

1937-38-39.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 76.

THURSDAY, 4TH MAY, 1939.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. HOUSE COMMITTEE.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Riordan be appointed to fill the vacancy now existing on the House Committee.  
Question—put and passed.
3. LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Holt and Mr. John Lawson be discharged from attendance on the Library Committee, and that, in their places, Mr. Jolly and Mr. Scholfield be appointed members of the Committee.  
Question—put and passed.
4. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. McHugh rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The urgent problems of the wheat industry and the necessity of the Government formulating proposals to enable wheatgrowers being assured of maintenance for their families and economic security for their industry".  
Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—  
Mr. McHugh moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Mr. McHugh not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—  
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.  
Debate ensued.  
The debate having been continued for two hours, it was terminated in accordance with Standing Order No. 257B.
5. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Norfolk Island—Report for year 1937-38.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1939, No. 33.  
Commonwealth Public Service Act—Fifteenth Report on the Commonwealth Public Service by Board of Commissioners, dated 7th December, 1938.  
Medical Research Endowment Act—Report by National Health and Medical Research Council on work done under the Act during 1938.  
It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House, the Orders of the Day, General Business, were called on, in accordance with Standing Order No. 119.
6. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—CANBERRA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL ORDINANCE—MOTION TO DISALLOW.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion :—That Ordinance No. 20 (Canberra Community Hospital) of 1938, made under the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* and the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act*, be disallowed—  
Debate resumed.  
Question—put and negatived.
7. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—HOSPITAL TAX ORDINANCE—MOTION TO DISALLOW.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion :—That Ordinance No. 22 (Hospital Tax) of 1938, made under the *Seat of Government Acceptance Act* and the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act*, be disallowed—  
Debate resumed.  
Question—put and negatived.

4th May, 1939.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 1, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 25th May.
9. PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS AND POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Drakeford moved, pursuant to notice, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the following matters :—
- (a) The permanent filling of higher positions in the Commonwealth Public Service ;
  - (b) The temporary filling of higher positions in the Commonwealth Public Service ;
  - (c) The administration of the Postmaster-General's Department concerning the replacement of condemned telegraph poles ; and
  - (d) The administration by the Postmaster-General's Department of the provisions of the arbitration award relating to line staffs.
- Mr. Harrison (Postmaster-General) moved, That the debate be now adjourned.  
 Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.  
 Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 25th May.
10. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 3, General Business, be postponed until Thursday, 25th May.
11. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That the Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business.
12. SPECIAL ANNUITIES BILL 1939.—Mr. Spender (Minister assisting the Treasurer), for Mr. Menzies (Treasurer), moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment of Annuities to the Widow and Children of the late the Right Honorable Joseph Aloysius Lyons.  
 Question—put and passed.  
 Mr. Spender then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
 Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
13. 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.  
 Question—put and negatived.  
 Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
14. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
 Debate ensued.  
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eight minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except— Mr. Blackburn, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Prowse, and Mr. Stacey.

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F. C. GREEN,  
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.