

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 117

TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 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 JOHN FAIRFAX & SONS LIMITED—ADVICE REGARDING PETITION: Mr Speaker informed the House that he had received a telegram from the solicitors acting on behalf of John Fairfax & Sons Limited relating to a petition presented to the House on 28 August 1979 and which was referred to the Committee of Privileges for consideration and advice on 30 August 1979. The telegram was as follows:
- “The defamation proceedings between Mr Tom Uren and John Fairfax and Sons Limited our client were settled by orders made by consent of the parties by His Honour Mr Justice Nagel after the case commenced yesterday.
- In the circumstances no further steps with respect to the petition need to be taken. A formal letter follows.
- Stephen, Jacques and Stephen”.
- 3 COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES—REFERENCE—PETITION OF JOHN FAIRFAX & SONS LIMITED—RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House), by leave, moved—That the resolution of the House of Representatives of 30 August 1979, referring to the Committee of Privileges the petition of John Fairfax & Sons Limited presented to the House on 28 August 1979, be rescinded.
- Question—put and passed.
- 4 PRIVILEGE—USE OF HOUSE RECORDS IN COURT—REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES: Mr L. K. Johnson raised as a matter of privilege an order, dated 23 August 1979, issued by the Supreme Court of New South Wales in the case of *Uren v. John Fairfax & Sons Limited* to permit the use in court for a limited purpose of certain records of the proceedings of the House.
- Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That the following matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges: The extent to which the House might facilitate the administration of justice with respect to the use of or reference to the records of proceedings of the House in the Courts without derogation from the Privileges of the House, or of its Members.
- Debate ensued.
- Question—put and passed.
- 5 PETITIONS: The Clerk announced that the following Members had each lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:
- Mr Anthony, Mr Baume, Mr Bowen, Mr Cadman, Mr Cohen, Mr Dobie, Dr Edwards, Mr Gillard, Mr Howard, Mr Hunt, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr C. K. Jones, Mr Lusher, Mr MacKenzie, Mr Martin, Mr Morris, Mr O’Keefe, Mr Sainsbury, Mr Sinclair and Mr West—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that the 1980 level of education expenditure to Government schools be restored and increased in real terms.
- Mr Baume, Mr Bowen, Mr Dobie, Mr Fife, Mr Gillard, Mr Hunt, Mr Martin, Mr I. L. Robinson and Mr Sinclair—from certain electors of New South Wales praying that the *Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act 1977* be repealed.

- Dr Everingham—from certain electors of Queensland in the same terms as the last preceding petition.
- Mr Adermann, Mr Drummond and Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying for the prohibition of pornographic material involving children.
- Mr C. R. Cameron, Mr Fraser and Mr Lloyd—from certain citizens praying that a humane policy be adopted to assist refugees to enter Australia.
- Mr Baume and Mr C. K. Jones—from certain citizens praying that the proposal to increase the marine radio licence fee be reconsidered.
- Mr Bowen and Dr Everingham—from certain citizens praying that positive policies be adopted to reduce unemployment and that certain social security benefits be granted.
- Mr Holding and 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 Howe and Mr Jarman—from certain citizens praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and the traditional and familiar weights and measures be restored.
- Mr Hurford and Mr Porter—from certain citizens praying that subsidies to pre-schools be increased to provide adequate pre-school services in South Australia.
- Mr Morris and Mr Shipton—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 members and ex-members of the citizens forces of Australia praying for the resumption of the award of several distinctive reserve forces decorations and medals for long service and good conduct.
- Mr Aldred—from certain citizens praying that the imperial system of weights and measures be restored.
- Mr Bowen—from certain residents of New South Wales praying that there be no reduction in Federal funds directed towards education programs.
- Mr Bowen—from certain citizens praying that there be no extension of Kingsford-Smith Airport, Sydney.
- Mr Cairns—from certain citizens praying that there be no further reduction in the grant made to the Clayfield Child Care Centre, Qld.
- Mr Calder—from certain electors of the Electoral Division of the Northern Territory praying that the decision by Australia Post not to issue a commemorative stamp to mark the 50th anniversary of Apex Clubs be reconsidered.
- Mr Cohen—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to advance the cause of universal disarmament.
- 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 federal funding to State schools be restored to 1974-75 levels, that the independence of the Schools Commission be maintained and that tied grants be made to Queensland to ensure achievement of national standards.
- Mr Howard—from certain citizens praying that a pardon be granted to former Private Charles Edward Cruwys in relation to his dishonourable discharge in 1945.
- Mr Howe—from certain citizens praying that steps be taken to create employment opportunities.
- Mr Innes—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to have telephone subscribers in the 047 zone included in the Sydney telephone district.
- Mr MacKellar—from certain citizens praying that the Broadcasting and Television Act be amended in relation to program standards.
- Mr MacKenzie—from certain citizens praying that handcrafted articles be exempted from sales tax and certain other action be taken in relation to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act.

Mr Martyr—from certain citizens praying that the National Health Scheme patient contribution rate not be increased.

Mr Morris—from certain citizens praying that Government proposals to sell publicly owned enterprises be rejected.

Mr Newman—from certain citizens praying that a youth shelter be provided for the homeless youth of Launceston, Tas.

Mr Nixon—from certain residents of Gippsland, Vic., praying that no action be taken which would reduce the signal of Melbourne television Channels 7 and 9 being received in the Gippsland region.

Mr Staley—from certain citizens praying that action be taken to dismiss the present members of the Broadcasting Tribunal and replace them with Janet Strickland and representatives of other broadcasting and television bodies.

Petitions received.

6 QUESTIONS: Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Morris, in accordance with standing order 321, having called for a document quoted from by Mr Viner (Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs)—

Mr Viner laid upon the Table the following paper:

Uranium mining—Photocopy of article in *The Australian*, dated 21 January 1979, entitled "Dunstan pins his survival on uranium".

Questions without notice continued.

7 PAPERS: The following papers were presented:

By command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Aboriginal Affairs—Standing Committee—Report on Alcohol Problems of Aboriginals—Government response.

Electoral redistribution proposals for Western Australia—Analysis of preliminary proposals of Distribution Commissioners—Paper prepared by the Australian Electoral Office.

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Gearboxes, gears and shaft couplings—Temporary assistance, dated 10 July 1979.

Tanned and finished leather; dressed fur—Short term assistance, dated 13 July 1979.

Promoting Health—Prospects for better health throughout Australia—Discussion paper, dated May 1979.

Pursuant to statute:

Chicken Meat Research Act—Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee—10th Annual Report, for year 1978–79.

National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—56th Annual Report, for year 1978–79.

Services Trust Funds Act—Services Canteens Trust Fund—31st Annual Report by the Trustees, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for 1978.

Wheat Research Act—21st Annual Report, for 1978.

8 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—PRESENTATION OF MACE—RESOLUTION OF THANKS: Mr Speaker informed the House that he had received a copy of the resolution agreed to by the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory on the occasion of the presentation of a Mace by the Commonwealth Parliament. The resolution was as follows:

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory of Australia express our sincere thanks to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth Parliament for the Mace which, by direction of Her Majesty the Queen, they have presented to this Assembly.

We accept this generous gift from the Parliament which conferred self-government upon the Northern Territory as a tangible link with all the other legislatures throughout the world which adhere to the traditions of Parliamentary Government symbolized by the Mace.

- 9 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:

31 August 1979—Message—

No. 175—

Northern Territory Supreme Court (Repeal) 1979.

Judiciary Amendment 1979.

Federal Court of Australia Amendment 1979.

Judges' Pensions Amendment 1979.

No. 176—

High Court Justices (Long Leave Payments) 1979.

Judges (Long Leave Payments) 1979.

No. 177—National Health Amendment (No. 2) 1979.

- 10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS: Mr Sinclair (Leader of the House) moved—That leave of absence for 3 weeks be given to Mr Hodgman on the ground of Parliamentary business overseas, and for 13 weeks to Mr Lloyd on the ground of public business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS: Mr Hayden (Leader of the Opposition) moved—That leave of absence for 13 weeks be given to Dr Jenkins on the ground of public business overseas, and for 3 weeks to Mr C. K. Jones on the ground of Parliamentary business overseas.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 FAMILY LAW ACT—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE: Mr Ruddock (Chairman), by leave, moved—

(1) That paragraph (12) of the resolution of appointment of the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law Act be omitted and that the following paragraph be substituted:

“(12) That the Committee report by 31 May 1980 and any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report.”.

(2) That a message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—ENERGY POLICY: Mr Speaker informed the House that both Mr Keating and Mr Neil had proposed that definite matters of public importance be submitted to the House for discussion today. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 107, he had given priority to the matter proposed by Mr Keating, namely, “The Government’s energy policy confusion and the incapacity of the Minister for National Development to produce and articulate a coherent energy policy”.

The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—

Mr Keating addressed the House.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

- 14 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 1979–80—BUDGET DEBATE: 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.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr J. E. McLeay (Minister for Administrative Services), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Fraser (Prime Minister) speaking without limitation of time.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

Suspension of standing orders—Extended time for speech: Mr Fife (Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs), by leave, moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Young speaking for a period not exceeding 35 minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

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

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at 10.30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 2.15 p.m.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 11 September 1979, pursuant to statute:

Australian Dried Fruits Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 177.

Australian Federal Police Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 180.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinance—1979—No. 3—Postal Services.

Customs Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 181.

Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 176.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 169, 170.

Interim Forces Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 173.

Ombudsman Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 182.

Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, Nos. 171, 178, 179.

Repatriation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 172.

Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 174.

Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1979, No. 175.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinance—1979—No. 26—Ordinances Revision (Penalties).

Regulations—1979—

No. 14 (Health Commission Ordinance).

No. 15 (Cemeteries Ordinance).

Telecommunications Act—Australian Telecommunications Commission—By-laws—Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts)—Amendment No. 37.

MEMBERS PRESENT: All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr Birney, Mr C. R. Cameron, Dr Cass, Mr Chapman, Mr Connolly, Mr Corbett, Dr Edwards, Mr FitzPatrick, Mr Hodgman*, Mr James, Dr Jenkins*, Mr C. K. Jones*, Mr Lloyd*, Mr Lucock, Mr Lusher, Mr J. L. McMahon, Mr McVeigh, Mr Peacock, Mr Porter and Mr Wallis.

* On leave

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