

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 44

TUESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1976

- 1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at half-past two p.m., pursuant to adjournment.
- 2 ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT: The Clerk informed the Senate of the unavoidable absence of the President (Senator the Honourable Condor L. Laucke), and thereupon the Chairman of Committees (Senator Drake-Brockman) took the Chair as Deputy-President.

3 PRAYERS.

- 4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY-PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That, during the absence of the President, the Chairman of Committees shall, on each sitting day, take the Chair of the Senate as Deputy-President, and may, during such absence, perform the duties and exercise the authority of the President in relation to all proceedings of the Senate and to proceedings of Standing and Joint Statutory Committees to which the President is appointed.

Question—put and passed.

- 5 PETITIONS: Senator Missen presented a petition from 300 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to remedy discrimination against people of Croatian origin. Petition received and read.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 106 citizens of Australia praying that the Government withdraw its proposed changes to Medibank.

Petition received.

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

Senator Webster, from 47 citizens of Australia praying that the Government abolish the means test on all aged pensions.

Senator Kilgariff, from 40 citizens of Australia praying that urgent consideration be given to the continuation of federal finance to assist Aboriginal fringe dwellers.

Senator Webster, from 24 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the Imperial system of measurement.

Petitions received.

6 QUESTIONS.

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

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 31

Proposed laws intituled:—

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Financial Support Fund) Act 1976

Psychotropic Substances 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, 25 August 1976

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 32

Proposed law intituled:—

Broadcasting and Television 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 law.

Government House,

Canberra, 31 August 1976

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 33

Proposed law intituled:—

Trade Practices 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 law.

Government House,

Canberra, 31 August 1976

- 8 ADVANCE TO THE TREASURER 1975-76—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Advance to the Treasurer—Statement for the year 1975-76 of Heads of Expenditure and the amounts charged thereto, pursuant to section 36A of the *Audit Act 1901*.

On the motion of Senator Withers consideration of the Statement in Committee of the Whole was made an Order of the Day for the next day of sitting.

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

Estimates of Proposed Expenditure for year 1976-77—Explanatory notes of departments and authorities—

Australia Council

Capital Territory

Construction (two volumes)

C.S.I.R.O.

Defence

Health (Health Insurance Commission; Capital Territory Health Commission)

Postal and Telecommunications

Social Security (vol. 2).

Trade Practices Act Review Committee—Report to the Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs, dated August 1976.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 191.

Australian Apple and Pear Corporation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 174.

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Proposal by the Bureau for new topics to be included in the Population Survey: November 1976, dated 20 August 1976.

Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 190.

Christmas Island Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 3—Ordinances Citation.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 3—Ordinances Citation.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 187.

Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 Nos 169, 186.

Dairy Produce Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 175.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 192.

Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 170.

Extradition (Foreign States) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 Nos 184, 185.

Financial Corporations Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 168.

- Fisheries Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 173.
 Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 188.
 Lands Acquisition Act—Statement by the Minister describing land acquired by agreement under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.
 Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 30—Local Government (Post-Cyclone Elections).
 Papua New Guinea (Staffing Assistance) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 183.
 Public Service Act—
 Fifty-second Annual Report of the Public Service Board, for year 1975–76.
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 Nos 178, 180, 181, 182.
 Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, accompanied by statements regarding possible inconsistency with the law—1976—
 No. 341—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 No. 342—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union of Australia and others.*
 No. 378—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 No. 379—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia and another.
 No. 380—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.
 No. 381—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
 No. 382—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia, and others.
 No. 383—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
 No. 384—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia.
 No. 385—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
 No. 386—Customs Officers' Association of Australia, Fourth Division.
 No. 387—Civil Air Operations Officers' Association of Australia.*
 No. 388—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
 No. 389—Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association.
 No. 390—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association and others.*
 Nos 391 and 392—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.*
 No. 395—Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association.
 No. 396—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service, and others.*
 No. 397—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.*
 Nos 398 to 402—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
 (* Not accompanied by statement)
 Quarantine Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 193.
 Remuneration and Allowances Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 179.
 Remuneration Tribunals Act—Determinations, together with explanatory statements—
 1976/8—Remuneration payable to holders of certain public offices, dated 26 July 1976.
 1976/9—Remuneration payable to members of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, dated 26 July 1976.
 Seat of Government (Administration) Act—Ordinances 1976—
 No. 36—Poisons and Dangerous Drugs.
 No. 37—Meat.
 No. 38—Stock Diseases.
 No. 39—Cigarette Containers (Labelling).
 No. 40—Medical Practitioners Registration (Amendment).
 Stevedoring Industry (Temporary Provisions) Act—Regulation—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 189.
 Trade Commissioners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 Nos 171, 172.
 Trade Practices Act—Second Annual Report of the Trade Practices Commission, for year 1975–76.

Wheat Industry Stabilization Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 176.
Wool Industry Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 177.

- 10 POSTPONEMENT: Senator Wood moved—That Business of the Senate, Notice of Motion No. 1, relating to the disallowance of the A.C.T. *City Area Leases Ordinance* 1976, be postponed till five sitting days after today.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That the President (Senator The Honourable Condor L. Laucke) be granted leave of absence for one month on account of absence overseas on parliamentary business.

Question—put and passed.

- 12 OMBUDSMAN BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 114

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Appointment of a Commonwealth Ombudsman, and to Define his Functions and Powers*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,

Canberra, 26 August 1976

Deputy Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

Senator Durack 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.

- 13 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.

Senator Young addressing the Chair—

And it being half-past ten p.m.—

- 14 ADJOURNMENT: The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman), under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at half-past eleven p.m. till to-morrow at half-past two p.m.

- 15 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Brown, Davidson, Georges, Gietzelt, Greenwood (on leave), Laucke (on leave), McAuliffe, Townley and Wright.

J. R. ODGERS,

Clerk of the Senate