissent may be added to the report” and substituting “A protest or dissent may be added to the report.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES: The following warrant nominating Deputy Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to standing order 18, was laid upon the Table by Mr Speaker:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Pursuant to the provisions of standing order 18, I nominate—  
Peter Hertford Drummond, Esquire,  
Geoffrey O'Halloran Giles, Esquire, and  
Alan William Jarman, Esquire,  
to act as Deputy Chairmen of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman  
of Committees.

Given under my hand on 22 February 1978.

B. M. SNEDDEN  
SPEAKER

10 ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH: Mr Carlton presented the  
Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the committee appointed  
at the previous sitting, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:

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.

Mr Carlton moved—That the Address be agreed to.

Mr Shack seconded the motion.

Debate continued.

Mr Bryant addressing the House—

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11 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 p.m.—Mr Deputy Speaker adjourned the House  
until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 22 February 1978,  
pursuant to statute:

Australian National Railways Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 24.

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 19.

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment certificates—G. Hayes, A. F. Hepworth,  
B. A. Purdue.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 22.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for telecommunications purposes—Pendle  
Hill, N.S.W.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 21.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances—1978—

No. 7—Architects (Amendment).

No. 8—Legal Practitioners (Amendment).

Trade Practices Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 20.

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MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr  
Fry, Mr Garland and Mr Giles.

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