

1929-30-31.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 135.

THURSDAY, 30TH APRIL, 1931.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honourable Norman J. O. Makin) took the Chair, and offered Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to statute—
  - New Guinea Act—Ordinances of 1931—
    - No. 3—Quarantine.
    - No. 4—Laws Repeal and Adopting.
    - No. 5—Judiciary.
    - No. 6—Rapindik Lands.
    - No. 7—Medical.
    - No. 8—Interpretation and Amendments Incorporation.
    - No. 9—Gold Buyers.
    - No. 10—Timber.
    - No. 11—Germans Admission Ordinance Repeal.
    - No. 12—Native Taxes.
    - No. 13—Electric Light and Power.
    - No. 14—Lands Registration.
    - No. 15—Stamp Duties (No. 2).
    - No. 16—Police Force.
  - War Service Homes Act—Amendment, dated 25th July, 1930, of the arrangement of the 7th March, 1924, between the War Service Homes Commissioner and the Government of the State of Tasmania.
3. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—
  - Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.
  - Debate ensued.
  - Mr. Bayley moved, as an amendment, That all the words after “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—“this House regards the exclusion of Mr. Alexander from the press gallery and precincts of this House as a case of unjustifiable victimization on the part of the Government, in view of the fact that no offence against the House has been disclosed”.
  - Debate continued.
  - Point of Order.*—Mr. Crouch raised a Point of Order that the proposed amendment was out of order on the ground that if it were an attack upon a Ruling by Mr. Speaker, the House had already upheld the Ruling, while if it were an attack upon Government action the Government had not taken such action.
  - Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Speaker stated that the amendment related to a matter which had been determined by him, and which he alone had the right to determine. It trespassed upon the decision he had come to and announced to the House. He therefore ruled that it concerned a matter which is the exclusive prerogative of Mr. Speaker, and was therefore out of order.
  - Mr. Latham (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That all the words after “That” be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—“this House is of opinion that, as a general rule, a journalist should not be excluded from the press galleries except in cases of proved misconduct affecting his relation to Parliament”.

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*Point of Order.*—Mr. Crouch raised a Point of Order that the proposed amendment was out of order on the grounds that the only way to carry out the objective aimed at by the amendment was to amend the Standing Orders, and that the amendment was an endeavour to re-introduce a question previously ruled out of order.

*Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Speaker pointed out that there were three means of accomplishing the purpose of the proposed amendment, firstly, by an alteration of the Standing Orders, secondly, by dissenting from the Speaker's Ruling, and thirdly, by a substantive motion. He ruled, therefore, that such an amendment to the motion "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair" was out of order.

*Dissent from Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Latham handed in, in writing, the following objection to the Ruling:—That the Ruling of the honorable the Speaker, that the amendment to the motion, That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair, is out of order:—That all the words after "That" be omitted with a view to the insertion of the following words in place thereof:—"this House is of opinion that, as a general rule, a journalist should not be excluded from the press galleries except in cases of proved misconduct affecting his relation to Parliament"—be disagreed with.

The debate thereon was forthwith adjourned to the next day of sitting.

Debate on motion—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—continued.

Question—put and negatived.

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

4. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Scullin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes past ten o'clock p.m., 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. Lazzarini, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Theodore, and Mr. Thompson.

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