

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 42

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST 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 PETITIONS: Senator Ryan presented a petition from 78 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Petition received and read.

Senator Ryan presented a petition from 22 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 and read.

Senator Davidson presented a petition from 52 citizens of Australia praying that the proposed reduction in financial aid to sessional kindergartens be reversed.

Petition received and read.

Senator Walsh presented a petition from 15 citizens of Australia praying that the Government retain at least the original Medibank scheme.

Petition received and read.

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

Senator Messner, from 15 citizens of Australia praying that the Government observe the promise in the Prime Minister's election speech to maintain Medibank and standards of health care.

Senators Mulvihill, Messner (two) and McLaren, similar in wording, from 30, 15, 38 and 11 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Senator Wood (two), from 93 and 45 citizens of Australia objecting to the metric system of measurement.

Senator Primmer, from 46 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate give urgent consideration to the continuation of federal finance for family planning and similar organisations.

Senator Messner, from 32 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.

Senator Button, from 76 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate affirm the Government's obligation to fulfil existing foreign aid undertakings and that the Australian Development Assistance Agency or a similar organisation be re-established.

Senator McLaren, from 317 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate increase patient subsidies to nursing homes.

Senator Messner, from 14 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to improve certain social security benefits for pensioners.

Petitions received.

- 4 NOTICE OF MOTION: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) gave a Notice of Motion as follows—That, on the next day of sitting, she would move—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to amend the *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act 1974* to increase the Handicapped Children's Benefit, and with respect to certain formal matters.

5 QUESTIONS.

- 6 NOTICE OF MOTION: Senator Sim, by leave, gave a Notice of Motion as follows—That, on the next day of sitting, he would move—That the time for the presentation of the Report from the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on Australia and the Indian Ocean region be extended, and that the Committee now report on or before 30 November 1976.

- 7 ABORIGINAL LAND FUND COMMISSION—PAPER: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Aboriginal Land Fund Act—Aboriginal Land Fund Commission—First Report, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for period 17 December 1974 to 30 June 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.

- 8 EDUCATION AND THE ARTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT ON OUTSTANDING REFERENCES: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education and the Arts (Senator Davidson) brought up the Report of the Committee on Outstanding References, dated August 1976.

Senator Davidson moved—That the Report be printed.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

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

- 10 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—DISTRIBUTION OF DEPARTMENTAL EXPLANATORY NOTES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to the tabling and wider distribution of departmental explanatory notes for Estimates Committees.

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

- 11 ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICE OF MOTION DISCHARGED: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That the following Orders of the Day and Notice of Motion be discharged from the Notice Paper—

Government Business, Orders of the Day:

FOREIGN POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

NATIONAL SUPERANNUATION SCHEME—COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle)—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

ECONOMIC POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

GUIDELINES FOR TRIENNIAL REPORTS OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONS AND OTHER MEASURES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Education (Senator Carrick)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**ECONOMIC POLICY—LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS—PAPERS:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers)—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

**DESTROYERS FOR THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**WOOMERA—FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**REPATRIATION SYSTEM—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle)—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**THE ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY ACCREDITATION—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY ACCREDITATION AND REPORTING STANDARDS—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**HOME SAVINGS GRANTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**FUNDS FOR HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Science (Senator Webster)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

**General Business, Notice of Motion:**

**Senator HARRADINE:** To move—That the Senate take note of the Paper entitled "Position Statement on Future Arrangements for the Stevedoring Industry", by R. M. Northrop, Q.C., dated February 1976.

**General Business, Orders of the Day:**

**AUSTRALIAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Grimes—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION—LABOUR INSPECTION CONVENTION, 1947—TREATY—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Mulvihill—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Button—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**AUSTRALIAN STEVEDORING INDUSTRY AUTHORITY—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Harradine—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**TRANSPORT TO AND FROM TASMANIA—COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PAPERS:** Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

**SOCIAL WELFARE COMMISSION—SOCIAL WELFARE MANPOWER—PAPER:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Grimes—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

**GOVERNMENT'S "NEW FEDERALISM" POLICY—FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Walsh—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.

DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL—PAPERS: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—TOURIST ACCOMMODATION INDUSTRY—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Martin—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

FRUIT INDUSTRY SUGAR CONCESSION COMMITTEE—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Gietzelt—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

STATES GRANTS (SCIENCE LABORATORIES) ACT 1971—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Devitt—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Button—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—INTERIM REPORT ON FOOTWEAR—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Button—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS) ACT—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STATES 1974–75—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Mulvihill—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

LIVING AT WORK—URBAN WORK-FORCE—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN DAIRY PRODUCE BOARD—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Gietzelt—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

MEAT EXPORT CHARGE COLLECTION—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Gietzelt—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL CORPORATION—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Gietzelt—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION—OTHER ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

DEFENCE POLICY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

LAND TENURES—COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN EGG BOARD—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator McLaren—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

WHEAT RESEARCH—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator McLaren—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY IN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Mulvihill—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

SERVICES CADET SCHEMES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Bishop—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

GRANTS COMMISSION—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY—POLICIES FOR DEVELOPMENT—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Douglas McClelland—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE—SPECIAL FLIGHTS—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator McLaren—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT 1973—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT 1971—PROTOCOLS FOR THIRD EXTENSION—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

AUSTRALIAN TOBACCO BOARD—PAPER: Adjourned debate on the motion by Senator Keeffe—That the Senate take note of the Paper.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 BUDGET PAPERS 1976-77: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motion by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton)—That the Senate take note of the Papers.

*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 the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) speaking without limitation of time.

Question—put and passed.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) moved an amendment, viz.: Leave out all words after "That", insert "the Senate condemns the Budget because:

- (a) it pursues a policy of unemployment as a weapon to reduce real wages and salaries;
- (b) it abdicates Federal Government responsibilities and forces the State governments and local governments either to reduce their services or to institute additional charges, or both;
- (c) it introduces an additional tax in the form of the Medibank levy, thus further reducing consumer spending;
- (d) it reduces the availability of services to the whole community, but particularly to those most vulnerable to hardship—notably Aborigines, the unemployed and migrants; and
- (e) it fails to institute selective stimulatory expenditure to reduce unemployment and restore consumer confidence".

Debate continued.

Senator Walters addressing the Chair—

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*And it being eleven p.m.—*

- 13 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 past eleven p.m. till to-morrow at eleven a.m.

- 14 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Devitt, Greenwood (on leave) and Wright.

J. R. ODGERS,  
Clerk of the Senate