

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 21

THURSDAY, 8 APRIL 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 Sibraa presented a petition from 64 citizens of Australia praying that Parliament ensure the widest participation in union ballots by making it compulsory to vote in union elections.

Petition received and read.

Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 37 citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes not be introduced.

Petition received and read.

Senator Ryan presented a petition from 56 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate press for a full disclosure of Commonwealth Hostels Limited finances and for the mitigation of the financial strain upon many Commonwealth Hostels residents.

Petition received and read.

The Clerk announced that Senator Thomas has lodged a petition for presentation, viz.:
From 14 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate take the most urgent steps to readjust payments under the National Employment and Training System so that they are equivalent to the average adult male award wage.

Petition received.

4 QUESTIONS.

5 TELEVISION INTERVIEWS IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: The President made a statement in reply to a Question asked by Senator Sim, on 6 April 1976, concerning television interviews conducted in Parliament House on 31 March 1976. The President informed the Senate that he had received apologies from representatives of the three channels concerned and that both he and the Speaker of the House of Representatives had agreed to review and codify the rules relating to television within Parliament House.

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

Television Interviews in Parliament House—Letters to the President of the Senate, dated 7 April 1976—

From L. W. Power, Bureau Head, 0-10 Television.

From Laurie Wilson, Head of the Canberra Bureau, Seven Network.

From Alan Reid, Editor, Canberra Bureau, National Nine Television.

6 PUBLICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—SECOND REPORT: The Chairman of the Standing Publications Committee (Senator Missen) brought up the following Report of the Committee:

SECOND REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the House of Representatives.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and other papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

Bankruptcy Act—Eighth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Act—Commonwealth Serum Laboratories Commission—Fourteenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1974–75.

Crown of thorns starfish—Advisory Committee on research into the crown of thorns starfish—Report for period August 1971 to December 1975.

Mainline upgrading—Reports by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated November 1975—Evaluation of a range of options for the—

Melbourne–Serviceton rail link.

Melbourne–Sydney rail link.

Port Pirie—Economic evaluation of harbour improvements—Report by the Bureau of Transport Economics, Department of Transport, dated October 1975.

Public libraries—Report of Committee of Inquiry, dated 27 February 1976.

Social Welfare Commission Act—Social Welfare Commission—Report on the Australian Assistance Plan, dated February 1976.

A. J. MISSEN,
Chairman

7 April 1976

Senator Missen, by leave, moved—That the Report be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

- 7 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON OUTSTANDING REFERENCES: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs (Senator Missen) brought up the Report of the Committee on Outstanding References, dated April 1976.

Ordered to be printed.

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

- 8 EDUCATION AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—OUTSTANDING REFERENCES: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education and the Arts (Senator Davidson), by leave, made a statement relating to outstanding references and the Committee's future programme of inquiries.

Senator Georges, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

- 9 PAPERS: The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Audit Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 91.

Customs Act, Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 87.

Census and Statistics Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 89.

Dried Vine Fruits Stabilization Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 86.

Insurance Acts—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 90.

Social Welfare Commission Acts—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 88.

Telecommunications Act—By-laws—Telecommunications (Staff) Amendment No. 6.

- 10 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 Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, be postponed till the next day of sitting.

Question—put and passed.

- 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 intervening General Business be postponed till after the consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 3, relating to the fiscal implications of the Government's "New Federalism" policy, Notice of Motion No. 5, relating to food prices, and General Business, Order of the Day No. 19 (Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Maintenance of Government Services).

Question—put and passed.

- 12 POSTPONEMENT: Senator Devitt, at the request of Senator Wood, moved—That Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 1, 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 4 May 1976.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 NEXT MEETING OF SENATE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, 27 April 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.

- 14 NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS SUBSIDY 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.

Leave refused: Senator McLaren asked leave to incorporate a document in *Hansard*.
Objection being raised, leave not granted.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

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

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Devitt) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 15 LOANS (QANTAS AIRWAYS LIMITED) 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.

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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.

- 16 LOANS (AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRLINES COMMISSION) BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

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

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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.

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

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 10

Proposed law intituled:—

Australia-Japan Foundation 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 law.

Government House,
Canberra, 7 April 1976

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

- 18 GOVERNMENT'S "NEW FEDERALISM" POLICY—FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Senator Walsh, pursuant to notice, moved—That—

- (1) The Senate expresses its concern at the fiscal implications of the Government's "New Federalism" policy for the Australian States; and
- (2) The Senate declares that to whatever degree the Fraser Government implements its stated policy of making State Governments responsible for raising the money that they spend, the four less populous States particularly will be financially disadvantaged.

On the motion of the Minister for Science (Senator Webster) the debate was adjourned. Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

- 19 **FOOD PRICES—INVESTIGATION:** Senator Coleman, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate requests the Government to undertake an immediate investigation into food prices, including:

- (a) wholesalers' markups;
- (b) the correlation of production costs to retail prices; and
- (c) the disparity between prices paid to primary producers and the end cost to consumers.

On the motion of the Minister for Science (Senator Webster) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 20 **ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS—MAINTENANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—

That the Senate is of the opinion that the Government should maintain all services to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders at not less than the standard established by the previous Labor Government.

Debate resumed.

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

- 21 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at thirteen minutes to five p.m. till Tuesday, 27 April 1976, at half-past two p.m., unless sooner called together in accordance with the Resolution agreed to this day.

- 22 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Hall, McIntosh, Mulvihill, Rae and Wheeldon.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate