

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 103

MONDAY, 28 MAY 1979

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- 1 The House met, at 2.15 p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
 - 2 **ABSENCE OF MR SPEAKER:** The Clerk having informed the House that Mr Speaker (the Right Honourable Sir Billy Snedden) was absent on Parliamentary business overseas, the Chairman of Committees (Mr Millar) took the Chair as Acting Speaker, and read Prayers.
 - 3 **PETITIONS:** The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
 - Mr Burns, Dr Edwards, Mr Innes, Mr Jull, Mr MacKenzie, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr Martin and Mr Thomson—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 - Mr Cadman, Mr Porter and Mr Short—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Haslem—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to prevent the Royal Golf Club, Canberra, from resuming land occupied by Yarralumla Nursery.
 - Mr Hodgman—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to deter Taiwanese fishing boats from fishing Australian waters.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the Commonwealth's contribution to the standard nursing home fee be reviewed and that further reviews be undertaken on a quarterly basis.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed urgently and grants be given to community organisations concerned with conservation.
 - Mr Humphreys—from certain citizens praying that a new category of pension for the chronically invalided be introduced and that the allowance for rent or supplementary assistance be increased.
 - Mr Hunt—from certain citizens praying that the Federal Government meet the recurrent costs of women's refuges.
 - Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that Aboriginal land rights in the States be recognised in a manner similar to their recognition in the Northern Territory and that certain other action be taken in connection with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs in Queensland.
 - Dr Jenkins—from certain citizens praying that the decision to suspend reconstruction aid to, and cultural exchanges with, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam be reversed.
 - Mr J. L. McMahon—from certain citizens praying that there be no extension of Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney.

Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.

Mr I. L. Robinson—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.

Petitions received.

4 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr Nixon (Minister for Transport), Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) was acting as Minister for Transport.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked.

6 PAPERS: The following papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Agricultural Council—Resolutions—106th meeting, Christchurch, New Zealand, 29–30 January 1979.

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters—Annual Report for period 14 September 1977 to 31 December 1978.

7 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—HEALTH FUNDING: Mr Acting 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 Government’s further arbitrary changes in health funding, which will create confusion and heighten inequality in the provision of health services, while fuelling both unemployment and inflation”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Dr Klugman addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

8 POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS: Ordered—That the government business intervening before order of the day No. 35 be postponed until a later hour this day.

9 GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, PERSONAL TAXATION AND REVENUE 1979–80—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House)—That the House take note of the paper (*presented on 24 May 1979*), viz.:

Government expenditure, personal taxation and revenue 1979–80—Ministerial statement, 24 May 1979—

Debate resumed.

Mr Willis moved, as an amendment—That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to substituting the following words: “the House—

(a) condemns the Government for its gross deception of the Australian electorate and its complete disregard for the well-being of Australian taxpayers and the depressed state of the Australian economy, as evidenced by the economic measures announced last Thursday by the Treasurer in the House which will have the effect of:

- (i) reducing the living standards of all taxpayers;
- (ii) drastically increasing the cost of health care for all people and especially for the low income groups;
- (iii) increasing costs for the rural sector;
- (iv) seriously retarding upgrading of the nation’s transport network;
- (v) increasing inflation;
- (vi) increasing unemployment, and
- (vii) destroying any chance of economic recovery, and

(b) calls upon the Government to provide a stimulus to the recessed Australian economy through increased spending on capital works projects and cuts in indirect taxes and income taxes for the lower income groups, as recommended by the Labor Party in its Alternative Budget”.

Debate continued.

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

- 10 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a charge on the slaughter of live-stock at premises registered as export establishments under the Exports (Meat) Regulations.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 11 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) COLLECTION BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for the collection of the charge imposed by the *Live-stock Slaughter (Export Inspection Charge) Act 1979*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 12 GRAIN (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to impose a charge upon the export of grain.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 13 GRAIN (EXPORT INSPECTION CHARGE) COLLECTION BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to make provision for the collection of the charge imposed by the *Grain (Export Inspection Charge) Act 1979*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 14 WOOL INDUSTRY AMENDMENT BILL (NO. 2) 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Wool Industry Act 1972*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 15 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 16 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER LEVY COLLECTION AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Live-stock Slaughter Levy Collection Act 1964*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 17 LIVE-STOCK EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Sinclair (Minister for Primary Industry) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Live-stock Export Charge Act 1977*. Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 18 HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Insurance Act 1973*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 19 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 1979: Mr Hunt (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *National Health Act 1953*, and for other purposes.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Hunt continued his speech.

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

- 20 EXCISE AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1979: Mr Macphee (Minister for Productivity) presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Excise Act 1901*.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

- 21 MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE: Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment:

28 May 1979—Message—

No. 234—Income Tax Assessment Amendment (No. 2) 1979.

No. 235—Income Tax (Mining Withholding Tax) 1979 (*without requests*).

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

Debate ensued.

Debate extended: It being 11 p.m., the debate was interrupted.

Mr Macphee required the debate to be extended.

The debate continuing until 11.10 p.m., Mr Acting Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 28 May 1979, pursuant to statute:

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement of lands acquired by agreement authorised under sub-section 7 (1).

Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of the Capital Territory—
R. F. Pollard.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr C. R. Cameron, Dr Cass, Mr Falconer, Mr Fry, Mr Hurford, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr B. O. Jones*, Mr Keating, Mr Lusher, Mr Nixon, Mr I. L. Robinson, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Scholes, Mr Shipton, Mr Short, Sir Billy Snedden and Mr Yates.

* On leave

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