

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 48

WEDNESDAY, 15 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 PETITIONS: Senator Baume presented a petition from 560 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to remedy discrimination against people of Croatian origin. Petition received and read.

Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 11 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Petition received and read.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 16 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.

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

Senators Guilfoyle (three) and Ryan, from 22, 14, 5 and 65 citizens of Australia, respectively, 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 Townley, from 24 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the Imperial system of measurement.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS.

5 ABORIGINES AND ISLANDERS (ADMISSIBILITY OF CONFESSIONS) BILL 1976: Senator Bonner, pursuant to leave granted on 18 August 1976, brought up a Bill for an Act relating to the Admissibility of Confessions made by Aborigines and Islanders and to related Matters.

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

Senator Bonner, by leave, moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Keeffe the debate was adjourned.

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

6 URGENCY MOTION: The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman) informed the Senate that he had received a letter from Senator Button advising that this day he intended to move—"That in the opinion of the Senate the following is a matter of urgency: The failure of the Government to ensure the independence, integrity and high repute of Australia's National Broadcasting Service".

And at least four Senators having risen in support of the motion—

Senator Button thereupon moved the motion.

Debate ensued.

Closure: Senator Missen moved—That the Question be now put.

Question—That the Question be now put—put and passed.

Main Question—put.

The Senate divided—

AYES, 20		NOES, 30	
Senator—	Senator—	Senator—	Senator—
Bishop	McIntosh	Archer	Messner
Brown	McLaren	Baume	Missen
Button	Mulvihill	Bonner	Rae
Cameron	O'Byrne	Carrick	Sheil
Cavanagh	Primmer	Collard	Sim
Colston	Ryan	Cotton	Tehan
Devitt	Walsh	Drake-Brockman	Thomas
Gietzelt	Wriedt	Durack	Townley
Grimes		Guilfoyle	Walters
Keeffe		Hall	Webster
McClelland,	<i>Teller:</i>	Harradine	Withers
Douglas	Georges	Jessop	Wood
		Kilgariff	Wright
		Knight	
		Lajovic	<i>Teller:</i>
		Maunsell	Chaney

And so it was negatived.

- 7 AGED PERSONS HOSTELS AMENDMENT BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives:* The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR DEPUTY-PRESIDENT,

Message No. 119

The House of Representatives acquaints the Senate that it has agreed to the amendments made by the Senate in the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Aged Persons Hostels Act 1972-1974'*".

House of Representatives,
Canberra, 15 September 1976

PHILIP E. LUCOCK,
Acting Speaker

- 8 PAPERS: The Deputy-President (Senator Drake-Brockman), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Audit Act—Finance—Report of the Auditor-General for year 1975-76, accompanied by the Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

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

International Commodity Co-operation—Texts—

International Cocoa Agreement 1975.

International Coffee Agreement 1976.

Fifth International Tin Agreement.

An Agreement to establish the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries—CIPEC,

together with a statement by the Minister for Overseas Trade and Minister for National Resources, the Rt Hon. J. D. Anthony, M.P., relating to those Agreements.

Royal Australian Air Force—Special Flights—Schedules, No. 34 Squadron, for period 1 June to 14 July 1976, together with supplementary schedules for period 26 July to 17 August 1975.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Australian Bureau of Statistics Act—Proposal No. 2 of 1976 by the Bureau—To compile quarterly statistics of sales and orders from manufacturing enterprises, dated 3 September 1976.

National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 195.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement by the Minister of a direction under subsection 33 (4) of the Act.

Telecommunications Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 194

- 9 POULTRY INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE—PAPER: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Poultry Industry Assistance Act—Eleventh Annual Report on the operation of the Act, 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.

- 10 NEXT MEETING OF SENATE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate, at its rising, adjourn till tomorrow at half-past ten a.m.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 TELECOMMUNICATIONS AMENDMENT BILL 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt) moved an amendment, viz.: At end of motion, add “, but the Senate is of the opinion that the Government should be condemned:

- (a) for stressing the importance of the magnitude of the deficit instead of the importance of the method of financing the deficit; and
- (b) for alleging that the deficit had been reduced by \$200 million when that sum was being borrowed directly by Telecom from the Australian capital market”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be added—put and negated.

Amendment negated accordingly.

Question—That this Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of the Bill.

In the Committee

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

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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

- 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—*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 Brown addressing the Chair—

And it being eleven p.m.—

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

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

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

- 14 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