

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 11

WEDNESDAY, 17 MARCH 1976

1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at half-past two p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The President (Senator the Honourable Condor L. Laucke) took the Chair.

2 PRAYERS.

3 PETITIONS: Senator Mulvihill presented a petition from 19 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate take action to omit from the electoral laws the requirement that electors mark preferences on ballot papers in respect of all candidates in Senate elections.

Petition received and read.

Senator Brown presented a petition from 11 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Government reject any proposal to build an Omega Station in Australia.

Petition received and read.

Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 29 citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes be not introduced.

Petition received and read.

Senator Wood presented a petition from 2456 electors of Queensland praying that the Government reinstate the cadet forces.

Petition received and read.

4 PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS: Senator Wheeldon, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a report appearing this day in *The Australian* newspaper.

Senator Messner, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised in the Senate during the debate on the Loan Bill 1976 on 16 March 1976.

5 QUESTIONS: Questions without Notice being proceeded with—

Papers: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Australian Capital Territory Court of Petty Sessions—Transcripts of proceedings before Mr C. F. Kilduff, Chief Magistrate, between Francis Ley (informant) and George Howard Branson and Ransley Victor Garland (defendants), at Canberra, on 5 and 8 March 1976.

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court—Transcript of proceedings before Mr Justice Connor in the matter of an application for an *order nisi* to show cause *re* Edward Gough Whitlam (*ex parte* Ransley Victor Garland), at Canberra, on 23 February 1976; together with Mr Justice Connor's Reasons for Judgement, given on 24 February 1976.

Further Questions without Notice were answered.

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

Industries Assistance Commission—Reports—

Precision Ground Steel Ball Bearings—Tariff Quota, dated 5 December 1975.
 Sheets and Plates of Iron or Steel—Import Restrictions, dated 27 November 1975.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Homes Savings Grant Act—Department of Housing and Construction—Eleventh Annual Report of the Secretary, for year 1974–75.

Northern Territory (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1976—

No. 10—Police and Police Offences.

No. 11—Prisons.

No. 12—Motor Vehicles (No. 3) 1975.

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreements in relation to the provision of financial assistance—

South Australia—

Land Acquisition for Nature Conservation Purposes (Coffin Bay) (1975–76), dated 18 December 1975.

Land Acquisition for Nature Conservation Purposes (Pike River—Gurra Gurra Area) (1975–76), dated 18 December 1975.

Urban and Regional Development (Financial Assistance) Act—

Agreements in relation to the provision of financial assistance—

New South Wales—

Urban and Regional Development (1975–76), dated 29 January 1976.

New South Wales and Victoria—

Urban Expansion and Redevelopment (Albury–Wodonga) (1975–76), dated 25 November 1975.

Queensland—

Area Improvement (1975–76), dated 19 January 1976.

Flood Mitigation (1975–76), dated 19 January 1976.

National Estate (1975–76), dated 19 January 1976.

Sewerage (1975–76), dated 19 January 1976.

South Australia—

Urban and Regional Development (1975–76), dated 24 October 1975.

Tasmania—

National Estate (1975–76), dated 14 January 1976.

Sewerage (1975–76), dated 14 January 1976.

Urban Expansion and Redevelopment (Tamar Valley Area) (1975–76), dated 3 December and 11 December 1975.

Urban Expansion and Redevelopment (Urban Land Council) (1975–76), dated 14 January 1976.

Victoria—

Urban and Regional Development (1975–76), dated 5 January 1976.

7 INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION—LONDON CONFERENCE 1975—REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION: Senator Brown, by leave, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Inter-Parliamentary Union—Report of the Australian Delegation to the Sixty-second Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at London, 4–12 September 1975.

8 ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS—SELECT COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT: Senator Baume, pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—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 the Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 ORDER OF BUSINESS: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, at eight p.m. this day, Government Business, Order of the Day No. 2 (Meat Export Charge Amendment Bill 1976), take precedence of Government Business, Order of the Day No. 1 (Governor-General's Opening Speech—Address-in-Reply).

Question—put and passed.

- 10 PARLIAMENTARY RETIRING ALLOWANCES TRUST—APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act 1948–1973*, the Senate appoint Senator Withers as a Trustee to serve on the Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Trust on and from this day.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY—SENATE MEMBER OF COUNCIL: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian National University Act 1946–1973*, the Senate elect Senator James McClelland to be a member of the Council of the Australian National University to fill the vacancy on the Council on and from this day and that he continue as a member until 17 July 1977.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 AUSTRALIA-JAPAN FOUNDATION BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 12

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to establish a Foundation for encouraging a closer Relationship between the Peoples of Australia and Japan, and to Provide for related Matters*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 16 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Wheeldon the debate was adjourned.

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

- 13 LOANS (QANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 13

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to authorize the Borrowing by the Commonwealth of a certain sum of Money and to authorize the Commonwealth to make certain Moneys available to Qantas Airways Limited, and for purposes connected therewith*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 16 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
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 Douglas McClelland the debate was adjourned.

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

- 14 LOANS (AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRLINES COMMISSION) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 14

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to authorize the Borrowing by the Commonwealth of a certain sum of Money and to authorize the Commonwealth to make certain Moneys available to the Australian National Airlines Commission, and for purposes connected therewith*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 16 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
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 Douglas McClelland the debate was adjourned.

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

- 15 FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 15

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to approve an Agreement between the Commonwealth and the States amending the Financial Agreement, and for related purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 16 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
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 Douglas McClelland the debate was adjourned.

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

- 16 NATIONAL DEBT SINKING FUND 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. 16

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'National Debt Sinking Fund Act 1966-1967'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 16 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
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 Douglas McClelland the debate was adjourned.

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

- 17 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.

Paper: Senator McLaren, by leave, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Inflation—Paper compiled by the Statistics Group of the Legislative Research Service, Commonwealth Parliamentary Library, entitled “Inflation—Australia, 1949-50 to 1974-75”, together with a graph relating thereto.

Debate continued.

*And it being eight p.m., according to Order, Government Business,
Order of the Day No. 2, was called on—*

- 18 MEAT EXPORT CHARGE AMENDMENT 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.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) addressing the Chair—

And it being eleven p.m.—

- 19 ADJOURNMENT: The President, under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at twenty-five minutes past eleven p.m. till to-morrow at eleven a.m.

- 20 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senator Young.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate