

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 4

TUESDAY, 28 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 AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBER: Mr Fry made and subscribed the affirmation of allegiance required by law.
- 3 PRIVILEGE: Mr Yates raised a matter of privilege based on an editorial published in the *Sunday Observer* of 26 February 1978 under the heading "Political bludgers". Mr Yates produced a copy of the *Sunday Observer* containing the editorial and gave the name of the printer and publisher of that newspaper.
 Mr Speaker stated that he would consider the matter and indicate later this day whether, in his opinion, a *prima facie* case of breach of privilege existed.
- 4 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Connolly, Mr Lusher, Mr McVeigh and Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr Peacock, Mr Whitlam and Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying for the establishment of a fund whereby loans can be made to means tested pensioners for the necessary maintenance of their homes.
 - Mr N. A. Brown—from certain citizens praying that the responsibility to export uranium be emphasised, uranium be made available to those countries which need it and meet requirements and radical minorities not be permitted to over-rule government decisions.
 - Mr Cairns—from certain electors of the Division of Lilley praying that public moneys not be used to subsidise abortion on demand.
 - Mr FitzPatrick—from certain citizens praying that a public telephone be installed at the Half-Way House at Coombah, N.S.W.
 - Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying for an increase in the subsidies granted for treatment of and research into multiple sclerosis.
 - Mr Hurford—from certain citizens praying that diplomatic action be taken concerning the death, while in detention in South Africa, of Mr Steve Biko, President of the Black Peoples Convention.
 - Mr Lusher—from certain volunteer firemen of the New South Wales Fire Brigade Service praying that income tax relief be provided on the earnings of N.S.W. volunteer firemen.
 - Mr Millar—from certain citizens praying that the petrol price equalisation scheme be restored.
 - Mr Sainsbury—from certain citizens praying that private nursing homes be subsidised to allow pensioner patients to retain \$6 per week for personal use and that certain other action be taken in connection with pensioner benefits.

Mr Short—from certain citizens of Ballarat, Vic., praying that fees for telephone calls be based on the duration of the call rather than on the distance between non-adjointing zones.

Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that funds for government schools be increased.

Petitions received.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Aboriginal Hostels Limited—3rd Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for period 27 June 1976 to 25 June 1977.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Brandy and whisky—Interim, dated 30 November 1977.

Injection moulding machines, dated 16 December 1977.

Mainline upgrading—Reports by Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated August 1977—Evaluation of a range of options for the—

Adelaide-Serviceton rail link.

Sydney-Brisbane rail link.

Royal Commission on Human Relationships—Final report—Volumes 1 to 5.

Pursuant to statute:

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Commonwealth Arbitration Inspectorate—Report on the operation of s. 125, for year 1976-77.

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Export Finance and Insurance Corporation—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1976-77.

Homes Savings Grant Act 1964—Secretary, Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development—13th Annual Report, for year 1976-77.

Homes Savings Grant Act 1976—Secretary, Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development—1st Annual Report, for period 1 January 1977 to 30 June 1977.

7 AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL STUDIES COUNCIL: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act 1964*, this House appoints Dr Everingham and Mr Ruddock to be members of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, and to continue as members until the dissolution of the 31st Parliament.

Question—put and passed.

8 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—SIR JOHN KERR—APPOINTMENT TO UNESCO: Mr Speaker informed the House that Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The appointment of Sir John Kerr as Australia's Ambassador to UNESCO".

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Hayden addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

9 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NO. 1 (1978): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals No. 1 (1978).

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

10 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.

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

- 11 PRIVILEGE—EDITORIAL IN “SUNDAY OBSERVER”—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES: Mr Speaker referred to the matter of privilege raised by Mr Yates earlier this day. Mr Speaker said that he had given the matter consideration and, in his opinion, a *prima facie* case had been made out and Mr Yates was entitled to move a motion to refer the matter to the Committee of Privileges.

Mr Yates then moved—That the matter of the editorial in the *Sunday Observer* of 26 February 1978 be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 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:

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Debate resumed.

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

- 13 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 11 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 February 1978, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 23.

Customs Tariff Act—Orders—

Developing country—

Nos. 8, 9, 10 (1977).

No. 11 (1978).

Exemption from primage duty—No. 2 (1977).

Long Service Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 26.

Northern Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 18.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Public Service Arbitrator—Determinations accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1977—

No. 848—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.†

No. 849—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia and another.

No. 850—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia and others.

No. 851—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 852—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

No. 853—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

- No. 854—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and another.
- No. 855—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 856—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 857—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 858—Australian Workers' Union.†
- No. 859—Commonwealth Medical Officers Association.
- No. 860—Repatriation Department Medical Officers Association.
- No. 861—Professional Para-medical Officers Association (Commonwealth Public Service).
- No. 862—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 863—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 864—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
- No. 865—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
- No. 866—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
- No. 867—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 868—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
- No. 869—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 870—Commonwealth Medical Officers Association.
- No. 871—Repatriation Department Medical Officers Association.
- No. 872—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 873—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
- No. 874—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†
- Nos. 875 and 876—Meat Inspectors Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 877—Professional Officers Association, Australian Public Service.
- No. 878—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 879—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service and another.
- No. 880—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 881—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 882—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 883—Line Inspectors' Association, Commonwealth of Australia.
- No. 884—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
- No. 885—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.
- No. 886—Vehicle Builders Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 887—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 888—Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers and others.
- No. 889—Australian Licensed Aircraft Engineers Association.
- No. 890—Federal Firefighters' Union.
- No. 891—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.
- No. 892—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 893—Australian Broadcasting Commission Senior Officers' Association and another.
- Nos. 894 to 896—Australian Journalists Association and others.
- No. 898—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 899—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 900—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.†
- No. 901—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 902—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- Nos. 903 and 904—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.†

- No. 905—Repatriation Department Medical Officers Association and others.†
- No. 906—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 908—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 909—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 910—Australian Journalists Association.
- No. 911—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.
- No. 912—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 913—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.†
- No. 914—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
- No. 915—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.
- No. 916—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and another.†
- No. 917—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.
- 1978—
- No. 1—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 2—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 3—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association and another.
- No. 4—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 5—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 6—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 7—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and another.
- No. 8—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- No. 9—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 10—Australian Workers' Union.†
- No. 11—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 12—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 13—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service and others.
- No. 14—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union of Australia.
- No. 15—Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Australasia.†
- Nos. 16 and 17—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.†
- No. 18—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia.†
- No. 19—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.†
- No. 20—Australian Workers' Union.†
- No. 21—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.†
- No. 22—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.†
- No. 23—Transport Workers Union of Australia.
- No. 24—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others.†
- No. 25—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.
- Nos. 26 and 27—Amalgamated Metal Workers' and Shipwrights Union and others.
- Nos. 28 and 29—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- No. 30—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 31—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
- No. 32—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia.
- Nos. 33 and 34—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 35—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 36—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.

Nos. 37 and 38—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 39—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia.

(† Not accompanied by statement)

War Precautions Act Repeal Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 27.

Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 25.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Chapman, Mr Garland and Mr Katter.

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