

1929-30-31.

**THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.**

**VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

**No. 131.**

THURSDAY, 23RD APRIL, 1931.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable Norman J. O. Makin) took the Chair, and offered Prayers.
2. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Publication of Secret Cables from the Prime Minister to the Acting Prime Minister and the Acting Treasurer—Report by the Investigation Branch of the Attorney-General's Department.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.
3. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PUBLICATION OF SECRET CABLES.—Mr. Brennan (Attorney-General), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement regarding the publication of certain Secret Cables from the Prime Minister to the Acting Prime Minister and the Acting Treasurer, and the Report thereon by the Investigation Branch of the Attorney-General's Department.  
Mr. Lyons and Mr. Fenton, by leave, also made Statements with reference to the matter.
4. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT—NEW STANDING ORDER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the First Report of the Standing Orders Committee—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That the Report be adopted.  
Debate ensued.  
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.  
Ordered, after debate—That the Report be taken into consideration, in Committee of the Whole House, forthwith.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

The Committee proceeded to consider the following proposed Standing Order No. 257B, contained in the Report :—

257B. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Standing Orders—

- (a) the maximum period for which a Member may speak on any subject indicated in this Standing Order, and the maximum period for any debate, shall not, unless otherwise ordered, exceed the period specified opposite to that subject in the following Schedule :—

<i>In the House—</i>	Subject.	Time.
Address-in-Reply—		
Each Member .. .. .		35 minutes.
Motion for Adjournment to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance (under Standing Order No. 38)—		
Mover .. .. .		20 minutes.
Minister first speaking .. .. .		20 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .		10 minutes.
Motion for Adjournment of House to close the business of the day—		
Each Member .. .. .		10 minutes.
Want of Confidence Motion—		
Mover .. .. .		60 minutes.
Minister first speaking .. .. .		60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .		35 minutes.
Limitation of debate—Motion for allotment of time (under Standing Order No. 262A)—		
Whole Debate .. .. .		30 minutes.
Each Member .. .. .		5 minutes.

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Subject.	Time.
Second Reading of a Bill—	
Mover .. .. .	60 minutes.
Leader of Opposition or Member deputed by him speaking first to such motion .. .. .	60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	45 minutes.
Debates not otherwise provided for—	
Each Member .. .. .	35 minutes.
<i>In Committee—</i>	
Member in charge of a Bill .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Limitation of debate—Motion for allotment of time (under Standing Order No. 262A)—	
Whole Debate .. .. .	30 minutes.
Each Member .. .. .	5 minutes.
Financial Statement or Tariff—	
General Debate—	
Minister in charge .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Leader of Opposition or Member deputed by him speaking first .. .. .	60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	45 minutes.
Each Question before the Chair on the Estimates or on a Tariff—	
Minister in charge .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Each Member other than Minister in charge—two periods each not exceeding .. .. .	30 minutes.
Debates not otherwise provided for—	
Each Member—two periods each not exceeding .. .. .	15 minutes.
<i>In the House or in Committee—</i>	
Extension of time—with the consent of a majority of the House or of the Committee, to be determined without debate, a Member may be allowed to continue his speech for periods each not exceeding .. .. .	

(b) a debate on a motion under Standing Order No. 38 to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance may be continued for a period of two hours.

Mr. Eldridge moved, as an amendment, That in the provision—

Address-in-Reply—

Each Member .. .. . 35 minutes.

“ 35 ” be omitted with a view to the insertion of “ 45 ” in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the figures proposed to be omitted stand part of the proposed Standing Order—put. The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. McGrath, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 56.

Noes, 4.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Killen
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Latham
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lewis
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Long
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Mackay
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Makin
Mr. Chifley	Mr. W. Maloney
Mr. Coleman	Mr. Marks
Mr. Bernard Corser	Mr. Marr
Mr. Crouch	Mr. Martens
Mr. Culley	Mr. Maxwell
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. McNeill
Mr. Cusack	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Forde	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Parkhill
Mr. Frost	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Price
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Roland Green	Mr. Rowe
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Guy	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hawker	Mr. Tully
Mr. Hill	Mr. White
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. Hunter	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Jones	Mr. Lacey
Mr. Keane	Mr. Watkins

Mr. Beasley  
Mr. Lazzarini

*Tellers:*

Mr. Eldridge  
Mr. Ward

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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On the motion of Mr. Ward, the provision—

Motion for Adjournment of House to close the business of the day—

Each Member .. .. . 10 minutes.  
was amended by omitting " 10 " and inserting " 15 ".

On the motion of Mr. Coleman, the provision—

Debates not otherwise provided for—

Each Member .. .. . 35 minutes.  
was amended by inserting after " for—" " Mover of a Motion .. .. . 45 minutes".

Mr. Beasley moved, as a further amendment to the same provision, that " 35 " be omitted with a view to the insertion of " 45 " in place thereof.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the figures proposed to be omitted stand part of the proposed Standing Order—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. McGrath, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 53.		Noes, 4.
Mr. Anstey	Mr. Killen	Mr. Beasley
Mr. Bayley	Mr. Latham	Mr. Ward
Mr. Bell	Mr. Lewis	
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. Long	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lyons	Mr. Eldridge
Mr. Malcolm Cameron	Mr. Mackay	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Makin	
Mr. Coleman	Mr. W. Maloney	
Mr. Bernard Corser	Mr. Martens	
Mr. Crouch	Mr. Maxwell	
Mr. Culley	Mr. McNeill	
Mr. Cunningham	Mr. Parker Moloney	
Mr. Cusack	Mr. Nairn	
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Earle Page	
Mr. Forde	Mr. Parkhill	
Mr. Josiah Francis	Mr. Thomas Paterson	
Mr. Frost	Mr. Price	
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Prowse	
Mr. Gardner	Mr. Riordan	
Mr. Albert Green	Mr. Rowe	
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Scullin	
Mr. Guy	Mr. Thompson	
Mr. Hawker	Mr. Tully	
Mr. Hill		
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>	
Mr. Hunter		
Mr. Jones	Mr. Lacey	
Mr. Keane	Mr. Watkins	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Proposed Standing Order, as amended, agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. McGrath reported accordingly.

Mr. Scullin moved, That the Report, as amended, be adopted.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Scullin then moved, by leave, That the following Standing Order be adopted by the House (to follow Standing Order No. 257A) :—

257b. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Standing Orders—

(a) the maximum period for which a Member may speak on any subject indicated in this Standing Order, and the maximum period for any debate, shall not, unless otherwise ordered, exceed the period specified opposite to that subject in the following Schedule :—

	Subject.	Time.
<i>In the House—</i>		
Address-in-Reply—		
Each Member .. .. .		35 minutes.
Motion for Adjournment to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance (under Standing Order No. 38)—		
Mover .. .. .		20 minutes.
Minister first speaking .. .. .		20 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .		10 minutes.
Motion for Adjournment of House to close the business of the day—		
Each Member .. .. .		15 minutes.

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Subject.	Time.
Want of Confidence Motion—	
Mover .. .. .	60 minutes.
Minister first speaking .. .. .	60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	35 minutes.
Limitation of debate—Motion for allotment of time (under Standing Order No. 262A)—	
Whole Debate .. .. .	30 minutes.
Each Member .. .. .	5 minutes.
Second Reading of a Bill—	
Mover .. .. .	60 minutes.
Leader of Opposition or Member deputed by him speaking first to such motion .. .. .	60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	45 minutes.
Debates not otherwise provided for—	
Mover of a Motion .. .. .	45 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	35 minutes.
<i>In Committee—</i>	
Member in charge of a Bill .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Limitation of debate—Motion for allotment of time (under Standing Order No. 262A)—	
Whole Debate .. .. .	30 minutes.
Each Member .. .. .	5 minutes.
Financial Statement or Tariff—	
General Debate—	
Minister in charge .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Leader of Opposition or Member deputed by him speaking first .. .. .	60 minutes.
Any other Member .. .. .	45 minutes.
Each Question before the Chair on the Estimates or on a Tariff—	
Minister in charge .. .. .	(periods not specified).
Each Member other than Minister in charge— two periods each not exceeding .. .. .	30 minutes.
Debates not otherwise provided for—	
Each Member—two periods each not exceeding .. .. .	15 minutes.
<i>In the House or in Committee—</i>	
Extension of time—with the consent of a majority of the House or of the Committee, to be determined without debate, a Member may be allowed to continue his speech for periods each not exceeding 15 minutes.	

(b) a debate on a motion under Standing Order No. 38 to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance may be continued for a period of two hours.

Question—put and passed.

5. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That all Orders of the Day and Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 2, Government Business.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6. INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES—PACIFIC SETTLEMENT.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That this House approves of the accession on the part of the Commonwealth of Australia to Chapters I., II., III. and IV. of the General Act for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, subject to the following conditions:—

(1) That the following disputes are excluded from the procedure described in the General Act, including the procedure of conciliation:—

- (i) Disputes arising prior to the accession of His Majesty to the said General Act, or relating to situations or facts prior to the said accession;
- (ii) Disputes in regard to which the parties to the disputes have agreed or shall agree to have recourse to some other method of peaceful settlement;
- (iii) Disputes between His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of any other member of the League which is a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, all of which disputes shall be settled in such manner as the parties have agreed or shall agree;
- (iv) Disputes concerning questions which by international law are solely within the domestic jurisdiction of the State; and
- (v) Disputes with any party to the General Act who is not a member of the League of Nations.

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- (2) That His Majesty reserves the right in relation to disputes mentioned in Article XVII. of the General Act to require that the procedure described in Chapter II. of the said Act shall be suspended in respect of any dispute which has been submitted to and is under consideration by the Council of the League of Nations, provided notice to suspend is given after the dispute has been submitted to the Council and is given within ten days of notification of the initiation of the procedure, and provided also that such suspension shall be limited to a period of twelve months or such longer period as may be agreed by the parties to the dispute or determined by a decision of all members of the Council other than the parties to the dispute.
- (3) (i) That, in case of a dispute, not being a dispute mentioned in Article XVII. of the General Act, which is brought before the Council of the League of Nations in accordance with the provisions of the Covenant, the procedure described in Chapter I. of the General Act shall not be applied, and, if already commenced, shall be suspended, unless the Council determines that the said procedure shall be adopted.
- (ii) That in the case of such a dispute the procedure described in Chapter III. of the General Act shall not be applied unless the Council has failed to effect a settlement of the dispute within twelve months from the date on which it was first submitted to the Council, or, in cases where the procedure prescribed in Chapter I. has been adopted without producing an agreement between the parties within six months from the termination of the work of the Conciliation Commission. The Council may extend either of the above periods by a decision of all its members other than the parties to the dispute.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

7. COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL (1931).—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Makin, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 19.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. McNeill
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Cusack	Mr. Rowe
Mr. Forde	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Frost	Mr. Tully
Mr. Albert Green	
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. Keane	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Long	Mr. Lacey
Mr. Martens	Mr. Watkins

Noes, 17.

Mr. Bayley	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Price
Mr. Guy	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Hill	
Mr. Latham	
Mr. Lyons	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Marks	Mr. Bernard Corser
Mr. Marr	Mr. Josiah Francis

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 debated—

Question—That the clause be agreed to—put.

The Committee divided (The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Keane, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Anstey	Mr. Makin
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Martens
Mr. Blakeley	Mr. McNeill
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Parker Moloney
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Cusack	Mr. Rowe
Mr. Eldridge	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Forde	Mr. Tully
Mr. Frost	Mr. Ward
Mr. Albert Green	
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Lacey
Mr. Long	Mr. Watkins

Noes, 20.

Mr. Bernard Corser	Mr. Marr
Mr. Fenton	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Gabb	Mr. Earle Page
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Thomas Paterson
Mr. Guy	Mr. Price
Mr. Hill	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Latham	
Mr. Lyons	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Mackay	Mr. Bayley
Mr. Marks	Mr. Josiah Francis

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 3—

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Keane reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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8. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Mr. Speaker announced, with reference to the Report on Publication of Secret Cables, laid on the Table of the House this day, that he proposed to exclude a certain newspaper representative from the precincts of the House of Representatives.  
*Privilege.*—Mr. Bayley raised a question of Privilege, and moved, That the expulsion of a member of the press from the press gallery or precincts of the House is a question for the House to decide, and is not a matter for decision by the Speaker, acting either on his own authority or at the suggestion of the Ministry.  
Debate on Motion of Privilege ensued.  
Motion, by leave, withdrawn.  
Question—That the House do now adjourn—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Donald Cameron, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Gibbons, Mr. Gullett, Mr. James, Mr. Mathews\*, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Edward Riley, Mr. E. C. Riley, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Theodore, and Mr. Yates.

\* On leave.

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E. W. PARKES,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*