

1940-41.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 17.

WEDNESDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1941.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable W. M. Nairn) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Sheehan presented a Petition from certain electors of the Division of Cook, praying that legislation be enacted to enable an adequate ship building programme to be proceeded with without delay.  
Petition received and read.
3. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—TEMPORARY OFFICE BUILDINGS, CANBERRA.—Mr. Collins (Assistant Minister) laid on the Table plans, &c., in connexion with the proposed erection of temporary office buildings near Capitol Hill, Canberra, referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on 14th March, 1941.
4. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.—Mr. Price moved, by leave, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Henty (Mr. Coles), on the ground of urgent public business.  
Question—put and passed.
5. AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY WAR COUNCIL.—Mr. Fadden (Acting Prime Minister) announced that, on the 14th March, 1941, Mr. Evatt had been sworn in as a member of the Australian Advisory War Council.
6. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S SPEECH FOLLOWING SIGNING OF AID TO DEMOCRACIES BILL—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Fadden (Acting Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement directing the attention of the House to recent events in the United States of America, culminating in the speech of President Roosevelt following his signing of the Aid to Democracies Bill, and placed on record Australia's gratitude to the President and people of America.  
Mr. Curtin (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, also made a Statement on the matter.
7. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Fadden (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.  
Question—put and passed.
8. DEFENCE BILL 1941.—Mr. Spender (Minister for the Army) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Act* 1903-1939.  
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.  
Mr. Spender moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Mr. Evatt 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 the next sitting.
9. CRIMES BILL 1941.—Mr. Spender (Minister for the Army) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend section twenty-nine B of the *Crimes Act* 1914-1937.  
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.  
Mr. Spender moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Mr. Evatt 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 the next sitting.

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10. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICES OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notices of Motion Nos. 1 and 2 be postponed until after the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 3, Government Business.
11. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL 1941.—Mr. Hughes (Attorney-General) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1937*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Hughes 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.  
Mr. Hughes moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Mr. Evatt 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 the next sitting.
12. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—Northern Territory—Report on Administration for year 1939-40.  
Provisional Administrative Buildings, Canberra—Letters, dated 13th April, 1939, and 24th February, 1941, to Minister for the Interior from the National Capital Planning and Development Committee.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Australian Broadcasting Commission Act—Eighth Annual Report and Balance-sheet of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, for year 1939-40.  
Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointment of G. E. Fewster, Department of Commerce.  
Customs Act—Proclamations prohibiting the Exportation (except under certain conditions) of—  
Fish Livers (dated 12th March, 1941).  
Worsted woollen or knitted goods or any other goods made wholly or partly from wool (dated 11th March, 1941).  
Supply and Development Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1941, No. 56.
13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Spender (Minister for the Army) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at nine minutes past five o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Blain, Mr. Clark, Mr. Coles\*, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Langtry, Sir Charles Marr, Mr. McCall, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. White.

\* On leave.

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