

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

## JOURNALS OF THE SENATE

No. 79

FRIDAY, 10 DECEMBER 1976

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

## 2 PRAYERS.

- 3 PETITIONS: Senator Robertson presented a petition from 56 citizens of Australia praying that any international boundaries between Australia and Papua be set so as not to interrupt or impede the traditional life and rights of the Torres Strait Islands people. Petition received and read.

Senator Keffe, on behalf of Senator Ryan, presented a petition from 120 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate review education planning in the Australian Capital Territory with a view to the provision of a government school in Fraser.

Petition received and read.

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

Senator Messner, from 92 citizens of Australia praying that the Senate ensure that old-age and other pensions are exempted from income tax.

Senator Knight, from 302 citizens of Australia praying that the Molonglo Arterial and Western Distributor be deferred until a full public inquiry into Canberra's total transport needs is held.

Senator Sheil, from 23 citizens of Australia praying that the Government restore the Imperial system of measurement.

Petitions received.

## 4 QUESTIONS.

- 5 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGE—ASSENT TO BILLS: The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented by the President:

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 56

Proposed laws intituled:—

*Federal Court of Australia Act 1976*

*Federal Court of Australia (Consequential Provisions) Act 1976*

*Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court Amendment Act 1976*

*Northern Territory Supreme Court Amendment Act 1976*

*Conciliation and Arbitration Amendment Act (No. 3) 1976*

*Bankruptcy Amendment Act 1976*

*Patents Amendment Act 1976*

*Trade Marks Amendment Act 1976*

*Judiciary Amendment Act 1976*

*Income Tax Assessment Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) Act 1976*

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name of Her Majesty, assented to the said laws.

Government House,

Canberra, 9 December 1976

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

Defence Force Retirements Benefits Legislation—Amendments—Statement by the Minister for Administrative Services, Senator the Hon. R. G. Withers, on behalf of the Minister for Defence.

Defence Report 1976.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute:

Coral Sea Islands Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 1—Application of Laws (Amendment).

Film and Television School Act—Annual Report of the Film and Television School, together with financial statements and the Auditor-General's Report thereon, for year 1973-74.

Lands Acquisition Act—Statement by the Minister describing land acquired by agreement under sub-section 7 (1) of the Act, for specified public purposes.

Norfolk Island Act—Ordinances 1976—No. 11—Ordinances Citation.

- 7 ECONOMIC STRATEGY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT: The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers), by leave, made a statement relating to the Government's economic strategy.

- 8 PERSONAL EXPLANATION: Senator Sim, by leave, made a personal explanation relating to a matter raised during Question Time on 7 December 1976.

- 9 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE—APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS: The President informed the Senate that, pursuant to the Resolutions agreed to by both Houses, he had received letters from the Leader of the Government in the Senate, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition nominating Senators Bonner, Cavanagh, Chaney, Coleman, Kilgariff and Robertson, and Mr Bryant, Mr Calder, Mr Drummond, Mr L. R. Johnson, Mr McLean, Mr Ruddock, Mr Wallis and Mr Wentworth to be members of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory.

The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That the Senators nominated be appointed members of the Joint Select Committee on Aboriginal Land Rights in the Northern Territory.

Question—put and passed.

- 10 HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 232

The House of Representatives returns to the Senate the Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act relating to the Protection of Certain Shipwrecks and Relics of Historic Significance*", and acquaints the Senate that the House of Representatives has agreed to the Bill with the amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which it desires the concurrence of the Senate.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 9 December 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,  
Speaker

Ordered—That the Message be considered in Committee of the Whole forthwith.

The Senate, according to Order, resolved itself into Committee for the consideration of Message No. 232 of the House of Representatives.

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*In the Committee*

Message read and considered.

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

No. 1—Clause 9, page 6, line 14, omit "and" (first occurring), substitute "or".

No. 2—Clause 9, page 6, after sub-clause (4), insert the following sub-clause:—

“(4A) It is a defence to a prosecution of a person for an offence against a provision of this section in relation to an article if the person proves—

- (a) in the case of an offence against sub-section (1) or (2) in relation to an article in respect of which a notice was published in the *Gazette* under section 5 or 6—that the person did not know, and had no reasonable grounds for believing, that the article was an article to which the notice related; or
- (b) in the case of an offence against sub-section (3) or (4)—that the person did not know, and had no reasonable grounds for believing, that the article was a Dutch relic or a part of a Dutch shipwreck.”.

No. 3—Clause 17, page 10, line 29, after “proves”, insert “, or proves that he had reasonable grounds for believing,”.

No. 4—Clause 23, page 13, after sub-clause (5), insert the following sub-clause:—

“(5A) It is a reasonable excuse for a person to fail to answer a question that he is required to answer under this section that the answer to the question may tend to incriminate him.”.

The Minister for Administrative Services (Senator Withers) moved—That the amendments made by the House of Representatives be agreed to.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The President resumed the Chair; and the Chairman of Committees (Senator Drake-Brockman) reported that the Committee had considered Message No. 232 of the House of Representatives with reference to the Historic Shipwrecks Bill and had agreed to the amendments made by the House of Representatives in the Bill.

On the motion of Senator Withers the Report from the Committee was adopted.

11 ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS (NORTHERN TERRITORY) BILL 1976—*Message from the House of Representatives*: The following Message from the House of Representatives was received and read:

MR PRESIDENT,

Message No. 231

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 providing for the granting of Traditional Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory for the benefit of Aborigines, and for other purposes*”.

House of Representatives,  
Canberra, 9 December 1976

B. M. SNEDDEN,  
Speaker

12 TARIFF STRUCTURE REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PROPOSED REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE: Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the motions by the Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton)—

- (1) That the Senate take note of the Statement; and
- (2) (a) That the following matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Trade and Commerce for inquiry and report: The effects of (i) currency alterations and (ii) changes to manufacturing industry protection upon employment, inflation (including prices of manufactured goods).
- (b) That the Committee report to the Senate on these matters every three months from the commencement of the opening session of Parliament in 1977.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the motions be agreed to—put and passed.

## 13 BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976

## BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL 1976

## TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills be now read a second time—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Senator Button, viz.: At end of motion, add “, but the Senate is of the opinion that the Broadcasting and Television Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976 should be withdrawn and redrafted because—*

- (a) there has been inadequate time for proper public consideration of the Government's proposals in relation to broadcasting;
- (b) it fails to establish a proper basis for public broadcasting in Australia; and
- (c) it is inconsistent with the principles enunciated for the structure of broadcasting in Australia by the report of the Postal and Telecommunications Department on Australian Broadcasting”.

Debate resumed.

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

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.

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*In the Committee*

Ordered—That the Bills be considered in the following order: Broadcasting and Television Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976, Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill 1976 and Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976.

## BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976—

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 read—

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That consideration of clause 3 be postponed.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 read—

Senator Button moved an amendment, viz.: Page 4, after proposed sub-section 10 (4), insert the following new sub-section:

“(4A) A person who immediately before the commencing day held office as a full-time or part-time member of the Board for a term expiring after that day shall be appointed as a member of the Tribunal and shall hold office for a term equivalent to the remainder of the term to which he would have been entitled but for the provisions of this Act.”.

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

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 read—

Senator Button moved an amendment, viz.: Page 9, after proposed paragraph 16 (1) (c), insert the following new paragraph:

“(d) to ensure that adequate and comprehensive programs are provided by commercial broadcasting stations and commercial television stations in the best interests of the general public.”.

Debate ensued.

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

Clause 6 agreed to.

Clause 7 read—

Senator Button moved an amendment, viz.: Page 9, proposed sub-section 22A (1), line 23, at end of proposed sub-section, add “, which shall be published and tabled in the Parliament”.

Debate ensued.

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

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9 read—

Senator Button, by leave, moved the following amendments together, viz.:

Page 10, proposed paragraph 31 (1) (b), line 6, at end of proposed paragraph, add “, of whom one shall be the elected representative of the Australian Broadcasting Commission staff”.

Page 10, proposed sub-section 31 (2), line 7, leave out the proposed sub-section.

Debate ensued.

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

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 13, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Clause 14 read—

Senator Button, by leave, moved the following amendments together, viz.:

Page 11, proposed sub-section 111A (1), lines 8 to 14, leave out the proposed sub-section, insert the following proposed sub-section:

“(1) Subject to this Act, the Minister may, on the recommendation of the Tribunal and upon payment of the prescribed fee, grant a person a licence to operate a broadcasting station or television station.”.

Page 11, proposed sub-section 111A (3), line 22, at end of proposed sub-section, add “in accordance with the recommendations of the Tribunal”.

Page 11, proposed sub-section 111A (4), lines 23 to 26, leave out the proposed sub-section.

Debate ensued.

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

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 debated and agreed to.

Clause 16 read—

Senator Button moved an amendment, viz.: Page 13, lines 22 to 26, leave out the clause, insert the following clause:

“16. After section 134 of the Principal Act the following sections are inserted:—

‘135. (1) For the purposes of this Act, there shall be a Council, to be known as the Broadcasting Council, which, subject to this Act, shall have and may exercise the rights, powers, authorities and functions conferred upon it by this Act and shall be charged with and perform the duties and obligations imposed upon it by this Act.

Establishment  
of  
Broadcasting  
Council.

‘(2) The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property and shall be capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name.

‘(3) All courts, judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the seal of the Council affixed to any document and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

‘(4) The exercise of the rights, powers, authorities or functions, or the performance of the duties or obligations, of the Council shall not be affected by reason only of there being a vacancy in the office of a member.

‘136. (1) The Broadcasting Council shall consist of eleven members, who shall be appointed by the Governor-General, comprising:

Constitution  
of  
Broadcasting  
Council.

(a) a Chairman;

(b) one representative of commercial radio;

(c) one representative of commercial television;

(d) two representatives of the Australian Broadcasting Commission;

(e) two representatives of the public broadcasting sector;

(f) one representative of the Australia Council;

(g) one representative of the Australian Film and Television School;

(h) one representative of the Postal and Telecommunications Department, and

(i) one representative from the Schools Commission.

‘(2) All members of the Council shall be appointed as part-time members, except the Chairman, who shall be appointed as a full-time member.

‘137. The Council shall be empowered to:

- (a) suggest and consider planning proposals for the introduction, extension or development of broadcasting services;
- (b) overview the administration of standards as defined in codes of broadcasting practice set out by the industry;
- (c) receive and respond to complaints on the administration of standards;
- (d) liaise with the broadcasting industry, the public and other interested parties, and
- (e) assemble industry data relevant to its functions.

Powers of  
Broadcasting  
Council.

‘138. Terms and conditions of members of the Council shall be as prescribed.’”.

Terms and  
conditions of  
members of  
Council.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be left out be left out—put and negated.  
Amendment negated accordingly.

Clause 16 agreed to.

Consideration resumed of postponed clause 3.

Clause 3 agreed to.

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

BROADCASTING STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL 1976

TELEVISION STATIONS LICENCE FEES AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976—

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

Broadcasting and Television Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976, Broadcasting Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill 1976 and Television Stations Licence Fees Amendment Bill (No. 2) 1976 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.

#### 14 LONG SERVICE LEAVE (COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES) BILL 1976

PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL 1976

PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—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, debated and 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 Veterans' Affairs (Senator Durack) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bills read a third time.

#### 15 APPLE AND PEAR LEVY BILL 1976

APPLE AND PEAR LEVY COLLECTION BILL 1976

APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT CHARGE BILL 1976

APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT CHARGE COLLECTION BILL 1976

AUSTRALIAN APPLE AND PEAR CORPORATION AMENDMENT BILL 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

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*In the Committee*

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

Bills to be reported without amendment or requests.

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

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

- 16 POSTPONEMENT: The Minister for Industry and Commerce (Senator Cotton) moved—That Government Business, Orders of the Day No. 5 (Income Tax (Companies and Superannuation Funds) Bill 1976) and No. 6 (Income Tax Assessment Amendment Bill (No. 3) 1976 and associated Bills), be postponed till after the consideration of Government Business, Order of the Day No. 10 (Marriage Amendment Bill 1976).

Question—put and passed.

- 17 STATES GRANTS (RURAL ADJUSTMENT) 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.

Senator Gietzelt, by leave, moved the following amendments together, viz.:

Page 2, THE SCHEDULE, Part 1—Introduction, sub-paragraph 3 (1), at end of sub-paragraph, add the following definition:

“ ‘rural producers’ means any person engaged in the pastoral, horticultural, agricultural or fishing industries, or any one or more of these industries. ”.

Page 7, The Schedule, Part 1—General Principles, paragraph (a), leave out “ and pastoral ”, insert “ , pastoral and fishing ”.

Page 13, The Schedule, Part 7—Household Support, sub-paragraph (3) (i), after “ \$3000 ”, leave out “ less any household support assistance paid to him prior to adjusting out of farming ”.

Page 13, The Schedule, at end of Schedule, add the following new Part:

“ PART 8—NATIONAL RURAL ADJUSTMENT BOARD

“ (1) *Establishment*

That a National Rural Adjustment Board be established.

“ (2) *Composition of Board*

(a) an executive Chairman;

(b) two part-time members drawn from rural industry; and

(c) two members, drawn from the States rural reconstruction authorities and selected, on a rotational basis for a term of no more than two years.

“(3) *Method of operation*

- (a) consult with State reconstruction authorities and other Federal and State departments on the annual fund requirements of the Rural Adjustment Scheme;
- (b) arrange consultation between the State reconstruction authorities and the Australian Government concerning emergency short-term credit requirements when farm incomes are substantially reduced by a sudden market collapse or other severe situation;
- (c) discuss with and liaise between State reconstruction authorities and agencies concerned with monitoring market prospects, such as the various commodity boards and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, to ensure that viability assessments are based on the most up-to-date information available;
- (d) monitor the progress of reconstruction clients, including those assessed not to have sound prospects of long-term commercial viability;
- (e) evaluate the Rural Adjustment Scheme in terms of explicit policy objectives and guidelines;
- (f) research into the relative effects of various assistance measures in anticipation of responding to continuing adjustment pressures;
- (g) conduct feasibility studies and evaluate areas of specific problems in adjustment and re-development proposals suggested by interested parties or other Government agencies; and
- (h) liaise at the national level with management of banks and other sources of farm credit.”.

Debate ensued.

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

Bill agreed to.

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

- 18 FOREIGN PROCEEDINGS (PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN EVIDENCE) 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.

*In the Committee*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

Senator Button moved an amendment, viz.: Page 1, after clause 2, insert the following new clause:

“2A. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:

““(2) This Act shall cease to be in operation on the expiration of 30 June 1977, and shall thereupon be deemed to have been repealed by an Act other than this Act.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the proposed new clause be inserted in the Bill—put and negatived.

Bill agreed to.

Bill 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 Veterans' Affairs (Senator Durack) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bill read a third time.

- 19 POSTPONEMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That Government Business, Order of the Day No. 10 (Marriage Amendment Bill 1976), be postponed till after the consideration of Government Business, Orders of the Day No. 5 (Income Tax (Companies and Superannuation Funds) Bill 1976) and No. 6 (Income Tax Assessment Amendment Bill (No. 3) 1976 and associated Bills).  
Question—put and passed.

20 CUSTOMS TARIFF VALIDATION BILL (No. 2) 1976

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2) 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills be now read a second time.

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

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*In the Committee*

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

Bills to be reported without requests.

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

On the motion of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs (Senator Durack) the Report from the Committee was adopted, and the Bills read a third time.

- 21 INCOME TAX (COMPANIES AND SUPERANNUATION FUNDS) BILL 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.

Debate ensued.

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 requests.

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The President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Bonner) reported accordingly.

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

22 INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3) 1976

LOAN (INCOME EQUALIZATION DEPOSITS) BILL 1976

LOAN (DROUGHT BONDS) AMENDMENT BILL 1976:

Order of the Day read for the adjourned debate on the Question—That these Bills be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed.

Bills read a second time.

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

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*In the Committee*

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

Bills to be reported without amendment.

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The President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Bonner) reported accordingly.

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

- 23 GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S MESSAGES—ASSENT TO BILLS: The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented by the President:

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 57

Proposed laws intituled:—

*Customs Tariff (Coal Export Duty) Amendment Act 1976*

*Asian Development Fund Act 1976*

*Asian Development Bank (Special Funds Contributions) Amendment Act 1976*

*Export Finance and Insurance Corporation Amendment Act (No. 2) 1976*

*States Grants (Fruit-growing Reconstruction) Act 1976*

*States Grants (Beef Industry) Amendment Act 1976*

*Nauru (High Court Appeals) Act 1976*

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name of Her Majesty, assented to the said laws.

Government House,

Canberra, 9 December 1976

JOHN R. KERR,

Governor-General

Message No. 58

Proposed laws intituled:—

*Nitrogenous Fertilizers Subsidy Amendment Act (No. 2) 1976*

*Queensland Grant (Special Assistance) Act 1976*

*States Grants (Nature Conservation) Amendment Act 1976*

*Softwood Forestry Agreements Act 1976*

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name of Her Majesty, assented to the said laws.

Government House,

Canberra, 9 December 1976

- 24 MARRIAGE 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 agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

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The President resumed the Chair; and the Temporary Chairman of Committees (Senator Bonner) reported accordingly.

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

- 25 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL SENATORS DURING ADJOURNMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers), by leave, moved—That leave of absence be granted to every Member of the Senate from the termination of the sitting this day to the day on which the Senate next meets.

Question—put and passed.

- 26 NEXT MEETING OF THE SENATE: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, 15 February 1977, at half-past two p.m., or such other day and hour to be fixed by the President, or, in the event of the President being unavailable owing to illness or other cause, by the Chairman of Committees, and that the hour and day of meeting so determined shall be notified to each Senator by telegram or letter.

Question—put and passed.

- 27 ADJOURNMENT: The Leader of the Government in the Senate (Senator Withers) moved—That the Senate do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

The Senate adjourned at three minutes past six p.m. till Tuesday, 15 February 1977, at half-past two p.m., or such other day and hour to be fixed in accordance with the Resolution agreed to this day, which time of meeting shall be notified to each Senator by telegram or letter.

- 28 ATTENDANCE: Present, all Senators except Senators Messner, Rae and Sibraa.

J. R. ODGERS,

Clerk of the Senate