

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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No. 51

WEDNESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1976

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- 1 MEETING OF SENATE: The Senate met at half-past two p.m., pursuant to adjournment. The President (Senator the Honourable Condor L. Laucke) took the Chair.

2 PRAYERS.

- 3 DISTINGUISHED VISITORS: The President drew attention to the presence in the gallery of delegates attending the Third Australasian Parliamentary Seminar and, on behalf of honourable Senators, extended to the delegates a warm welcome.

- 4 PETITIONS: Senator Gietzelt presented a petition from 43 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Heritage Commission be appointed, and that there be a proper balance between the Government's program of public austerity and the need for action in conservation.

Petition received and read.

Senator Colston presented a petition from 32 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 Robertson presented a petition from 29 citizens of Australia praying that the independence of the Australian Broadcasting Commission be preserved.

Petition received.

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

Senator Douglas McClelland, from 187 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to improve certain social security benefits for pensioners.

Senator Mulvihill, from 22 citizens of Australia praying that the Government abolish the means test on all aged pensions.

Petitions received.

- 5 NOTICE OF MOTION: Senator Primmer gave a Notice of Motion as follows—That, on the next day of sitting, he would move—That the following matter be referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for inquiry and report: The need for an increased Australian commitment toward development in the South Pacific.

6 QUESTIONS.

- 7 PAPERS: The President, pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Papers: Commonwealth Banks Act—Annual Reports and financial statements of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, the Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia and the Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia, together with the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1975-76.

The following Paper was presented, by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General:

Department of Health—Annual Report of the Director-General, for year 1975–76.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Defence Act, Naval Defence Act, Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1976 No. 198.

Lands Acquisition Act—

Land, etc., acquired for—Transport purposes, Townsville, Queensland.

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. 413—Australian Workers' Union and another.

No. 416—Electrical Trades Union of Australia.

No. 427—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 428—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 429—Merchant Service Guild of Australia.

No. 430—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.*

No. 431—Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers.

No. 432—Customs Officers' Association of Australia, Fourth Division, and another.

No. 433—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).

No. 434—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

No. 435—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

No. 436—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

No. 437—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.

No. 438—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 439—Australian Journalists Association.

No. 440—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 441—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.

No. 442—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 443—Australian Journalists Association.

No. 444—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 445—Federated Liquor and Allied Industries Employees Union of Australia.

No. 446—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.*

No. 447—Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and others.

Nos 448 and 449—Australian Broadcasting Commission Senior Officers' Association and another.

No. 450—Transport Workers' Union of Australia.*

No. 451—Meat Inspectors Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 452—Federated Clerks Union of Australia.

No. 453—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 454—Commonwealth Foremen's Association of Australia, Commonwealth Public Service, and another.

No. 455—Meat Inspectors Association, Commonwealth Public Service.*

Nos 456 to 459—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.*

No. 460—Professional Para-Medical Officers Association (Commonwealth Public Service).

No. 461—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 462—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.

No. 463—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.

- No. 464—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
- No. 465—Hospital Employees Federation of Australia.
- No. 466—Royal Australian Nursing Federation.
- No. 467—Commonwealth Medical Officers Association.
- No. 468—Repatriation Department Medical Officers Association.
- No. 469—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.
- No. 470—Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia.
- No. 471—Association of Professional Engineers, Australia, and others.
- No. 472—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and others.
- No. 473—Professional Radio and Electronics Institute of Australasia.
- Nos 474 and 475—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia and another.
- No. 476—Australian Public Service Association (Fourth Division Officers).
- No. 477—Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Draughtsmen of Australia.

(* Not accompanied by statement)

Services Trust Funds Act—Twenty-eighth Annual Report by the Trustees of the Services Canteens Trust Fund, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1975.

Ship Construction Bounty Act—Return for year 1975–76.

States Grants (Schools) Act—Statement by the Minister of a direction under sub-section 7 (3) of the Act, dated 16 September 1976.

8 SNOWY MOUNTAINS ENGINEERING CORPORATION—PAPER: The Minister for Science (Senator Webster), pursuant to Statute, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation Act—Sixth Annual Report of the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, 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.

9 COASTAL WEATHER OBSERVING STATIONS—BROADCAST OF REPORTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Science (Senator Webster), by leave, made a statement relating to the broadcast of reports from Coastal Weather Observing Stations.

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

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

10 POSTPONEMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That intervening business be postponed till after the consideration of Government Business, Order of the Day No. 5 (Health Insurance Levy Bill (No. 2) 1976).

Question—put and passed.

11 HEALTH INSURANCE LEVY BILL (No. 2) 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a first time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a first time.

The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That this Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Senator Grimes the debate was adjourned.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be an Order of the Day for a later hour of the day.

- 12 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be adjourned till a later hour of the day, and that Senator Sheil have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

- 13 REPATRIATION SYSTEM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Repatriation (Senator Durack), by leave, made a statement relating to the Repatriation System and moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

Debate ensued.

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

- 14 NATIONAL HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That this Bill be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Senator Townley addressing the Chair—

And it being eleven p.m.—

- 15 ADJOURNMENT: The President, 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 eleven a.m.

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

J. R. ODGERS,

Clerk of the Senate