

1940.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.  
CANBERRA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER, 1940.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, in the fourth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Sixth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and forty.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Sydney Friedrich Chubb, Acting Clerk Assistant, and Henry Albert Dodd, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION.

Commonwealth of Australia to wit. GOWRIE, Governor-General.	By His Excellency General the Right Honourable Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.
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WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things provided that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit :

NOW THEREFORE I, Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of ten-thirty o'clock a.m. on the said twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this twenty-eighth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and forty, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,

Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTIES BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

GENTLEMEN,

The Deputies of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament request the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

F.6316.

20th November, 1940.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Senior Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

His Excellency the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting us his Deputies to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows :—

*His Excellency General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Right Honourable Sir George Edward Rich, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Acting Chief Justice of Our High Court of Australia,

and

The Honourable Edward Aloysius McTiernan, a Justice of Our High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them : Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the twenty-eighth day of October, One thousand nine hundred and forty, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the thirty-first day of October, Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs ; And all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of ten-thirty o'clock a.m. on the said twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty.

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputies for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this thirteenth  
(L.S.) day of November in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

GOWRIE,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,

Prime Minister.

The Senior Deputy then said :—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

We have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that as soon as the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

Mr. Justice McTiernan will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honorable Members of that House.

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And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Honourable Edward Aloysius McTiernan, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :—

*His Excellency General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Honourable Edward Aloysius McTiernan, a Justice of Our High Court of Australia.

## GREETING :

WHEREAS by section 42 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall before taking his seat make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution : NOW THEREFORE I, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the twentieth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty, at the hour of 10.30 o'clock a.m., there and then to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this thirteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

