

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 91

TUESDAY, 3 APRIL 1979

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- 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 Burns, Mr Fraser, Mr Kerin, Mr Lynch, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr Short and Mr Sinclair—from certain citizens praying that pension payments be restored to twice-yearly adjustments and that pensions and unemployment benefits be raised to 30% of average weekly earnings.
- Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the taxation law be amended to permit registered tax agents to trade for a full year and lodge income tax returns at the close of the respective tax year.
- Mr Burr—from certain citizens praying that the medical benefits schedule be amended to preclude payment of benefits for any abortion except one performed when the mother's life is endangered.
- Mr Cairns—from certain citizens praying that item 6469 be removed from the standard medical benefits table.
- Mr Dobie—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
- Dr Edwards—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.
- Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to improve the retirement conditions of all sections of the Australian workforce that are not supported by superannuation or long service leave schemes.
- Mr Hodges—from certain citizens praying that pensions be increased twice-yearly in line with rises in the consumer price index.
- Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that the decision to suspend reconstruction aid to, and cultural exchanges with, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam be reversed.
- Mr L. R. Johnson—from certain citizens praying that Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney, not be extended and that no related decisions be taken without consultation with affected communities.
- Mr Killen—from certain citizens praying that legislation be introduced to prevent payment of medical benefits for unnecessary abortions.
- Mr Killen—from certain citizens praying for the appointment of an independent inquiry into the Australian Broadcasting Commission to investigate the qualifications of commissioners and certain other matters.
- Dr Klugman—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that compensation benefits paid to injured Commonwealth Government employees be increased and then adjusted automatically.
- Mr Lynch—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Flinders praying that pensions be adjusted at 6 monthly intervals.

Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that a site for Sydney's second airport be selected immediately.

Mr Moore—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of Ryan praying that legislation be introduced to protect the Great Barrier Reef from mining and that the Reef and surrounding waters be declared a national marine park.

Petitions received.

- 3 DEATH OF THE PARAMOUNT RULER OF MALAYSIA: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) referred to the death, on 29 March 1979, of His Majesty Tunku Yahya Petra Ibni Al-Marsum Sultan Ibrasim, the Paramount Ruler of Malaysia, and paid tribute to the memory of His late Majesty.

Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr Lucock supported the remarks of the Prime Minister.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased all Members present stood, in silence.

- 4 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

- 5 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Emergency Relief—A study of agencies and clients—Report of the Joint Study of Emergency Relief, dated December 1978—
Report.

Statement by Senator Guilfoyle (Minister for Social Security).

Expenditure—Standing Committee—Report on Australia's overseas representation—Additional Government response.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Short term assistance to non-adjustable spanners, dated 9 February 1979.

Tyres, tyre cases, etc., dated 12 January 1979.

Vegetable oils and fats: animal oils and fats, etc., dated 27 October 1978.

Pursuant to statute:

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—Agreements relating to financial assistance for the national estate to—

Queensland, dated 12 February 1979.

Tasmania, dated 13 February 1979.

Victoria, dated 12 February 1979.

Western Australia, dated 9 February 1979.

- 6 COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS—REPORT AND MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr MacKellar (Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:

Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications—10th Report, dated December 1978—

and, by leave, made a ministerial statement in connection with the report.

Mr Young, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the report.

- 7 DISTRIBUTION COMMISSIONERS' PROPOSALS—PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANALYSES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Mr McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of the Government's decision to have analyses of proposals of Distribution Commissioners prepared by the Australian Electoral Office and tabled in the Parliament.

Mr Young, by leave, also made a statement with reference to the matter.

- 8 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:

30 March 1979—Message—

No. 132—

Poultry Industry Levy Amendment 1979.

Poultry Industry Assistance Amendment (No. 2) 1979.

No. 133—Parliament House Construction Authority 1979.

- 9 ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE—SYMPOSIUM ON DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION—REPORT OF AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS: Mr Baume, by leave, presented the following paper:
 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Council of Europe—Symposium on development co-operation, Paris, 6 and 7 December 1978—Report of the Australian Delegation—
 and made a statement in connection with the report.
 Mr Willis, by leave, also made a statement in connection with the report.
- 10 EXPENDITURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT—STATEMENT BY MEMBER—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: Mr Cairns (Chairman) presented the following report from the Standing Committee on Expenditure:
 Parliament and Public Expenditure—Report, dated 22 February 1979, together with copies of the minutes of proceedings and transcript of evidence of the committee.
 Ordered—That the report be printed.
 Mr Cairns, by leave, made a statement in connection with the report.
 Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
 Debate ensued.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Hyde), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 11 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—URANIUM EXPORT CONTRACTS: Mr Deputy Speaker informed the House that Mr Keating had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, “The need to ensure that no new uranium export contracts are approved by the Government until such times as the grave risks associated with the nuclear industry have been resolved”.
 The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
 Mr Keating addressed the House.
 Discussion ensued.
 Discussion concluded.
- 12 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED: Mr Street (Minister for Industrial Relations), by leave, made a ministerial statement informing the House of specific decisions taken by the Government in response to current industrial disputation, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, presented the following paper:
 Industrial disputation—Ministerial statement, 3 April 1979.
 Mr McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services) moved—That the House take note of the paper.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.
- 13 HIGH COURT JUSTICES (LONG LEAVE PAYMENTS) BILL 1979: Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for payments, in lieu of long leave, on the retirement or death of Justices of the High Court.
 Bill read a first time.
 Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.
- 14 JUDGES (LONG LEAVE PAYMENTS) BILL 1979: Mr Viner (Minister representing the Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for payments, in lieu of long leave, on the retirement or death of certain Judges (other than Justices of the High Court) and persons having the Status of Judges.

Bill read a first time.

Mr Viner moved—That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr Bowen—Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

15 NATIONAL RAILWAY NETWORK (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1979: 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 Morris who moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “whilst not declining to give the Bill a second reading, the House is of the opinion that—

- (1) the provision of financial assistance by section 96 interest bearing repayable grants is a repudiation of the Government’s 1977 Election promise to contribute to the cost of upgrading mainline rail links in the light of the clear impression then given that assistance would be by way of non-repayable grants, and
- (2) the provision of \$3 million to the States for 1978–79 under this Bill (a) is abysmally inadequate and an abrogation of Australian Government responsibility for the transportation of passengers and freight on routes of national significance, and (b) is wholly inconsistent with an effective approach to the upgrading of mainline railway networks as an essential part of a responsible National Energy Conservation Program”.

Mr Hodgman addressing the House—

16 ADJOURNMENT: It being 10.30 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.53 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 3 April 1979, pursuant to statute:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 49, 50.

Bounty (Agricultural Tractors) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 52.

Christmas Island Act—Regulations—1979—No. 2 (Motor Traffic Ordinance).

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 47.

Explosives Act—Explosives Areas Regulations—Order—Limits of load.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—

Pipeline Authority purposes—Cameron Corner, Qld.

Telephone services purposes—Avenue Range, S.A.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 51.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 48.

Repatriation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 53.

Seaman’s War Pensions and Allowances Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 54.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinance—1979—No. 6—Seat of Government (Administration) (Amendment).

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Adermann, Mr Anthony, Mr Burr, Mr Garland, Mr Graham, Mr Katter and Mr Short.

J. A. PETTIFER,

Clerk of the House of Representatives