

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 15

THURSDAY, 25 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 PETITIONS: Senator Ryan presented a petition from 21 citizens of the Australian Capital Territory praying that the Government honour its 1975 election promise that existing Commissioner for Housing loans would continue.

Petition received and read.

Senator Ryan presented a petition from 53 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate urge the Government to make finance available to support and maintain the projects undertaken by or proposed to the Children's Commission.

Petition received and read.

4 QUESTIONS.

5 TRANSPORT TO AND FROM TASMANIA—REPORT OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PAPERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Transport to and from Tasmania—

Report of the Royal Commission into Transport between Tasmania and the mainland of Australia, dated 5 March 1976.

Summary of Principal Findings and Recommendations of the Commission.

Senator Withers, by leave, made a statement relating to the Report.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), 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 Wriedt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

6 SOCIAL WELFARE COMMISSION—SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Social Welfare Commission Act—Progress Report by the Social Welfare Commission on Social Welfare Manpower, dated November 1975.

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.

7 PAPER: The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute:

Public Service Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976, No. 18 (*in substitution for Paper of same title, tabled on 17 February 1976*).

- 8 POSTPONEMENT: Senator Devitt, at the request of Senator Wood, moved—That Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 3, relating to the disallowance of the *Lands Acquisition Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Cocos (Keeling) Islands Ordinance No. 5 of 1975, and made under the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act* 1955–1975, be postponed till six sitting days after today.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF MATTER: Senator Douglas McClelland, at the request of Senator Mulvihill, and pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That there be referred to the Standing Committee on Science and the Environment the following matter: The impact on the Australian environment of the current wood-chip industry programme.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 LEGISLATIVE AND GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEES—REFERENCES—STATEMENT BY SENATOR: Senator Sir Magnus Cormack, by leave, made a statement relating to references from the Senate to the Legislative and General Purpose Standing Committees.

- 11 ORDER OF GENERAL BUSINESS AFTER THREE P.M.—*Suspension of Standing Orders*: Senator Douglas McClelland, at the request of the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), and pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Senator Wriedt moving a motion relating to the order of business on the Notice Paper.

Question—put and passed.

Postponement: Senator Douglas McClelland, at the request of Senator Wriedt, moved—That, after the consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 1, relating to the maintenance of Government services to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, intervening business be postponed till after the consideration of General Business, Notices of Motion No. 4, relating to the retention of lighthouse reserves as flora and fauna reserves, and No. 5, relating to International Women's Year projects and the elimination of discrimination against women.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 A.C.T. UNIT TITLES ORDINANCE—STATEMENT BY SENATOR: Senator Devitt, by leave, made a statement informing the Senate that the Regulations and Ordinances Committee had now received a satisfactory explanation of new sub-section (8) of section 16 of the *Unit Titles Ordinance* 1970–1971, contained in paragraph (b) of section 3 of the *Unit Titles Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 31 of 1975, and made under the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act* 1910–1973.

Notice of Motion withdrawn: Senator Devitt thereupon withdrew Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 1.

- 13 POSTPONEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), moved—That Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 2, relating to the reference of a matter to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 14 AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL STUDIES—SENATE MEMBER OF COUNCIL: The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from Senator Keffe resigning as a member of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies. The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies Act* 1964–1973, the Senate appoint Senator Cavanagh to be a member of the Council of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Keffe, on and from this day, and that he continue as a member until 17 July 1977.

Question—put and passed.

- 15 JOINT COMMITTEES—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS: The President informed the Senate that, pursuant to the Resolutions agreed to by both Houses, he had received letters from the Leader of the Government in the Senate and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate nominating Senators to serve on Joint Committees, as follows:

Australian Capital Territory

Senators Archer, Georges, Knight and Ryan.

Parliamentary Committee System

Senators Sir Magnus Cormack, Gietzelt, McAuliffe, Mulvihill, Rae and Tehan.

Foreign Affairs and Defence

Senators Bishop, Sir Magnus Cormack, Durack, Scott, Sibraa, Sim and Wheeldon.

New and Permanent Parliament House

Senators Drake-Brockman, McIntosh, Melzer, Missen, O'Byrne and Young.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That the Senators nominated be appointed members of the respective Joint Committees.

Question—put and passed.

- 16 WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION 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. 24

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 19 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 Grimes the debate was adjourned.

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

- 17 WHEAT 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. 25

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Wheat Export Charge Act 1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 19 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.

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

- 18 WHEAT PRODUCTS EXPORT ADJUSTMENT 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. 26

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Wheat Products Export Adjustment Act 1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 19 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.

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

- 19 STATES GRANTS (HOUSING ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 27

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to authorize Advances to the States of Financial Assistance in connexion with Housing and to Authorize the Borrowing of Certain Moneys by the Commonwealth*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood) moved—That the Bill may be taken through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

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

Senator Greenwood 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.

- 20 STATES GRANTS (UNIVERSITIES) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 28

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make provision, in respect of the Year 1976, for the grant of Financial Assistance to the States in connexion with Universities*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Button the debate was adjourned.

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

- 21 STATES GRANTS (UNIVERSITIES) 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. 29

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'States Grants (Universities) Act 1972-1975'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Button the debate was adjourned.

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

- 22 STATES GRANTS (ADVANCED EDUCATION) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 30

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to the Grant of Financial Assistance to the States in connexion with Advanced Education*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Button the debate was adjourned.

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

- 23 STATES GRANTS (ADVANCED EDUCATION) 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. 31

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'States Grants (Advanced Education) Act 1972-1975'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Button the debate was adjourned.

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

- 24 STATES GRANTS (TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION) 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. 32

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'States Grants (Technical and Further Education) Act 1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 24 March 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

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

On the motion of Senator Button the debate was adjourned.

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

- 25 PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY ACCREDITATION AND REPORTING STANDARDS—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: The President made a statement in reply to a Question asked by Senator Chaney on 23 March 1976 concerning the accreditation of certain journalists to the Parliamentary Press Gallery and the accuracy and standards of reporting.
Paper: The President laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Parliamentary Press Gallery—Rules for the guidance of new members of the Federal Parliamentary Press Gallery and journalistic, TV, radio and cable service visitors to Parliament House.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

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

- 26 DRIED VINE FRUITS LEVY AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a first time.
Debate resumed.
Senator Ryan addressing the Chair—

And it being three p.m., according to Order, General Business was called on—

- 27 ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS—MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Senator Keefe, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate is of the opinion that the Government should maintain all services to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders at not less than the standard established by the previous Labor Government.
On the motion of the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood) the debate was adjourned.
Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.
- 28 LIGHTHOUSE RESERVES—RETENTION AS FAUNA AND FLORA RESERVES: Senator Mulvihill, pursuant to notice, moved—That in each instance where technological changes phase out the use of a lighthouse on the Australian coastline, any land herein before reserved and thereby made available be retained by the Australian Government as a fauna and flora reserve.

On the motion of the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 29 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR PROJECTS, AND ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN: Senator Melzer, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate ask the Government to make such funds available as will enable projects commenced during International Women's Year 1975 to continue and be expanded, and take urgent and immediate steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in Australia, and to actively encourage the elimination of discrimination against women in all parts of the world.

On the motion of the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 30 ADJOURNMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

The Senate adjourned at six minutes past five p.m. till Tuesday next at half-past two p.m.

- 31 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators McAuliffe, James McClelland, Maunsell and Wood.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate