

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 9

THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 1976

1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at eleven a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The President (Senator the Honourable Condor L. Laucke) took the Chair.

## 2 PRAYERS.

3 PETITION: Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 6 citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not introduced.  
Petition received and read.

4 NOTICE OF MOTION: Senator Baume gave a Notice of Motion as follows—That, on the next day of sitting, he would move—That—

- (1) A Select Committee be appointed for the purpose of completing the consideration of a matter previously referred to, and considered by, the Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee on Social Environment appointed during the previous Session, namely, the Environmental Conditions of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and the Preservation of their Sacred Sites, and reporting to the Senate upon that matter.
- (2) The Committee have power to consider the Minutes of Evidence and records of the former Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committee on Social Environment relating to the matter referred to in paragraph (1).
- (3) The Committee consist of six Senators, three being members of the Government, nominated by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, and three being members of the Opposition, nominated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (4) The Committee elect a Government member as Chairman, who may, from time to time, appoint another member of the Committee to be Deputy-Chairman. The Member so appointed shall act as Chairman at any time when there is no Chairman or the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the Committee.
- (5) In the event of an equality of voting, the Chairman, or the Deputy-Chairman when acting as Chairman, have a casting vote.
- (6) The quorum of the Committee be three.
- (7) The Committee have power to send for and examine persons, papers and records, to move from place to place, and to meet and transact business in public or private session.
- (8) The Committee report to the Senate by 31 May 1976.
- (9) The foregoing provisions of this Resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.

## 5 QUESTIONS.

6 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised during Question Time this day.

7 PAPERS: The President laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Court of Disputed Returns—Petitions—

By Helen Therese Berrill (2), Petitioner in the matter of the Senate election held in South Australia on 13 December 1975 and in the matter of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, and attached documents.

By Bruce Noel Hill, Petitioner in the matter of the Senate election held in Tasmania on 13 December 1975 and in the matter of the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

The following Paper was presented, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Qantas Airways Limited—Annual Report of Qantas Airways Limited, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year ended 31 March 1975.

The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute:

Australian Citizenship Act—Annual Return, for year 1974–75.

8 AUSTRALIAN ASSISTANCE PLAN—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Social Welfare Commission Act—Report of the Social Welfare Commission on the Australian Assistance Plan, together with a Minority Report by Professor C. P. Harris, dated February 1976.

Senator Guilfoyle, by leave, made a statement relating to the Paper.

Senator Grimes, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Grimes have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

9 CYCLONE TRACY—PAPERS: The Minister for Science (Senator Webster), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Cyclone Tracy—Reports (4) of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund for October, November, December 1975 and January 1976, together with financial statements (2).

Senator Robertson, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Robertson have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

10 REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—GENERAL REPORT 1975: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wood) brought up the following Report from the Committee:

Fifty-first Report—General Report 1975.

Ordered to be printed.

Senator Wood, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Report.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Wood have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

11 NEXT MEETING OF SENATE: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood) moved—That the Senate, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, 16 March 1976, at half-past two p.m., unless sooner called together by the President, or, in the event of the President being unavailable owing to illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees.

Question—put and passed.

12 PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Appointment of Senate Members*: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act* 1969–1974, Senators Kilgarriff, Melzer and Young be appointed members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Appointment of Senate Members*: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946–1974*, the President and Senators Sir Magnus Cormack and Douglas McClelland be appointed members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings.  
Question—put and passed.
- 14 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Appointment of Senate Members*: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1951–1973*, Senators Baume, Colston and Messner be appointed members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts.  
Question—put and passed.
- 15 PRIVILEGES—STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That a Committee of Privileges be appointed, to consist of Senators Button, Drake-Brockman, Jessop, O'Byrne, Thomas, Wheeldon and Wright.  
Question—put and passed.
- 16 STANDING ORDERS—STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders, a Standing Orders Committee be appointed, to consist of the President, the Chairman of Committees and Senators Brown, Chaney, Sir Magnus Cormack, Greenwood, McAuliffe, Douglas McClelland, O'Byrne, Webster and Withers.  
Question—put and passed.
- 17 HOUSE—STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That a House Committee be appointed, to consist of the President and Senators Coleman, McLaren, Melzer, Messner, Sheil and Young.  
Question—put and passed.
- 18 PUBLICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That a Publications Committee be appointed, to consist of Senators Archer, Bonner, Cameron, Missen, Robertson, Ryan and Tehan.  
Question—put and passed.
- 19 LIBRARY—STANDING COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by leave, moved—That a Library Committee be appointed, to consist of the President and Senators Cameron, Davidson, Gietzelt, Harradine, Mulvihill and Walters.  
Question—put and passed.
- 20 BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 6

The House of Representatives acquaints the Senate that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Proceedings Broadcasting Act 1946–1974*, in addition to Mr Speaker, the following Members of the House of Representatives have been appointed members of the Joint Committee on the Broadcasting of Parliamentary Proceedings, viz.: Mr D. M. Cameron, Mr Corbett, Mr Graham, Mr Scholes and Mr A. P. Whitlam.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

- 21 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 7

The House of Representatives acquaints the Senate that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Accounts Committee Act* 1951–1973, the following Members of the House of Representatives have been appointed members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.: Mr Armitage, Mr Connolly, Mr Dobie, Mr Innes, Mr Lusher, Mr Martin and Mr Short.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

- 22 PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 8

The House of Representatives acquaints the Senate that, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act* 1969–1974, the following Members of the House of Representatives have been appointed members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz.: Mr Bungey, Mr James, Mr L. K. Johnson, Mr Kelly, Mr J. L. McMahon and Mr Millar.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

- 23 LOAN BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 9

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Borrowing and Expending of Moneys for Defence Purposes*”, in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Cotton the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Cotton moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 24 LOAN BILL (No. 2) 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 10

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Borrowing of Moneys for the purpose of Supplementing the Consolidated Revenue Fund*”, in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Cotton the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Cotton moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 25 MEAT EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 11

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to terminate the Charge imposed by the ‘Meat Export Charge Act 1973’* ”, in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 3 March 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,  
Deputy Speaker

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

On the motion of Senator Cotton the Bill was read a first time.

Senator Cotton moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Walsh the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 26 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

On the motion of the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.

- 27 REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL—CERTAIN ENTITLEMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to certain entitlements of Members of Parliament and their determination by the Remuneration Tribunal and moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 28 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

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*In the Committee*

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The President resumed the Chair; and the Chairman of Committees (Senator Drake-Brockman) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 29 AIR NAVIGATION (CHARGES) BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

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*In the Committee*

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Bonner) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 30 THE ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by leave, made a statement relating to the economy and the Government's economic policy and moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

On the motion of Senator Keeffe the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 31 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S OPENING SPEECH—ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Knight—That the following Address-in-Reply be agreed to:

*To His Excellency the Governor-General*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—*And on the amendment moved thereto by Senator Harradine*—That the following words be added to the Address-in-Reply: “, and the Senate is of the opinion that your advisers, having declared their intention of taking particular care over the special circumstances of the less populous States, should obtain the approval of those States prior to the implementation of your advisers' new approach to Federalism”—*And on the amendment moved by Senator Brown to Senator Harradine's proposed amendment*—At end of proposed amendment, add “The Senate is also of the opinion that, because of the financial plight of local government organizations throughout Australia, your advisers should take action immediately to re-institute hearings by the Australian Grants Commission for the purpose of assessing appropriate untied and unconditional grants to local government”.

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator McLaren have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 32 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE—ASSENT TO BILLS: The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented by the President:

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 2

Proposed laws intituled:—

*Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act 1976*

*Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1976*

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name of Her Majesty, assented to the said laws.

Government House,

Canberra, 4 March 1976

- 33 ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at fifteen minutes to five p.m. till Tuesday, 16 March 1976, at half-past two p.m., unless sooner called together in accordance with the Resolution agreed to this day.

- 34 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Sir Magnus Cormack and Wheeldon.

J. R. ODGERS,

Clerk of the Senate