

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

No. 51

WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 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 Carlton and Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying that no measures be taken to implement those recommendations of the Royal Commission on Human Relationships that will further undermine and weaken marriage, child-care or the family.

Mr Armitage—from certain citizens praying for the replacement of the 1978–79 Budget by a budget which increases the level of economic activity, lowers unemployment, assists the disadvantaged and revives business and consumer confidence.

Mr Burns—from certain citizens praying that a commitment be made to reduce unemployment progressively.

Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying for the abandonment of present restrictive economic policies in favour of an expansionary budget.

Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying for the immediate implementation of certain policies to enlarge the Australian Merchant Marine.

Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that Mr Pressnan Kannan not be deported.

Mr Lusher—from certain members of the Sydney University Post Graduate Representative Association and others, praying that Commonwealth post-graduate research awards be adjusted annually in line with the consumer price index and not be taxed.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying for the award of a medal to members of the World War II *Jaywick* and *Rimau* commando expeditions.

Mr Yates—from certain citizens praying that the Medical Benefits Schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for abortions.

Petitions received.

3 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

4 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, pursuant to statute:

Life Insurance Act—Life Insurance Commissioner—32nd Annual Report, for 1977.
Statutory Rules Publication Act—Statement relating to the Ombudsman (Northern Territory Self-Government) (Transitional Arrangements) Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 104.

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

19 September 1978—Message No. 121—States Grants (Home Care) Amendment 1978.

- 6 MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS: A message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bills:
19 September 1978—Message No. 69—
Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Amendment 1978.
Bounty (Agricultural Tractors) Amendment 1978.
Bounty (Books) Amendment 1978.
- 7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—URANIUM POLICY AND ABORIGINALS:
Mr Speaker informed the House that Dr Everingham had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The methods used by the Government to impose its uranium policy on to Aboriginal communities of the Alligator Rivers Region."
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Dr Everingham addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Ordered—That Mr Calder be granted an extension of time.
Discussion concluded.
- 8 CUSTOMS TARIFF PROPOSALS NOS. 22 AND 23 (1978): Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved Customs Tariff Proposals Nos. 22 and 23 (1978).
Debate adjourned (Mr Cohen), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 9 DEPARTURE TAX LEGISLATION—PROPOSED GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by leave, made a ministerial statement concerning proposed Government amendments to the Departure Tax Bill 1978 and the Departure Tax Collection Bill 1978.
- 10 DEPARTURE TAX 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.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

On the motion of Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), the following amendment was made: Clause 4, omit the clause, substitute the following clause:

"4. (1) For the purposes of this Act, the departure of a person from Interpretation Australia for an external Territory shall, if the person is not ordinarily resident in that Territory and intends, at the time of his departure from Australia, to depart from that Territory for a country other than Australia within a period of 3 months after his departure from Australia, be deemed to be a departure of the person from Australia for another country.

"(2) For the purposes of this Act (including sub-section (1)), the departure of a person from Australia for another country shall, if the person intends, at the time of his departure from Australia, to depart from that country for an external Territory within a period of 7 days after his departure from Australia, be deemed to be a departure of the person from Australia for that external Territory."

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr MacKellar, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 11 DEPARTURE TAX COLLECTION 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—Question—put and passed—Bill read a second time.
The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

In the committee

Clauses 1 and 2, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 3—

On the motion of Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), the following amendment was made: Page 1, line 7, omit the definition of “Australia”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4 omitted, after debate.

Clauses 5 to 7, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 8—

On the motion of Mr MacKellar, by leave, the following amendments were made together, after debate:

Page 3, line 12, after “country” insert “or for an external Territory”.

Page 3, line 24, after “country” insert “or for an external Territory”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 11, by leave, taken together, and agreed to, after debate.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr MacKellar, the following new clause was inserted in the Bill, after debate:

“11A. (1) The regulations may make provision for and in relation to the payment of tax by the production to authorized officers or such other officers as are prescribed of tax stamps by or on behalf of persons liable to pay tax and, in particular, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may make provision for and in relation to—

(a) the issue of tax stamps by the Commonwealth and the sale of tax stamps by the Commonwealth and other bodies or persons; and

(b) refunds of amounts paid for the purchase of tax stamps that are not produced for the purpose of payment of tax or in respect of which a refund is otherwise payable under the regulations.

“(2) The regulations may make provision for and in relation to the issue by the Commonwealth of stamps (in this sub-section referred to as ‘exemption stamps’) to or in respect of persons in respect of the departure of whom from Australia tax would be payable but for the operation of sub-section 6 (1) and, in particular, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, may make provision for and in relation to the production to authorized officers or such other officers as are prescribed of exemption stamps by or on behalf of such persons.”

Clauses 12 to 14, by leave, taken together, and agreed to.

Clause 15—

On the motion of Mr MacKellar, the following amendment was made, after debate:

Page 5, line 32, omit “\$100”, substitute “\$500”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr Millar reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr MacKellar, by leave, the House adopted the report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

- 12 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1978–79: The order of the day having been read for the further consideration of the Bill in committee, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole.
-

In the committee

Schedule 2—

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, \$48,666,000—

Department of Administrative Services, \$278,738,000—

together debated and agreed to.

Proposed expenditures—

Department of the Treasury, \$253,067,000—

Department of Finance, \$25,379,000—

Advance to the Minister for Finance, \$125,000,000—

together—

Mr Armitage addressing the committee—

It being 10.30 p.m.—Progress to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr Drummond reported accordingly.

13 ADJOURNMENT: The question was accordingly proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Member named: The Deputy Speaker (Mr Millar) named the honourable Member for St George (Mr Neil) for continuing to interject after being warned by the Chair.

Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the honourable Member for St George be suspended from the service of the House.

Mr Sinclair having addressed the Chair, and Mr Neil having apologised to the Chair, the motion for the suspension of the honourable Member for St George was withdrawn, by leave.

Debate continued.

The House continuing to sit until 11 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 20 September 1978, pursuant to statute:

Air Accidents (Commonwealth Government Liability) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 172.

Customs Tariff Act—Orders—Developing Country—Nos. 15, 16 (1978).

Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 171.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 166.

Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 168.

Prices Justification Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 165.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1978, Nos. 169, 170.

Quarantine Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1978, No. 167.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr Bryant, Dr Edwards, Mr Fraser, Mr Innes, Mr Jacobi, Mr James, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr C. K. Jones, Dr Klugman, Mr Lucock, Mr Moore, Mr Peacock, Mr E. L. Robinson, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Street, Mr Thomson and Mr Viner.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives