

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 47

TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1976

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

## 2 PRAYERS.

- 3 DEATH OF MAO TSE-TUNG—CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) referred to the death on 9 September 1976 of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and, by leave, moved—That the Senate records its sincere regret at the death of Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, expresses to the people of China profound regret and tenders its deep sympathy to his family in their bereavement.

And the motion having been seconded by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), and supported by the Leader of the National Country Party of Australia in the Senate (Senator Webster) and Senators Brown and Gietzelt—

And all Senators present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

- 4 DEATH OF MR E. J. HARRISON: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, informed the Senate of the death, on 9 September 1976, of Eli James Harrison, a Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Blaxland (N.S.W.) from 1949 to 1969. Senator Withers expressed regret at the death of the former Member and paid tribute to his public service.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) and Senators Douglas McClelland, Mulvihill and Keffe, by leave, made statements relating thereto.

All Senators present rose and stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the former Member.

- 5 PETITIONS: Senator Lajovic presented two petitions, similar in wording, from 480 and 158 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate insist that the Budget provide for specific measures to increase building activity.

Petitions received and one petition read.

Senator Wriedt presented a petition from 39 electors of Queensland praying that the Senate ensure that agreements between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments relating to health matters be maintained and that Medibank not be altered in cost or complexity.

Petition received.

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

Senator Georges (two), from 110 and 502 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Senator Guilfoyle (two), from 41 and 26 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.

Senator Georges, from 17 citizens of Australia praying that the Government withdraw its proposed changes to Medibank.

Senator Wood, from 46 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the Imperial system of measurement.

Senator Georges, from 6 citizens of Australia praying that the cuts already made in the budget of the Children's Commission be restored and no further cuts be made in children's services.

Senator Sheil (two), from 61 and 95 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate insist that the Budget provide for specific measures to increase building activity.

Petitions received.

#### 6 QUESTIONS.

#### 7 PAPERS: The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Commonwealth Police Act—Annual Report of the Commonwealth Police Force, for year 1974-75.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land, etc., acquired for—

Road construction—Hundred of Cavenagh, Northern Territory.

Telecommunications services—

Billinudgel, New South Wales.

Pooncarie, New South Wales.

Statement by the Minister describing land acquired by agreement under subsection 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.

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

No. 222—Transport Workers' Union of Australia\*.

No. 223—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia\*.

Nos 233 to 238—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 239—Australian Journalists Association.

No. 240—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

Nos 241 and 242—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

No. 243—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.

Nos 244 and 245—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

Nos 246 and 247—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

No. 248—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.

No. 249—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service, and others.

No. 250—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.

No. 251—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 252—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 253—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 254—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 255—Australian Journalists Association.

No. 256—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

No. 257—Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemmen.

No. 258—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.

No. 259—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

No. 260—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

No. 261—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

No. 262—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.

Nos 263 and 264—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 277—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers) and another.\*

No. 286—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.

- No. 293—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 294—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.
- No. 295—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 296—Meat Inspectors Association, Commonwealth Public Service, and others.\*
- No. 297—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service, and others.\*
- No. 298—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
- No. 299—Australian Workers' Union.
- No. 300—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 305—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 306—Australian Journalists Association.
- No. 307—Professional Musicians Union of Australia.
- No. 308—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 309—Australian Journalists Association.
- No. 310—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 311—Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers.
- No. 312—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia and others\*.
- No. 313—Transport Workers' Union of Australia and others\*.
- No. 314—Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees Association.
- No. 315—Actors' and Announcers' Equity Association of Australia.
- No. 316—Professional Para-Medical Officers Association (Commonwealth Public Service).
- No. 317—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 319—Australian Broadcasting Commission Staff Association.
- No. 320—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
- Nos 321 and 322—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.
- Nos 323 and 324—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 325—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia, and another.
- No. 326—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 327—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 328—Federal Firefighters' Union.
- No. 329—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.
- No. 330—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.
- No. 331—Australian Workers' Union\*.
- No. 332—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others\*.
- No. 333—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia\*.
- No. 334—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia\*.
- No. 335—Electrical Trades Union of Australia\*.
- No. 336—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others\*.
- Nos 337 and 338—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.
- Nos 339 and 340—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 356—Australian Workers' Union\*.
- No. 357—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia\*.
- No. 358—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia\*.
- No. 359—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia\*.
- No. 360—Federated Ship Painters and Dockers Union of Australia\*.
- No. 361—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia\*.

