

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 31

TUESDAY, 25 MAY 1976

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- 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 PETITIONS: Senator Melzer presented a petition from 65 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 Kilgariff presented a petition from 103 citizens of the Northern Territory praying that the Federal Government review the proposed siting of the Stuart Highway at Pine Creek.

Petition received.

Senator Coleman presented two petitions from 700 and 160 citizens of Australia similar in wording to the petition presented Senator Melzer.

Petitions received and one petition read.

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

Senator Durack, from 28 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 184 citizens of Australia praying that the Government take no measures to interfere with the Schools Commission.

Senator James McClelland, from 12 citizens of Australia praying that a system of double income tax on personal incomes not be introduced.

Senator Chaney, from 33 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate give urgent consideration to the continuation of federal finance for family planning and similar organisations.

Senator James McClelland, from 12 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.

4 QUESTIONS.

- 5 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR—AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE—PAPER: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper: International Women's Year—Report of the Australian National Advisory Committee, dated 31 March 1976.

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

- 6 MARITIME UNIONS—ALLEGED PAYMENTS—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:

Maritime Unions—Alleged Payments—Final Report of the Royal Commission into Alleged Payments to Maritime Unions, dated 23 April 1976.

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.

- 7 ECONOMIC POLICY—LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS—PAPERS: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers:

Economic Policy—

Bills, together with second reading speeches made in the House of Representatives relating to those Bills—

Health Insurance Amendment Bill 1976.

Health Insurance Commission Amendment Bill 1976.

Health Insurance Levy Bill 1976.

Health Insurance Levy Assessment Bill 1976.

Income Tax Assessment Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976.

Income Tax (Individuals) Bill 1976.

Income Tax (International Agreements) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976.

Income Tax (Rates) Bill 1976.

National Health Amendment Bill 1976.

Social Services Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976.

Explanatory Memorandums relating to—

Health Insurance Levy Assessment Bill 1976, Health Insurance Levy Bill 1976, and Income Tax (International Agreements) Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976.

Income Tax Assessment Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976, Income Tax (Rates) Bill 1976, and Income Tax (Individuals) Bill 1976.

Indexation, Child Rebate and Child Endowment Changes—1976–77 rates compared with 1975–76—Statement, together with tables.

Medibank Levy—Table.

Senator Withers, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

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 a later hour of the day.

- 8 AUSTRALIAN DAIRY PRODUCE BOARD—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Dairy Produce Act—Australian Dairy Produce Board—Fiftieth Annual Report, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Reports 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.

- 9 MEAT EXPORT CHARGE COLLECTION—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Meat Export Charge Collection Act—Report on the operation of the Act for the years 1973–74 and 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 AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:
Wool Industry Act—Australian Wool Corporation—Annual Report, together with financial statements 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.

- 11 INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT—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—Report on Other Electronic Equipment, dated 1 April 1976.

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

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

Industries Assistance Commission—Temporary Assistance Authority—Report—Files and Rasps, dated 31 March 1976.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Book Bounty Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 100.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 98.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 99.

Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Administrative Services—J. F. Rawson.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances 1976—

No. 18—Building and Services.

No. 19—Real Property (Unit Titles).

- 13 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—REPORTS: Pursuant to Order, Senators Sim, Jessop (on behalf of Senator Rae), Maunsell, Martin, Baume and Wright brought up the Reports from Estimates Committees A, B, C, D, E and F, respectively, on the Particulars of Proposed Additional Expenditure for the year 1975–76, together with the respective *Hansard* records of the Committees' proceedings.

Ordered—That the Reports be printed.

- 14 DEFENCE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to Australia's Defence Policy. The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later hour of the day, and that Senator Wriedt have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 15 ECONOMIC POLICY—COGNATE DEBATE—SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Government Business, Orders of the Day No. 2 (Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 1975–76), No. 3 (Economic Policy—Ministerial Statement), No. 4 (Guidelines for Triennial Reports of Education Commissions and Other Measures—Ministerial Statement), and the Order of the Day for the resumption of the debate on the motion to take note of Papers (Economic Policy—Legislative Proposals) tabled this day by the Leader of the Government in the Senate, being discussed during the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 1975–76.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 16 AUSTRALIAN RIFLE CLUB REGULATIONS AND AIR NAVIGATION REGULATIONS—*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 objections of the Committee to regulation 13 of the amendments of the Australian Rifle Club Regulations, as contained in Statutory Rules 1976 No. 37, and to the amendments of the Air Navigation Regulations, as contained in Statutory Rules 1976 No. 67, would be substantially overcome by amendments which the Minister for Defence and the Minister for Transport, respectively, had undertaken would be made.

Notices of Motion withdrawn: Senator Wood thereupon withdrew Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 3, and, at the request of Senator Wright, Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 4.

- 17 A.C.T. MISREPRESENTATION ORDINANCE AND A.C.T. MANUFACTURERS WARRANTIES 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 Minister for the Capital Territory had undertaken to repeal both the *Misrepresentation Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 40 of 1975, and the *Manufacturers Warranties Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 41 of 1975, to which objection had been taken by the Committee.

Notices of Motion withdrawn: Senator Wood thereupon withdrew Business of the Senate, Notices of Motion Nos 1 and 2.

Constitutional and Legal Affairs—Standing Committee—References: The Minister for Science (Senator Webster), by leave, moved—That the following matters be referred to the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, and that the final report of the Committee upon the matters be presented on or before 30 September 1976:

- (1) The alterations of the law made by the *Misrepresentation Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 40 of 1975, and as amended by the *Misrepresentation Ordinance* 1976 contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 17 of 1976; and
- (2) The alterations of the law made by the *Manufacturers Warranties Ordinance* 1975, as contained in Australian Capital Territory Ordinance No. 41 of 1975.

Question—put and passed.

- 18 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT 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. 63

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

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 20 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.

- 19 SUPERANNUATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 64

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Superannuation Act 1976' in relation to the Investment Powers of the Superannuation Fund Investment Trust*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 20 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.

- 20 INCOME TAX (INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS) 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. 65

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Income Tax (International Agreements) Act 1953-1975'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 20 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.

- 21 APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 3) 1975-76: 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.

Debate ensued.

Senator Kilgariff addressing the Chair—

And it being eleven p.m.—

- 22 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 twenty-seven minutes to twelve o'clock midnight till to-morrow at a quarter-past two p.m.

- 23 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Bonner, Greenwood, Rae and Robertson.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate