

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 28

TUESDAY, 18 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 of Senator Greenwood due to ill-health, the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (Mr MacKellar) would act as Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development, and the following ministerial representation arrangements would apply in the Senate:

Senator Carrick to represent the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and the Acting Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development;

Senator Withers to represent the Attorney-General; and

Senator Cotton to represent the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs.

He further stated that, during the absence overseas of Mr Peacock, Mr Sinclair would act as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

- 4 PETITIONS: Senator Melzer presented a petition from 13 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 Melzer presented a petition from 42 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate give urgent consideration to the continuation of federal finance for family planning and similar organisations.

Petition received and read.

Senator Tehan presented a petition from 27 citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the Schools Commission.

Petition received and read.

Senator Missen presented a petition from 21 citizens of Australia similar in wording to the petition presented by Senator Melzer relating to the Australian Heritage Commission.

Petition received.

Senator Wriedt presented a petition from 154 citizens of Australia praying that the Commonwealth Government Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme be raised from \$30 per week to \$48 per week.

Petition received.

Senator Wriedt presented a petition from 159 citizens of Australia praying that the immigration of teachers recruited outside Australia be prevented while students with similar university qualifications are refused entry into Diploma of Education courses, and school leavers are refused entry into the State Colleges of Victoria.

Petition received.

Senator Wriedt presented a petition from 270 citizens of Australia praying that teachers recruited outside Australia by the Victorian Education Department have their income taxation exemption cancelled for the period of their stay in Australia.

Petition received.

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

Senator Webster (two), from 245 and 208 citizens of Australia, praying that the Senate take immediate steps to continue the Australian Assistance Plan.

Senator Chaney, from 30 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.

Senator Missen, from 16 citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the Schools Commission.

Senator Carrick, from 6 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate remove the provisions in the Electoral Act which require electors to mark preferences on ballot papers in respect of all candidates.

Petitions received.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION: Notices of Motion were given as follows—

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers): That, on the next day of sitting, he would move—That, unless otherwise ordered, on and from Tuesday, 25 May 1976, and for the remainder of this period of sittings:

- (1) The Sessional Order relating to the days and times of meeting of the Senate be varied to be as follows:

Tuesday	2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
Wednesday	2.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.
Thursday	10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. 2.15 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. 8.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

- (2) The Sessional Order relating to the adjournment of the Senate have effect at the terminating time each day.
- (3) Government Business take precedence of General Business after three p.m. on Thursdays.

Senator Douglas McClelland: That, on the next day of sitting, he would move—That the *Lands Acquisition (Repeal) Ordinance* 1976, as contained in Cocos (Keeling) Islands Ordinance No. 1 of 1976, and made under the *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act* 1955–1975, be disallowed.

6 CONTINGENT NOTICE OF MOTION: Senator Harradine gave a Contingent Notice of Motion as follows—That (contingent on the Senate's consideration of any Bill relating to the Stevedoring Industry and where appropriate) he would move—That the Senate is of the opinion that the Bill should not be further proceeded with until after the consideration of General Business, Notice of Motion No. 4, relating to a Paper on the Stevedoring Industry by R. M. Northrop, Q.C.

7 QUESTIONS.

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

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 17

Proposed laws intituled:—

Superannuation Act 1976

Superannuation Amendment Act 1976

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Amendment Act 1976

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits (Pension Increases) 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, 7 May 1976

- 9 PETROLEUM—ROYAL COMMISSION—PAPER: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Petroleum—Royal Commission—Fourth Report of the Royal Commission, entitled "The Marketing and Pricing of Petroleum Products in Australia", dated 15 April 1976.

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

- 10 AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION—PAPER: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Australian Film Commission Act—Australian Film Commission—First Report of the Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for period 5 May to 30 June 1975.

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

- 11 ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE—V.I.P. FLIGHTS—PAPER: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Royal Australian Air Force—V.I.P. Flights—List of flights authorized for period 25 March 1975 to 8 February 1976.

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

- 12 AUSTRALIAN WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL—PAPER: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Australian Water Resources Council—Minutes of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Council, held in Melbourne, 24 October 1975.

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

- 13 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—INTERIM REPORT ON FOOTWEAR—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Industries Assistance Commission—Interim Report on Footwear, dated 31 October 1975.

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

- 14 PAPERS: The following Paper was presented, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Industries Assistance Commission—Report—Welding Consumables and Flux Cored Solder, dated 6 February 1976.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Commonwealth Banks Act—Appointment—S. Gaunt.

Family Law Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 97.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement by the Minister describing land acquired by agreement under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.

Norfolk Island Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 1—Public Moneys.

Student Assistance Act—Report on the Operation of the Act in 1974.

- 15 TRADE AND COMMERCE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON OUTSTANDING REFERENCES: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce (Senator Sheil) brought up the Report of the Committee on Outstanding References, dated May 1976.

Ordered to be printed.

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

- 16 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT 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 *Public Accounts Committee Act 1951–1973*.

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 the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 17 SUSPENSION OF SITTING TO ENABLE ESTIMATES COMMITTEES TO MEET: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the sitting of the Senate be suspended till a quarter-past ten p.m., or such later time as the President may take the Chair, to enable Estimates Committees A, B and E to meet.

Question—put and passed.

Suspension of Sitting: At nine minutes to four p.m. the sitting of the Senate was suspended till fifteen minutes past ten p.m.

The Senate having resumed—

- 18 AGED PERSONS HOSTELS 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. 54

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘Aged Persons Hostels Act 1972–1974’*”, in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 May 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,
Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

Senator Guilfoyle 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.

- 19 APPLE AND PEAR 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. 51

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Apple and Pear Stabilization Act 1971-1973'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 4 May 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.

And it being half-past ten p.m.—

- 20 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 four minutes past eleven p.m. till to-morrow at half-past two p.m.

- 21 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman, Davidson, Devitt and Greenwood.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate