

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 24

THURSDAY, 29 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 Colston presented a petition from 163 citizens of Australia praying that cows' milk substitutes be restored to the Schedule of Pharmaceutical Benefits for children up to the age of six years as soon as possible.

Petition received and read.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 20 citizens of Australia praying that the Government continue to support financially and politically the Australian Assistance Plan in its present form.

Petition received and read.

Senator Ryan presented a petition from 31 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed, and that there be a proper balance between the Government's programme of public austerity and the need for action in conservation.

Petition received and read.

Senator Knight presented a petition from 27 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Government reverse its decision to cut expenditure on overseas aid, reaffirm Australia's commitment of Overseas Development Assistance at a minimum of 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Product, and establish an independent statutory authority to administer overseas aid.

Petition received.

Senator Knight presented a petition from 37 citizens of Australia similar in wording to the petition presented by Senator Ryan.

Petition received.

4 QUESTIONS.

5 AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL—PAPERS: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Australian Science and Technology Council—

Report to the Prime Minister by the Advisory Group on the Australian Science and Technology Council, dated 24 March 1976.

Statement by the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable J. M. Fraser, on the Report.

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

- 6 PAPER: The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute:

States Grants (Nature Conservation) Act—Agreement in relation to the provision of financial assistance to Tasmania for land acquisition for nature conservation purposes (Lavinia Nature Reserve, King Island) (1975–76), dated 4 March 1976.

- 7 COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION BILL 1976: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the *Grants Commission Act 1973–1975*.

Question—put and passed.

Bill presented, and on the motion of Senator Withers read a first time.

Suspension of Standing Orders: Senator Withers, pursuant to contingent notice, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Bill being passed through its remaining stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

Senator Withers 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.

- 8 POSTPONEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That Government Business, Order of the Day No. 1 (Wheat Industry Stabilization Amendment Bill 1976), be postponed till after the consideration of Government Business, Orders of the Day No. 2 (Wheat Export Charge Amendment Bill 1976) and No. 3 (Wheat Products Export Adjustment Amendment Bill 1976).

Question—put and passed.

- 9 PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That, unless otherwise ordered, Government Business take precedence of General Business after three p.m. this day.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS: The President informed the Senate that 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 Estimates Committees as follows:

Estimates Committee A

Senators Knight, Douglas McClelland, McIntosh, McLaren, Scott and Sim.

Estimates Committee B

Senators Jessop, James McClelland, Mulvihill, Rae, Sibraa and Tehan.

Estimates Committee C

Senators Archer, Gietzelt, Maunsell, Messner, Primmer and Walsh.

Estimates Committee D

Senators Collard, Colston, Martin, Melzer, Townley and Wriedt.

Estimates Committee E

Senators Baume, Bonner, Brown, Grimes, Sheil and Wheeldon.

Estimates Committee F

Senators Devitt, Kilgariff, Robertson, Ryan, Thomas and Wright.

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

Question—put and passed.

- 11 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—SITTINGS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to proposed sittings of Estimates Committees on Tuesday, 4 May 1976, and Thursday, 6 May 1976. Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.
- 12 WHEAT EXPORT CHARGE 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.
Question—put and passed.
Bill read a first time.
The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.
On the motion of Senator Cavanagh the debate was adjourned.
Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.
- 13 WHEAT PRODUCTS EXPORT ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed.
Bill read a first time.
The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.
On the motion of Senator Georges the debate was adjourned.
Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.
- 14 WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION 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.
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 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.

- 15 WHEAT 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.
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 requests.

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.

- 16 WHEAT PRODUCTS EXPORT ADJUSTMENT AMENDMENT 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 requests.

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.

- 17 POSTPONEMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after the consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 1, relating to electoral reforms.
- 18 ELECTORAL REFORMS: Senator Douglas McClelland, pursuant to notice, moved—That the Senate is of the opinion that—
- (1) The boundaries of the Electoral Divisions for the House of Representatives as presently drawn are in need of urgent revision because of their present imbalance;
 - (2) To eliminate the large informal vote cast for the Senate at the Double Dissolution Elections of 1974 and 1975 the Government should legislate to introduce optional preferential voting; and
 - (3) There is a need for legislation to be introduced limiting electoral expenditure and making public disclosure of the sources of funds made available to political parties and candidates.

On the motion of the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 19 ADJOURNMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

- 20 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman, Davidson, Devitt, Hall, Rae, Wheeldon and Young.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate