

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 69

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1976

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

2 PRAYERS.

3 PETITIONS: Senators Mulvihill and Sibraa presented petitions from 30 and 31 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Government make child care funds available for long day care centres.

Petitions received and read.

Senators Cavanagh and Keeffe presented petitions from 418 and 290 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate make certain amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976.

Petitions received.

On the motions of Senators Cavanagh and Keeffe, the petitions, exceeding 250 words, were read.

Senators Davidson, Baume and Georges presented petitions from 163, 22 and 219 citizens of Australia, respectively, similar in wording to the petitions presented by Senators Cavanagh and Keeffe.

Petitions received.

Senator Ryan presented a petition from 113 citizens of Australia praying that the Government ensure continuity of programs and allow effective forward planning in its child care policy.

Petition received and read.

Senator Young presented a petition from 131 citizens of Australia praying that the Australian Government use its diplomatic resources to secure the well-being and release of Gunars Rode and other prisoners of conscience in Soviet prisons.

Petition received and read.

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

Senator Guilfoyle, from 21 citizens of Australia praying that the Government make child care funds available for long day care centres.

Senator Wriedt, from 11 citizens of Australia praying that the Government pass the States Grants (Schools) legislation for the year 1977 and take certain other action in relation to the Australian Schools Commission.

Senator Sheil (two), from 26 and 44 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the Petrol Price Equalisation Scheme.

Senator Collard, from 23 citizens of Australia praying that the Government abolish the means test on all aged pensions.

Senator Guilfoyle, from 80 citizens of Australia praying that the Government act to improve certain social security benefits for pensioners.

Senators Young and Jessop, similar in wording, from 42 and 16 citizens of Australia, respectively, praying that the Senate make certain amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Bill 1976.

Petitions received.

4 QUESTIONS.

- 5 NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE HANDICAPPED—ANNUAL REPORT 1975-76—PAPER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Social Security (Senator Guilfoyle), by Command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:

National Advisory Council for the Handicapped—Annual Report, for year 1975-76. Senator Guilfoyle, by leave, made a statement relating to the Paper.

Senator Grimes, 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 Grimes have leave to continue his speech on the resumption of the debate.

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

Patent, Trade Marks and Designs Office—Annual Report, for year 1975-76.

The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute:

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Act—Annual Report of the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1975-76.

- 7 NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS BUILDING PROGRAM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Education (Senator Carrick), by leave, made a statement relating to advance approvals of grants and loan guarantees for the non-Government schools building program and moved—That the Senate take note of the Statement.

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

- 8 ESTIMATES COMMITTEE E—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Senator Wright presented written answers received by Estimates Committee E since the presentation of the Report of that Committee on 21 October 1976.

Ordered—That the answers be printed as part of the Report of Estimates Committee E.

- 9 POSTPONEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That Government Business, Notice of Motion No. 1, relating to the days and times of meeting and adjournment of the Senate, be postponed till the next day of sitting. Question—put and passed.

- 10 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TO DEAL WITH BILLS TOGETHER: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Questions with regard to the remaining stages for the passage through the Senate of the Air Navigation (Charges) Amendment Bill 1976 and the Airports (Surface Traffic) Amendment Bill 1976 being put in one motion at each stage, and the consideration of such Bills together in Committee of the Whole.

Question—put and passed.

- 11 DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES AMENDMENT BILL 1976: The Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Durack), by leave, moved—That leave be given to introduce a Bill for an Act to make provision for a Defence Service Homes Corporation, and for related purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Bill presented, and on the motion of Senator Durack read a first time.

Suspension of Standing Orders: Senator Durack, 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 Durack 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 the next day of sitting.

- 12 STATES GRANTS (UNIVERSITIES ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976,
STATES GRANTS (UNIVERSITIES) AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976,
STATES GRANTS (ADVANCED EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976,
STATES GRANTS (ADVANCED EDUCATION) AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976,
STATES GRANTS (TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976,
STATES GRANTS (TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION) AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976,
STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS ASSISTANCE) BILL 1976,
STATES GRANTS (SCHOOLS) AMENDMENT BILL 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills 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 insufficient resources are being directed into the technical education area”.

Debate continued.

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

Amendment negatived accordingly.

Question—That these Bills be now read a second time—put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

In the Committee.

Bills, by leave, taken as a whole.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Senate (Senator Wriedt), by leave, moved the following amendments to the States Grants (Schools Assistance) Bill 1976 together, viz.:

Page 11, clause 7, sub-clause (3), line 20, after “State”, insert “but only after consultation with the Schools Commission and report to the Parliament,”.

Page 14, clause 12, sub-clause (2), after paragraph (a), insert the following new paragraph:

“(aa) after consultation with the Schools Commission, the Commonwealth Education Minister may permit the allocation of a specific amount from a school’s allocation to be spent at the discretion of the school board;”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put and negatived.

Bills agreed to.

Bills to be reported without amendment.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Education (Senator Carrick) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bills read a third time.

And it being 11 p.m.—

- 13 ADJOURNMENT: The President, under Sessional Order, put the Question—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—resolved in the affirmative.

The Senate adjourned at five minutes to twelve o'clock midnight till to-morrow at half-past ten a.m.

- 14 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Coleman and Rae.

J. R. ODGERS,
Clerk of the Senate