

DEPT. OF THE SENATE
No. 1680
Presented 27 OCT 1954
CLERK OF THE SENATE

1954-55

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

TWENTYTHIRD REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

PROGRESS REPORT

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

(Re-appointed 11th August, 1954)

F.A. Bland, Esquire, M.P. (Chairman)

Senator C.B. Byrne (Vice-Chairman)

Senator S.D. Paltridge^æ

Senator the Hon. H.S. Seward

Senator I.E. Wedgwood^λ

G. Anderson, Esquire, M.P.

F. Crean, Esquire, M.P.

F.J. Davis, Esquire, M.P.

A.S. Hulme, Esquire, M.P.

H.A. Leslie, Esquire, M.P.

A.V. Thompson, Esquire, M.P.

æ Resigned 12th October, 1955.

λ Appointed 12th October, 1955.

Peter H. Bailey,
Secretary,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

THE DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Section 8 of the Public Accounts Committee Act 1951 reads as follows :-

8. The duties of the Committee are -

- (a) to examine the accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Commonwealth and each state and report transmitted to the Houses of the Parliament by the Auditor-General in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section fifty-three of the Audit Act 1901-1954;
- (b) to report to both Houses of the Parliament, with such comment as it thinks fit, any items or matters in those accounts, statements and reports, or any circumstances connected with them, to which the Committee is of the opinion that the attention of the Parliament should be directed;
- (c) to report to both Houses of the Parliament any alteration which the Committee thinks desirable in the form of the public accounts or in the method of keeping them, or in the mode of receipt, control, issue or payment of public moneys; and
- (d) to inquire into any question in connexion with the public accounts which is referred to it by either House of the Parliament, and to report to that House upon that question,

and include such other duties as are assigned to the Committee by Joint Standing Orders approved by both Houses of the Parliament.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION

PROGRESS REPORT

Your Committee decided many months ago to examine the accounts of the Department of Civil Aviation, but were unable until last August to proceed because of the demands made by the Australian Aluminium Production Commission Inquiry and other inquiries to which it became desirable to accord priority.

2. Evidence was received from the following officers of the Department of Civil Aviation :-

Sir Richard Williams, Director-General of Civil Aviation.

Mr. D.G. Anderson, Deputy Director-General

Captain E.C. Johnston, Assistant Director-General
(Regulatory)

Mr. R.M. Badenach, Assistant Director-General (Ground
Facilities)

Dr. K.N.E. Bradfield, Director of Airports

Mr. A.B. McFarlane, Director of Air Transport and
External Relations

Mr. H.W. Poulton, Legal Officer

Mr. A.J.S. Scott, Director of Finance and Stores.

3. Hearings were conducted in Melbourne on 8th to 10th August, 1955, during which time we were able to inspect facilities and navigational aids at Melbourne Airport, and in Canberra on 16th to 20th September, 1955, when we were shown over the D.M.E. (Distance Measuring Equipment) and other installations at Mount Mundoonan (near Yass).

4. Subsequently we invited Captain I.N. Holyman of Australian National Airways Pty. Ltd., Mr. C.A. Butler of Butler Air Transport Ltd., and Mr. G.P.N. Watt, of Trans-Australia Airlines as representatives of companies operating domestic services, and Mr. C.O. Turner of Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. as a representative of a company operating international services, to express their views on the facilities provided for them by the Department of Civil Aviation. We also invited

representatives of the Department of Air and of the Australian Air Pilots' Association to give us their opinion of the technical facilities installed by the Department, especially those concerned with air navigation. Each of these organisations submitted a statement to the Committee, and hearings of representatives from them were conducted in Canberra on Friday 21st October, 1955. We examined :-

Mr. C.O. Turner, Chief Executive and General Manager,
Qantas Empire Airways Ltd.

Captain G.U. Allan, Assistant General Manager, Qantas
Empire Airways Ltd.

Mr. G.P.N. Watt, Chairman, Australian National
Airlines Commission

Mr. J.P. Ryland, General Manager, Trans-Australia
Airlines

Captain R.B. Keig, Vice-President, Australian Air
Pilots' Association

Captain A.L. James, Chairman of Operations Group,
Australian Air Pilots' Association

Captain L.H. Mellor, Member of Operations Group,
Australian Air Pilots' Association

Group Captain B.A. Eaton, Director of Operations,
Royal Australian Air Force.

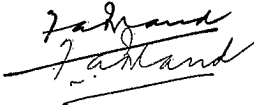
5. Captain I.N. Holyman, Managing Director of Australian National Airways Pty. Ltd., accepted the invitation of Your Committee to give evidence, but because of business commitments was unable to be in Canberra on the day set down for the hearings; he asked that Mr. F. Kay, his General Manager, might appear in his place.

6. Mr. C.A. Butler, Managing Director of Butler Air Transport Ltd., also accepted our invitation to give evidence before us.

7. On the day of the hearing (Friday 21st October), both Mr. Kay and Mr. Butler were indisposed. Both apologised for their inability to attend and told Your Committee that they would be glad to appear at a later date, if we wished to see them.

8. In the course of this Inquiry we have covered activities of the Department ranging from the provision of aerodrome and air navigation facilities to the operation of internal costing, stores and accounting systems. We consider that by using the material collected by us during the Inquiry, it will be possible for a succeeding Committee to present a comprehensive Report on the Department of Civil Aviation.

On behalf of the Committee,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'F. A. Bland', written twice in a cursive style. The second signature is underlined.

(F. A. Bland)
Chairman.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. H. Bailey', written twice in a cursive style.

(Peter H. Bailey)
Secretary,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

25th October, 1955.