

1943-44.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 13.

THURSDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 1944.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PROPOSED MOTION OF PRIVILEGE.—Mr. Spender raised a question of Privilege in relation to the Australian-New Zealand Agreement, 1944, and indicated his intention to move a motion of Privilege. *Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Speaker ruled that the matter was not one suddenly arising and was not a matter of Privilege. *Dissent from Speaker's Ruling.*—Mr. Spender handed in, in writing, the following objection to the Ruling :—That the Ruling of the Speaker given on a point of Privilege sought to be raised by the honorable Member for Warringah be disagreed with. The debate thereon was forthwith adjourned to the next day of sitting.
3. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REPORT.—Mr. James (Chairman) brought up the following Report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works :—
Report relating to the proposed additions to the Government Offices known as " West Block ", Canberra.
Ordered to be printed.
4. AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND AGREEMENT, 1944—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.—Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the Australian-New Zealand Agreement, 1944, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers :—
(1) Australian-New Zealand Agreement, 1944, and
(2) Ministerial Statement, 10th February, 1944,
and moved, That the Papers be printed.
Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.
5. TOMATO CROP, SHEPPARTON—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Scully (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the provision of extra labour for picking the ripening tomato crop at Shepparton, Victoria.
6. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Income Tax on Current Income—Joint Committee*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 14.

The Senate, having considered Message No. 14 of the House of Representatives, has agreed to the following resolutions in connexion therewith, viz. :—

- (1) That the Senate agrees to the appointment of a Joint Committee to inquire into and report upon the advisability of basing the liability for income tax for each financial year on the income of that year, or of adopting any other method of avoiding the hardship which may arise under the present system of basing the liability for income tax for each financial year on the income of the previous year.
- (2) That Senators Keane and Spicer be appointed to serve on such Committee with Members of the House of Representatives.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
(a) the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament ; and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
(b) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee may add a protest or dissent to any report ; and
(c) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum.

GORDON BROWN,
President.The Senate,
Canberra, 10th February, 1944.

10th February, 1944.

[War Expenditure—Joint Committee]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 15.

The Senate transmits to the House of Representatives the following Resolutions which were agreed to by the Senate this day :—

- (1) That Senator A. J. McLachlan be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee on War Expenditure.
- (2) That Senator Sampson be appointed to serve on such Committee in the place of Senator A. J. McLachlan.

The Senate,
Canberra, 10th February, 1944.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

7. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Fadden 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 man-power position in relation to the primary industries". 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. Fadden moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Ordered—That Mr. Fadden be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. Holloway (Minister for Labour and National Service) be granted extensions of time (2).
Debate continued.
Ordered—That Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army) be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. McEwen be granted an extension of time.
The debate having been continued for two hours, it was terminated in accordance with Standing Order No. 257B.
 8. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—
National Security Act—National Security (Supplementary) Regulations—Statement of Australian Banking Statistics for the five quarters ended 31st December, 1943.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Australian Broadcasting Act—Eleventh Annual Report and Balance-sheet of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, for year 1942-43.
Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act—Repatriation Commission—Report for year 1942-43.
Commonwealth Railways Act—Report on Commonwealth Railways Operations for year 1942-43.
Dried Fruits Export Control Act—Nineteenth Annual Report of the Dried Fruits Control Board, for year 1942-43, together with Statement by Minister regarding the operation of the Act.
National Security Act—National Security (General) Regulations—Order—Use of land.
Taxation—Twenty-fourth Report of Commissioner, dated 1st November, 1943, together with Statistical Appendices.
War Service Homes Act—Report of War Service Homes Commission for year 1942-43, together with statements and balance-sheet.
 9. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business.
 10. CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION) BILL 1944.—Mr. Evatt (Attorney-General) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to alter the Constitution by vesting in the Parliament certain additional powers until the Expiration of five Years after Australia ceases to be engaged in Hostilities in the present War.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Evatt 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.
 11. REVIEW OF THE WAR—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), That the Paper [*presented on the 9th February*], viz. :—
Review of the War—Ministerial Statement, 9th February, 1944—
be printed—
Debate resumed.
Ordered—That Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. Brennan be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. White be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.
Sir Earle Page 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. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at three minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

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

* On leave.

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