GOWRIE,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,  
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 74 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 21st September, 1940, and the return to the Writ for the election of a Member for the Northern Territory, which he had received from the Military and Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following gentlemen had been elected, as shown hereunder :—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide	.. South Australia	.. Fred Hurtle Stacey.
Balaclava	.. Victoria ..	.. Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat	.. Victoria ..	.. Reginald Thomas Pollard.
Barker	.. South Australia	.. Archie Galbraith Cameron.
Barton	.. New South Wales	.. Herbert Vere Evatt.
Bass ..	.. Tasmania ..	.. Herbert Claude Barnard.
Batman	.. Victoria ..	.. Frank Brennan.
Bendigo	.. Victoria ..	.. George James Rankin.
Boothby	.. South Australia	.. John Lloyd Price.
Bourke	.. Victoria ..	.. Maurice McCrae Blackburn.
Brisbane	.. Queensland ..	.. George Lawson.
Calare ..	.. New South Wales	.. John Patrick Breen.
Capricornia	.. Queensland ..	.. Francis Michael Forde.
Cook ..	.. New South Wales	.. Thomas Sheehan.
Corangamite	.. Victoria ..	.. Allan McKenzie McDonald.
Corio ..	.. Victoria ..	.. John Johnstone Dedman.
Cowper	.. New South Wales	.. Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley	.. New South Wales	.. John Solomon Rosevear.
Darling	.. New South Wales	.. Joseph James Clark.
Darling Downs	.. Queensland ..	.. Arthur William Fadden.
Darwin	.. Tasmania ..	.. George John Bell.
Deakin	.. Victoria ..	.. William Joseph Hutchinson.
Denison	.. Tasmania ..	.. Arthur James Beck.
East Sydney	.. New South Wales	.. Edward John Ward.
Eden-Monaro	.. New South Wales	.. John Arthur Perkins.
Fawkner	.. Victoria ..	.. Harold Edward Holt.
Flinders	.. Victoria ..	.. Rupert Sumner Ryan.
Forrest	.. Western Australia	.. John Henry Prowse.
Franklin	.. Tasmania ..	.. Charles William Frost.
Fremantle	.. Western Australia	.. John Curtin.
Gippsland	.. Victoria ..	.. Thomas Paterson.
Grey ..	.. South Australia	.. Albert Oliver Badman.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Griffith	Queensland	William Patrick Conelan.
Gwydir	New South Wales	William James Scully.
Henty	Victoria	Arthur William Coles
Herbert	Queensland	George William Martens.
Hindmarsh	South Australia	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Hume	New South Wales	Thomas Joseph Collins.
Hunter	New South Wales	Rowland James.
Indi	Victoria	John McEwen.
Kalgoorlie	Western Australia	Albert Ernest Green.
Kennedy	Queensland	William James Frederick Riordan.
Kooyong	Victoria	Robert Gordon Menzies.
Lang	New South Wales	Daniel Mulcahy.
Lilley	Queensland	William Alfred Jolly.
Macquarie	New South Wales	Joseph Benedict Chifley.
Maranoa	Queensland	Francis Patrick Baker.
Maribyrnong	Victoria	Arthur Samuel Drakeford.
Martin	New South Wales	William Victor McCall.
Melbourne	Victoria	Arthur Augustus Calwell.
Melbourne Ports	Victoria	Edward James Holloway.
Moreton	Queensland	Josiah Francis.
Newcastle	New South Wales	David Oliver Watkins.
New England	New South Wales	Joseph Palmer Abbott.
North Sydney	New South Wales	William Morris Hughes.
Northern Territory		Adair Macalister Blain.
Parkes	New South Wales	Charles William Clanan Marr.
Parramatta	New South Wales	Frederick Harold Stewart.
Perth	Western Australia	Walter Maxwell Nairn.
Reid	New South Wales	Charles Albert Aaron Morgan.
Richmond	New South Wales	Hubert Lawrence Anthony.
Riverina	New South Wales	Joseph Ignatius Langtry.
Robertson	New South Wales	Eric Sydney Spooner.
Swan	Western Australia	Henry Gregory.
Wakefield	South Australia	John Grant Duncan-Hughes.
Wannon	Victoria	Donald McLeod.
Warringah	New South Wales	Percy Claude Spender.
Watson	New South Wales	Sydney Max Falstein.
Wentworth	New South Wales	Eric John Harrison.
Werriwa	New South Wales	Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney	New South Wales	John Albert Beasley.
Wide Bay	Queensland	Bernard Henry Corsier.
Wilmot	Tasmania	James Allan Guy.
Wimmera	Victoria	Alexander Wilson.
Yarra	Victoria	James Henry Scullin.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. Blain, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. McCall (who were not then present), Mr. Green (deceased) and Mr. Gregory (deceased).  
The Commissioner retired.
6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Sir Charles Marr, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. Walter Maxwell Nairn, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. White.  
Mr. Nairn informed the House that he accepted nomination.  
There being no further proposal, Mr. Nairn was declared elected as Speaker, and Sir Charles Marr and Mr. White conducted him to the Chair.  
Mr. Nairn returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.  
Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.  
Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition), Mr. Beasley and Mr. Brennan congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.
7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.  
And the sitting of the House having been suspended until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—  
Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency ; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.
8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—  
Mr. Speaker,  
His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith,

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Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission :—

*His Excellency General the Right Honourable ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, upon whom has been conferred the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Honourable WALTER MAXWELL NAIRN, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

## GREETING :

WHEREAS by section 42 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall before taking his seat make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution : NOW THEREFORE I, ALEXANDER GORE ARKWRIGHT, BARON GOWRIE, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth, at Canberra, to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty, and in the fourth year of His Majesty's reign.

GOWRIE,  
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,  
Prime Minister.

10. MEMBER SWORN.—William Victor McCall, Esquire, made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
11. MINISTERIAL CHANGES, AND FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY WAR COUNCIL.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) announced that, on the 28th October last, the Ministry was reconstructed and was constituted as follows :—

Prime Minister, Minister for Defence Co-ordination and Minister for Information	Mr. Menzies
Treasurer	Mr. Fadden
Attorney-General and Minister for the Navy	Mr. Hughes
Minister for the Army	Mr. Spender
Postmaster-General, Minister for Repatriation and Vice-President of the Executive Council	Senator McLeay
Minister for Air and Minister for Civil Aviation	Mr. McEwen
Minister for the Interior	Senator Foll
Minister for Commerce	Sir Earle Page
Minister for External Affairs, Minister for Social Services and Minister for Health	Sir Frederick Stewart
Minister for Supply and Development and Minister for Munitions	Senator McBride
Minister for Trade and Customs	Mr. Harrison
Minister for Labour and National Service and Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research	Mr. Holt
Minister administering War Service Homes and assisting the Minister for Repatriation	Senator Collett
Minister assisting the Prime Minister, dealing with External Territories, and assisting the Minister for the Interior	Mr. Collins
Minister assisting the Minister for Trade and Customs and assisting the Minister for Labour and National Service	Senator Leckie
Minister assisting the Treasurer and assisting the Minister for Commerce	Mr. Anthony

Mr. Menzies indicated that the Postmaster-General would be represented in the House of Representatives by Mr. Fadden, the Minister for the Interior by Mr. Collins, the Minister for Supply and Development and Minister for Munitions by Mr. Spender, and the Minister for Repatriation by Mr. Holt.

Mr. Menzies also informed the House that the War Cabinet comprised Mr. Menzies, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Spender, Mr. McEwen and Senator Foll.

Mr. Menzies also announced that the Australian Advisory War Council, which had been set up, consisted of Mr. Menzies, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Spender (representing the Government), and Mr. Curtin, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Forde and Mr. Makin (representing the Opposition).

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12. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Curtin informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Forde had been appointed Deputy Leader.
13. LEADER OF NON-COMMUNIST BRANCH OF THE LABOUR PARTY.—Mr. Beasley informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Non-Communist Branch of the Labour Party, and that Mr. Rosevear had been appointed Deputy Leader.
14. LEADER OF THE COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. Fadden informed the House that he had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Country Party, and that he had been asked to act as Leader.
15. OFFICERS' RIGHTS DECLARATION BILL 1940.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Officers' Rights Declaration Act 1928-1933*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Menzies 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.
16. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had received a copy, which read as follows:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

1. The position of the war continues to be a grave one but recent events encourage our confidence in ultimate victory. Practically without warning, and entirely without excuse, Italy has launched an attack upon Greece which is gallantly resisting, with powerful aid from British Forces. The success which has so far attended the numerically inferior Greek Forces on the Albanian frontier whilst encouraging, must not be overstated but, taken in conjunction with the magnificent recent exploits of the British Mediterranean squadron and fleet air arm at Taranto and the entrance to the Adriatic, it has produced such a setback to Italian arms as to affect the balance of power in the Mediterranean.

Germany's intentions in relation to Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey, however, remain undefined, and consequently the problem of the defence of the Middle East is one which must continue to engage the attention not only of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom but also of Australia, which has large Forces in Egypt and Palestine.

Speaking broadly, however, while the difficulties and dangers confronting the British Empire are greater than at any other time in its history, there is much to support the view that the German ambition to achieve a quick victory by a sudden development of overwhelming force has been frustrated, that the ideas of an invasion of Great Britain have, for the time being at least, been foiled, and that we are entering what no doubt will be a lengthy period in which the immense resources of the British Empire, backed by the undoubtedly friendly neutrality of the United States of America, will more and more effectively be marshalled and used for the winning of a complete victory and the establishment of a just peace.

2. My Government is in constant communication with His Majesty's Government in Great Britain and with His Majesty's Governments in the other Dominions in connexion with the provision of armaments necessary for the carrying on of the war.

Ministers are proceeding with the utmost expedition and with remarkable success with the Government's programme for the production of armaments in Australia, so that not only will Australian Forces be adequately equipped, but all possible aid may be given as required to the other parts of the Empire. The rapid development of munitions manufacture in Australia has made immense demands upon the skill, industry and resources of our people, and those demands are being increasingly satisfied.

3. When I addressed you at the opening of the Second Session of the last Parliament I was able to refer to the fact that, pursuant to its policy of making contribution to peace in the Pacific by establishing direct diplomatic representation of Australia in selected Pacific countries, my Government had made certain diplomatic appointments. These have now been added to by the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary to Japan, and a reciprocal appointment of a Japanese Minister to Australia is expected at an early date.

4. Since the last Session of Parliament, an Australian Advisory War Council has been set up under the authority of the National Security Act, with membership representative of all Parties in Parliament, and with the function of advising the Government in relation to Australia's war effort and the problems which relate thereto.

Already several meetings of this Council have taken place with useful results. My advisers earnestly hope that the experience gained through those deliberations will enable Members on both sides of Parliament to concentrate upon the urgent problems of war and to make that joint contribution to the solution of those problems without which the fullest national effort cannot be achieved. In particular, the Council has given consideration to the question of industrial stoppages during war time, and has been able to make recommendations which my advisers hope will lead to a perfecting of the machinery of industrial peace and at the same time to a maintenance of full and uninterrupted labor and production.

The Government feels strongly that in a country in which there is adequate and accessible machinery for the settlement of disputes and the adjustment of grievances there can be no justification for direct action. This is particularly true in time of war when any cessation of work in a war

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industry or in any industry which is related to the war effort constitutes a real blow at the national security. A fortnight's work in some munitions factory, once lost, can never be recovered. It means inevitably at least a fortnight's delay in the production of some gun, some piece of ammunition or some equipment urgently and in some cases desperately needed by Australians serving in a theatre of war.

5. The principal business which you will be asked to consider in the early part of this new Session will be the making of financial provision for the carrying on of the war and for the ordinary civil services of government. The Treasurer will, within a few days, lay before you a Budget which will impose upon the Australian people financial burdens heavier than they have ever before been called upon to bear. I am confident that these burdens will be cheerfully accepted and successfully borne. If we are called upon to pay a great price for victory we must still remember that the price is great because the liberties which we have at stake are even greater.

Living in this country in remoteness and quietness, we have much reason to be thankful that we have been left, ever since the war began, to develop our industries and strengthen our economy undisturbed by bomb or battle. My Government relies confidently upon the support of the people of Australia in doing and paying for everything that is within the physical capacity of Australia for the protecting of our own integrity and the making of the greatest possible contribution to the success of the British arms.

6. Interruptions to shipping, the disturbance of foreign markets and, in recent months, the occurrence of a disastrous drought, have all aggravated the difficult problems of the primary industries of Australia. The Government has given a great deal of thought to these problems and has also discussed them with State Governments and with representatives of the industries affected. It will place before Honorable Senators and Members details of a plan for the stabilization of the wheat industry, and will also place information before you as to steps taken, and to be taken, in connexion with other primary industries.

7. In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

17. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Beck, Mr. Abbott and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report at the next sitting.  
Question—put and passed.

18. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.  
Question—put and passed.

19. DEATH OF THE RIGHT HONORABLE NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) referred to the death, on the 9th instant, of the Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain, and moved, That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Right Honorable Neville Chamberlain, a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, places on record its appreciation of his devoted service to the British Commonwealth of Nations and to the cause of peace in the world and tenders its deep sympathy to the widow and family in their bereavement.  
And Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Beasley having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—  
Question—passed.

20. DEATHS OF MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) referred to the deaths of Mr. W. R. N. Maloney, Mr. P. P. Abbott, the Honorable A. E. Green, the Honorable Frank Anstey, the Honorable J. H. Keating, the Honorable J. M. Fowler, and the Honorable Henry Gregory, and moved—

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr. William Robert Nuttall Maloney, a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Melbourne, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public and social service, and tenders its deep sympathy to his relatives in their bereavement.

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr. Percy Phipps Abbott, a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of New England and a Senator for New South Wales, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable Albert Ernest Green, Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Kalgoorlie, and former Commonwealth Minister, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its heartfelt sympathy to the widow and members of his family in their bereavement.

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable Frank Anstey, a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Bourke, and Commonwealth Minister, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family in their bereavement.

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable John Henry Keating, a former Senator for the State of Tasmania, a Member of the First Commonwealth Parliament and a Minister of the Crown, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its deep sympathy to the members of his family in their bereavement.

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That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable James Mackinnon Fowler, a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Perth and a Member of the First Commonwealth Parliament, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow and family in their bereavement.

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Honorable Henry Gregory, Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Swan, and a former State Minister, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service, and tenders its heartfelt sympathy to the widow and members of his family in their bereavement.

And Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Fadden (Treasurer), Mr. Beasley and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—

Question—passed.

21. ADJOURNMENT AS MARK OF RESPECT.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) then moved, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Blain and Mr. Cameron.

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