- No. 362—Federated Furnishing Trade Society of Australasia\*.  
 No. 363—Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners of Australia and others\*.  
 No. 364—Federated Storemen and Packers Union of Australia.  
 No. 365—Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association of Australasia\*.  
 No. 366—Transport Workers Union of Australia\*.  
 No. 367—Australian Workers' Union\*.  
 Nos 368 and 369—Electrical Trades Union of Australia\*.  
 No. 370—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others\*.  
 No. 371—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.  
 No. 372—Administrative and Clerical Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.  
 No. 373—Australian Public Service Artisans' Association.  
 No. 374—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).  
 No. 375—Association of Railway Professional Officers of Australia and another.  
 Nos 376 and 377—Australian Workers' Union.

(\* Not accompanied by statement)

Repatriation Act—Annual Report of the Repatriation Commission, for year 1975–76.

Telecommunications Act—By-laws 1976—

Telecommunications (Charging Zones and Charging Districts) Amendment No. 4.

Telecommunications (Staff) Amendment No. 9.

- 8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That Senators Sir Magnus Cormack, Davidson and Scott be granted leave of absence for one month, and Senator Young for two months, on account of absence overseas on parliamentary business.

Question—put and passed.

Senator Georges, by leave, moved—That Senators Melzer and McAuliffe be granted leave of absence for one month on account of absence overseas on parliamentary business.

Question—put and passed.

- 9 LOAN BILL (NO. 3) 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 Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Maunsell) reported accordingly.

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

- 10 ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS) 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 Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Devitt) reported accordingly.

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

- 11 AGED PERSONS HOSTELS 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 debated.

On the motion of the Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle) the following amendments were, by leave, taken together, debated and agreed to, viz.:

Page 2, clause 4, lines 6 to 8, leave out the clause, insert the following clause:

“4. Section 9 of the Principal Act is amended by omitting from sub-section (1) the words ‘approval of the hostel under section 5 of this Act’ and substituting the words ‘the making of the grant or within such further period as the Director-General fixes having regard to the circumstances of a particular case’.”

Terms and conditions of grants.

Page 2, after clause 4, insert the following new clause:

“4A. Section 10 of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:—

Period of operation.

‘(2) Where—

- (a) an approval under section 5 was given, within the period referred to in sub-section (1), with respect to a building proposed to be erected on a particular site proposed to be acquired by the organization concerned; and
- (b) the Director-General is satisfied that, by reason of exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the organization, the organization has been unable to acquire that site,

the Director-General may, in his discretion, at the request of the organization, vary the approval by substituting a reference to another site for the reference to the first-mentioned site and, thereupon, that approval has effect as so varied.’.”

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

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The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Devitt) reported accordingly.

On the motion of Senator Guilfoyle the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 12 TELECOMMUNICATIONS 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. 118

The House of Representatives transmits to the Senate a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Telecommunications Act 1975'*", in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 14 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 FOREIGN TAKEOVERS 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, debated, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Maunsell) reported accordingly.

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

- 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.

Senator McLaren addressing the Chair—

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*And it being half-past ten p.m.—*

- 15 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 nineteen minutes to twelve o'clock midnight till to-morrow at half-past two p.m.

- 16 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman, Sir Magnus Cormack (on leave), Davidson (on leave), Greenwood (on leave), Laucke (on leave), McAuliffe (on leave), Melzer (on leave), Robertson, Scott (on leave), Sibraa, Wheeldon, and Young (on leave).

J. R. ODGERS,  
Clerk of the Senate