

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 46

THURSDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1976

1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at eleven a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) took the Chair.

2 PRAYERS.

3 PETITIONS: Senators Mulvihill, Young, Gietzelt, Messner, Sibraa, Baume (two) and Martin presented petitions, similar in wording, from 963, 39, 483, 41, 409, 65, 46 and 97 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate insist that the Budget provide for specific measures to lift building activity.

Petitions received and one petition read.

Senator Melzer presented a petition from 197 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 263 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to remedy discrimination against people of Croatian origin.

Petition received and read.

Senator Devitt presented a petition from 143 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the original Medibank scheme.

Petition received and read.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 8 citizens of Australia praying that the Government reconsider its decision to cut the budgets of St. Luke's Hospital, Garden Settlement and other institutions providing care for the aged within Queensland.

Petition received and read.

Senator Melzer presented two petitions, similar in wording, from 156 and 145 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.

Petitions received and one petition read.

Senator Douglas McClelland presented two petitions, similar in wording, from 260 and 343 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Petitions received and one petition read.

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

Senators Guilfoyle and Bonner, similar in wording, from 533 and 178 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate insist that the Budget provide for specific measures to lift building activity.

Senator Primmer, from 56 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.

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

Senator Wheeldon, from 117 citizens of Australia praying that the Government abolish the means test on all aged pensions.

Senator Jessop, from 9 citizens of Australia praying that the Government increase funds for child-care services throughout Australia, and ensure the wider utilisation of Government buildings for child-care facilities.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS.

- 5 AUSTRALIAN HONEY BOARD—INTERIM REPORT—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Australian Honey Board—Interim Annual Report, for year 1975–76.

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.

- 6 AUSTRALIAN EGG BOARD—INTERIM REPORT—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Australian Egg Board—Interim Statement of Board's activities, for year 1975–76.

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.

- 7 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.

- 8 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AGREEMENT 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 approve an Agreement entered into between the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand to amend the Christmas Island Agreement 1958.

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 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.

- 9 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.

- 10 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Coleman, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised by her during debate on the motion for the adjournment of the Senate on 8 September 1976.

- 11 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 115

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend certain Acts in consequence of certain Administrative Changes, and to provide for related matters*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 8 September 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,
Acting 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.

- 12 TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES 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. 116

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Television Stations Licence Fees Act 1964'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 8 September 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,
Acting Speaker

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

Question—put and passed.

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

Senator Carrick 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 STATES GRANTS (CAPITAL ASSISTANCE) 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. 117

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to grant Financial Assistance to the States in connexion with Expenditure of a Capital Nature and to authorize the Borrowing of Certain Moneys by the Commonwealth*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 8 September 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,
Acting 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.

- 14 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 a later hour of the day, and that Senator Kilgariff have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 15 EDUCATION AND TRAINING—COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER: The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), by leave, made a statement relating to the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry into Education and Training and, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Education and Training—Committee of Inquiry—Terms of Reference.

Senator Carrick, by leave, moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

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.

- 16 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) (See Entry 14 above).*

Debate resumed.

On the motion of the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack) the debate was adjourned.

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

- 17 ADJOURNMENT: The Senate adjourned at sixteen minutes to five p.m. till Tuesday next at half-past two p.m.

- 18 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Button, Davidson, Greenwood (on leave), Laucke (on leave), McAuliffe, Maunsell, Townley and Wright.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate