

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 25

TUESDAY, 4 MAY 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 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, informed the Senate that, during the absence overseas of Mr Peacock, Mr Sinclair would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- 4 PETITIONS: Senator Baume 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 Colston presented a petition from 65 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Senator Wood presented a petition from 4097 citizens of Australia praying that the Metric Conversion Act be repealed and that traditional and familiar units of measurement be restored to areas where greatest inconvenience and distress are occurring.

Petition received and read.

Senator Missen presented a petition from 222 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate take immediate steps to continue the Australian Assistance Plan.

Petition received and read.

The Clerk announced that the following Senators had lodged petitions for presentation, viz.:

Senators Archer and Rae, similar in wording, from 20 and 16 citizens of Australia, respectively, 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.

Senator Missen, from 26 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.

Petitions received.

5 QUESTIONS.

6 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES—ASSENT TO BILLS: The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented by the President:

JOHN R. KERR,
Governor-General

Message No. 14

Proposed laws intituled:—

Social Services Amendment Act 1976

Repatriation Acts Amendment 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, 30 April 1976

JOHN R. KERR,
Governor-General

Message No. 15

Proposed laws intituled:—

Financial Agreement Act 1976

National Debt Sinking Fund Amendment 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, 30 April 1976

JOHN R. KERR,
Governor-General

Message No. 16

Proposed laws intituled:—

Wheat Industry Stabilization Amendment Act 1976

Wheat Export Charge Amendment Act 1976

Wheat Products Export Adjustment Amendment 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, 3 May 1976

7 PAPERS: The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remuneration Tribunal—Determinations relating to the holders of certain public offices—

Interim Darwin Reconstruction Commission—Chairman, dated 22 March 1976, together with an explanatory statement.

Schools Commission—Part-time Chairmen of Planning and Finance Committees—New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory, dated 12 April 1976.

Repatriation Act—Reports of the War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, for year 1974–75.

8 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—REPORT ON TOURIST ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY—PAPER: The Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development (Senator Greenwood), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report on Tourist Accommodation Industry—Short-term Assistance, dated 30 November 1975.

Senator Martin, 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 Martin have leave to continue her speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 9 FRUIT INDUSTRY SUGAR CONCESSION COMMITTEE—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Sugar Agreement Act—Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Fruit Industry Sugar Concession Committee, together with financial statement and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1974–75.

Senator Gietzelt, 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 Gietzelt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 10 STATES GRANTS (SCIENCE LABORATORIES) ACT—PAPER: The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:
States Grants (Science Laboratories) Act—Statement of schools assisted under the Act, for year 1974–75.

Senator Douglas McClelland, 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 Douglas McClelland have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 11 REGULATIONS AND ORDINANCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORTS ON A.C.T. MISREPRESENTATION ORDINANCE 1975 AND A.C.T. MANUFACTURERS WARRANTIES ORDINANCE 1975: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wood) brought up the following Reports from the Committee:
Fifty-third Report—A.C.T. Misrepresentation Ordinance 1975.
Fifty-fourth Report—A.C.T. Manufacturers Warranties Ordinance 1975.

Ordered to be printed.

- 12 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—SITTINGS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to the cancellation of sittings this week of all Estimates Committees except Estimates Committee F, which would meet on 5 May 1976.

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

- 13 TRADE PRACTICES 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. 46

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Trade Practices*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 29 April 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.

- 14 CUSTOMS TARIFF 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. 47

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to Duties of Customs*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 29 April 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.

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

Debate ensued.

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 Grimes the debate was adjourned.

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

- 15 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER LEVY 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. 48

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Live-stock Slaughter Levy Act 1964-1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 29 April 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 Georges the debate was adjourned.

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

- 16 LIVE-STOCK SLAUGHTER LEVY COLLECTION 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. 49

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Live-stock Slaughter Levy Collection Act 1964-1974'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 29 April 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 Georges the debate was adjourned.

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

- 17 DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS (PENSION INCREASES) BILL 1976—
Message from the House of Representatives: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 50

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make Provision for and in relation to Increases in Pensions payable to or in respect of former Members of the Defence Force*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
 Canberra, 4 May 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 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 COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS LANDS ACQUISITION ORDINANCE—STATEMENT BY SENATOR:
 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Regulations and Ordinances (Senator Wood), by leave, made a statement informing the Senate that the Cocos (Keeling) Islands *Lands Acquisition Ordinance* 1975, to which objection had been taken by the Committee in its Fifty-second Report, had now been repealed.
Notice of Motion withdrawn: Senator Wood thereupon withdrew Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 1.
 Senator Douglas McClelland, by leave, made a statement relating thereto.

- 19 SUPERANNUATION BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the
 Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.
 The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) moved an amendment, viz.: At end of motion, add “, but the Senate is of the opinion that the Bill is deficient in that it removes some important benefits now applying under the current Superannuation Act, thereby reducing the overall value of benefits for existing pensioners and contributors”.
 Debate continued.
 Question—That the words proposed to be added be added—put and negatived.
 Amendment negatived accordingly.
 Question—That this Bill be now read a second time—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.

- 20 SUPERANNUATION 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 debated.
 Ordered—That the Chairman of Committees (Senator Drake-Brockman) report progress and ask leave to sit again.

The President resumed the Chair; and Senator Drake-Brockman reported that the Committee had considered the Bill and had made progress, and asked leave to sit again.
 The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That the Committee have leave to sit again on the next day of sitting.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.

- 21 DEFENCE FORCE RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFITS 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 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.
- 22 STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS) 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.
 Senator Button addressing the Chair—

And it being half-past ten p.m.—

- 23 ADJOURNMENT: The President, under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.
 Question—resolved in the affirmative.
 The Senate adjourned at half-past ten p.m. till to-morrow at half-past two p.m.
- 24 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Brown, Coleman, Davidson, Keefe and Young.

J. R. ODGERS,
 Clerk of the Senate