

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

**JOURNALS OF THE SENATE**

No. 43

THURSDAY, 26 AUGUST 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 **PETITION:** Senator Melzer presented a petition from 199 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.

4 **QUESTIONS.**

5 **PAPERS:** The following Papers were presented, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Australian Education Council—Report of meeting, held in Cairns, 8–9 July 1976.

Housing Industry—Report for 1976–77 to 1978–79 of the Indicative Planning Council for the Housing Industry, dated 11 August 1976.

Human Relationships—Royal Commission on Human Relationships—Interim Report to 30 January 1976, dated 12 February 1976.

United Nations—Report of the Australian Delegation to the Thirtieth Session of the General Assembly, New York, 16 September to 17 December 1975.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

National Debt Sinking Fund Act—Fifty-third Annual Report of the National Debt Commission, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1975–76.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1976—

No. 318—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 343—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

Nos 344 and 345—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 346—Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association.

No. 347—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service, and others.

No. 348—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.\*

No. 349—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 350—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).\*

No. 351—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.\*

No. 352—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.\*

Nos 353 and 354—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

(\*Not accompanied by statement)

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances 1976—

No. 34—Wates Rates (Amendment) (No. 2).

No. 35—Sewerage Rates (Amendment).

- 6 ABORIGINES AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT: The Chairman of the Select Committee on Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders (Senator Bonner) brought up the Report of the Committee entitled "The Environmental Conditions of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders and the Preservation of their Sacred Sites", dated August 1976, together with the Transcript of Evidence (six volumes) taken before the Committee.

Ordered—That the Report be printed.

Senator Bonner, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Keefe have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 7 PUBLIC WORKS—JOINT STATUTORY COMMITTEE—REPORT: Senator Young, on behalf of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, brought up the following Report:

Development of Navy Supply Centre and Army Workshop Facility at Defence Establishment, Zetland, New South Wales (First Report—1976).

- 8 PUBLICATIONS—STANDING COMMITTEE—FIFTH REPORT: The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Publications (Senator Missen) brought up the following Report of the Committee:

#### FIFTH REPORT

The Publications Committee has the honour to report that it has met in conference with the Publications Committee of the House of Representatives.

The Joint Committee, having considered Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, and other papers previously presented, recommends that the following be printed:

Advance to the Treasurer for year 1975–76—Statement of heads of expenditure and the amounts charged thereto pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act* 1901.

Australian Capital Territory Police—Report for year 1974–75.

Australia Council Act—Australia Council—Financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report for period 13 March to 30 June 1975.

Australian Government Administration—Report of Royal Commission—Report.

Appendix—Volumes 1 to 4.

Commission on Advanced Education Act—Commission on Advanced Education—Report for triennium 1977–79.

Commonwealth Teaching Service Act—Commonwealth Teaching Service Commissioner—Report for 1975.

Defence Service Homes Scheme—Its nature, history and operations—Report by the Australian Housing Corporation.

Fallout over Australia from Nuclear Tests—Reports by the Australian Ionising Radiation Advisory Council, Australian Radiation Laboratory and Bureau of Meteorology, entitled "Fallout over Australia from nuclear tests", dated October 1975.

Fishing Industry Research Act—Fishing Industry Research Committee—Sixth Annual Report, for year 1974–75.

Industries Assistance Commission—

Reports—

Domestic refrigerating appliances, etc., (Chest freezers of up to 350 litres capacity)—Interim report, dated 7 July 1976.

Petroleum and mining industries, dated 28 May 1976.

Paints, varnishes and lacquers, dated 24 December 1975.

Railway and tramway locomotives, rolling stock, etc., dated 7 June 1976.

Short term assistance to commercial theatre, dated 1 July 1976.

- Temporary Assistance Authority Reports—  
 Orange juice, dated 15 July 1976.  
 Sheets and plates of iron or steel, dated 7 May 1976.  
 Thick plywood (exceeding 5.5 mm in thickness), dated 28 July 1976.  
 Textiles Authority—Report—Knitted and woven apparel, dated 20 April 1976.
- International Women's Year—Report on the Australian National Advisory Committee, dated March 1976.
- Manufacturing Industry—Policies for development—Report by the Committee to Advise on Policies for Manufacturing Industry—Volume II, dated April 1976—Statistics.
- National Fitness Act—Report 1974–75.
- National Highway linking Sydney and Brisbane (Newcastle area)—Report by Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, dated 11 March 1976.
- National Training Council—Second Annual Report for 1975.
- Overseas Professional Qualifications—Seventh Report of Committee on Overseas Professional Qualifications, dated December 1975.
- Poultry Research Advisory Committee—Third Annual Report, for year 1974–75.
- Remuneration Tribunals Act—Remunerations Tribunal—Review—1976—Determinations—  
 1976/5—Ministers of State.  
 1976/6—Members of Parliament.  
 Reports—  
 1976/1—Ministers of State.  
 Statement.
- Reserve Bank Act—Reserve Bank of Australia—Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1975–76.
- Rural health in Australia—Report by Hospitals and Health Services Commission, dated May 1976.
- Schools Commission Act—Schools Commission—Report for triennium 1977–79.
- Student Assistance Act—Report by Minister on operations of Act for 1975.
- Technical and Further Education Act—Technical and Further Education Commission—Report for triennium 1977–79.
- Tobacco Marketing Act—Australian Tobacco Board—Tenth Annual Report and financial statements, together with the Auditor-General's Report for 1975.
- United Nations—Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, Fourth Session, New York, U.S.A., 15 March to 7 May 1976—Report of Australian Delegation.

A. J. MISSEN,  
 Chairman

26 August 1976

Senator Missen, by leave, moved—That the Report be adopted.  
 Question—put and passed.

- 9 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—PROPOSED 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 in September and October, and to proposals for the preliminary examination of estimates and departmental explanatory notes in private session prior to public hearings.
- 10 HANDICAPPED PERSONS ASSISTANCE AMENDMENT BILL 1976: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), 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 *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act* 1974 to increase the Handicapped Children's Benefit, and with respect to certain formal matters.

Question—put and passed.

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

*Suspension of Standing Orders:* Senator Guilfoyle, 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 Guilfoyle 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.

- 11 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—STANDING COMMITTEE—EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT: Senator Sim, pursuant to Notice of Motion not objected to as a Formal Motion, moved—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.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 NEXT MEETING OF SENATE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, 7 September 1976, at half-past two p.m., unless sooner called together by the President, or, in the event of the President being unavailable owing to illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees.

Question—put and passed.

- 13 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.

Question—put and passed.

- 14 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP: 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 requesting variations in the membership of Estimates Committees, and proposing that the membership of Estimates Committees be as follows:

Estimates Committee A: Senators Knight, Douglas McClelland, McLaren, Scott, Sibraa and Sim.

Estimates Committee B: Senators Archer, Gietzelt, Maunsell, Messner, Primmer and Walsh.

Estimates Committee C: Senators Collard, Colston, Martin, Mulvihill, Townley and Wriedt.

Estimates Committee D: Senators Baume, Bonner, Brown, Grimes, Melzer and Sheil.

Estimates Committee E: Senators Devitt, Kilgariff, Robertson, Ryan, Thomas and Wright.

Estimates Committee F: Senators Bishop, Jessop, James McClelland, Rae, Tehan and Wheeldon.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That the requested variations in the membership of Estimates Committees be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

- 15 NATIONAL RESOURCES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP: The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from the Leader of the Government in the Senate requesting that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) be discharged from service on the Standing Committee on National Resources, and nominating Senator Townley to be a member in his place.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That Senator Durack be discharged from service on the Standing Committee on National Resources, and that Senator Townley be appointed to fill the vacancy. Question—put and passed.

- 16 FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE—JOINT COMMITTEE—CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP: The President informed the Senate that he had received a letter from the Leader of the Government in the Senate requesting that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) be discharged from service on the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and nominating Senator Young to be a member in his place.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That Senator Durack be discharged from service on the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, and that Senator Young be appointed to the Committee.

Question—put and passed.

- 17 LOAN BILL (No. 3) 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 113

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Borrowing and Expending of Moneys for Defence Purposes*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 25 August 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.

- 18 BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION 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.

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*In the Committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The Acting Deputy-President (Senator Wood) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Coleman) reported accordingly.

On the motion of the Minister for Education (Senator Carrick) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 19 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—*And on the amendment moved thereto by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt)*—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 resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till the next day of sitting, and that Senator Scott have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

20 PAPERS: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers: Estimates of Proposed Expenditure for year 1976-77—Explanatory notes of departments and authorities—

- Aboriginal Affairs
- Administrative Services
- Attorney-General's
- Auditor-General's Office
- Australian Development Assistance Agency
- Australian Film Commission
- Australian National Gallery
- Business and Consumer Affairs
- Education
- Employment and Industrial Relations
- Environment, Housing and Community Development
- Film and Television School
- Foreign Affairs
- Health
- Immigration and Ethnic Affairs
- Industry and Commerce
- Joint House
- National Capital Development Commission
- National Resources
- Northern Territory
- Overseas Trade
- Parliamentary Library
- Parliamentary Reporting Staff
- Primary Industry
- Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Public Service Board
- Repatriation
- Science
- Senate
- Social Security
- Transport
- Treasury

21 RETIREMENT OF SENIOR CHAMBER ATTENDANT—STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: The President informed the Senate of the impending retirement, on 2 September 1976, of the Senior Chamber Attendant, Mr William Stitt, B.E.M., referred to his long service on the Senate staff and wished him well in his retirement.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) and the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, made statements supporting the President's remarks.

22 **ADJOURNMENT:** The Senate adjourned at eighteen minutes to five p.m. till Tuesday, 7 September 1976, at half-past two p.m., unless sooner called together in accordance with the Resolution agreed to this day.

23 **ATTENDANCE:** Present, all Senators except Senators Devitt, Drake-Brockman, Greenwood (on leave), Hall, McAuliffe, James McClelland, Rae and Wright.

J. R. ODGERS,  
Clerk of the Senate