

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 32

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 1978

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- 1 The House met, at 10 a.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 Braithwaite—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Giles—from certain citizens praying that grape growers be compensated to leave this year's surplus grapes on the vine and that certain other action be taken to assist grape growers.
 - Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying for the provision of funds for the construction and maintenance of an aged persons complex in the Electoral Division of Hughes.
 - Dr Klugman—from certain citizens praying for the establishment of a children's hospital in the Penrith area, N.S.W.
 - Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes not be introduced.
 - Mr Morris—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 Shipton—from certain citizens praying that communist organisations be banned and communists be prohibited from holding office in industrial organisations, government departments and Parliament.
 - Mr Willis—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.
 - Mr Wilson—from certain citizens praying for the initiation of a national family policy and the use of the concept of family impact statements as a means of highlighting family needs.

Petitions received.

- 3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.
- 4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:
 - Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund—Report for April 1978.
 - United Nations—General Assembly—32nd Session, New York, 20 September to 21 December 1977—Report of Australian Delegation.
- 5 CONSULAR SERVICES FOR AUSTRALIANS OVERSEAS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Peacock (Minister for Foreign Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement relating to consular services provided for Australians overseas and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 - Consular services for Australians overseas—Ministerial statement, 26 May 1978.

Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

- 6 BORROLOOLA LAND CLAIM—PAPER AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Viner (Minister for Aboriginal Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Borroloola land claim—Report to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister for the Northern Territory by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner—and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the paper.

Mr Hunt (Minister for Health) moved—That the House take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

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

- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—MEDIBANK: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Dr Klugman had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The increasing cost burden on the sick and the poor due to the Government’s further dismantling of Labor’s comprehensive Medibank scheme”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Klugman addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 8 PRIMARY INDUSTRY BANK AMENDMENT BILL 1978: 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—

Debate resumed by Mr Willis who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the passage of the Bill, the House is of the opinion that provisions should be made for (a) the number of persons representing the Trading Banks on the Bank’s Board to be no more than four, (b) the number of persons representing the interests of primary producers to be increased to four and (c) one person with special qualifications in such areas as non-bank rural financing, rural reconstruction or related fields to be appointed”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.

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

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Mr Adermann	Mr Carlton	Mr P. F. Johnson	Mr I. L. Robinson
Mr Aldred	Mr Chapman	Mr Johnston	Mr Ruddock
Mr Baillieu	Mr Connolly	Mr Katter	Mr Sainsbury
Mr Baume	Mr Cotter	Mr Lloyd	Mr Shack
Mr Bouchier	Mr Dobie	Mr Lusher	Mr Shipton
Mr Bradfield	Mr Drummond	Mr MacKellar	Mr Short
Mr Braithwaite	Dr Edwards	Mr MacKenzie	Mr Simon
Mr N. A. Brown	Mr Falconer	Mr McLean	Mr Staley
Mr Bungey	Mr Giles	Sir William McMahon	Mr Street
Mr Burns	Mr Gillard	Mr McVeigh	Mr Wilson
Mr Burr	Mr Graham	Mr Macphee	Mr Yates
Mr Cadman	Mr Haslem	Mr Moore	
Mr Cairns	Mr Howard	Mr Newman	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Calder	Mr Hunt	Mr Peacock	Mr Corbett
Mr E. C. Cameron	Mr Hyde	Mr Porter	Mr Hodges

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Mr Armitage	Mr Fry	Mr C. K. Jones	Mr Uren
Dr Blewett	Mr Howe	Dr Klugman	Mr West
Mr J. J. Brown	Mr Humphreys	Mr Lucock	Mr Willis
Mr Bryant	Mr Hurford	Mr J. L. McMahon	Mr Young
Mr Cohen	Mr Jacobi	Mr Martin	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr Dawkins	Mr James	Mr Morris	Mr L. K. Johnson
Dr Everingham	Mr B. O. Jones	Mr Scholes	Mr L. R. Johnson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed—Bill read a second time.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 to 7, by leave, taken together, and agreed to, after debate.

Clause 8 debated and agreed to.

Remainder of Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Giles reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr Adermann (Minister for the Northern Territory), the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

9 HOUSING ASSISTANCE BILL 1978: 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—

Debate resumed by Mr Uren who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not opposing the Bill, the House is of the opinion that

- (a) the Commonwealth Government should meet the cost of rental rebates to a minimum uniform level agreed to jointly between the State and Commonwealth Governments;
- (b) rents charged for Housing Commission dwellings should be set
 - (i) for persons with incomes up to 135 per cent of average weekly earnings at not more than 85 per cent of the rates of rental on the open market, and
 - (ii) for persons with incomes in excess of 135 per cent of average weekly earnings at the rates of rental on the open market;
- (c) the interest rates charged for Home Purchase Account ‘on lent’ to other lending authorities should rise in line with capacity to pay;
- (d) the Commonwealth Parliament should have the opportunity annually to debate the appropriation to determine the progress made on the spirit of the understanding contained in the Bill;
- (e) the Housing Authorities in co-operation with the Commonwealth should develop a strategy as part of overall urban and regional planning to ensure a social mix in housing estates as well as ensuring that public housing tenants have access to social and cultural amenities and job opportunities; and
- (f) the Commonwealth should provide sufficient funds to Housing Authorities to ensure that a target completion rate of 15 000 dwellings a year to overcome the backlog on the Housing Authority waiting lists can be met”.

Debate continued.

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

10 ADJOURNMENT: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) moved—That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 4.26 p.m., adjourned until Monday next at 2.15 p.m.

PAPER: The following paper was deemed to have been presented on 26 May 1978, pursuant to Statute:

Norfolk Island Act—Ordinance—1978—No. 6—Companies (Amendment).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Dean, Mr Fife, Mr Groom, Mr Jarman, Dr Jenkins, Mr Jull, Mr Keating, Mr Lynch, Mr McLeay, Mr Martyr, Mr E. L. Robinson and Mr Whitlam.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives