

1944.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

## No. 4.

THURSDAY, 20TH JULY, 1944.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMY MEDICAL CORPS FOR THE VICTORIA CROSS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the eligibility of members of the Army Medical Corps for the award of the Victoria Cross.
3. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Financial Assistance to Tasmania—Report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission upon the application submitted by the State of Tasmania for additional financial assistance in 1943-44 under the *States Grants (Income Tax Reimbursement) Act 1942*.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—  
Sunshine, Victoria.  
Yarraville, Victoria.  
National Security Act—National Security (Rationing) Regulations—Orders—Nos. 50-52.
4. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to :—  
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—  
We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—  
Debate resumed.  
Ordered—That Mr. Morgan be granted extensions of time (2).  
Mr. Francis 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 a later hour this day.
5. RESIGNATION OF JAPANESE CABINET—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement, informing the House of the text of a message broadcast from Tokio announcing the resignation of the Japanese Cabinet.
6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent, before the Address in Reply is adopted, the appointment of Joint Committees.  
Question—put and passed.

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## 7. WAR EXPENDITURE—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to examine current expenditure defrayed out of moneys voted by the Parliament for the Defence Services and other Services directly connected with the war and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided on by the Government may be effected therein.
- (2) That the following Members of the House of Representatives, Mr. Holt, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McLeod and Mr. Rankin be appointed to serve on such Committee.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
  - (a) the Committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members; and to refer to any such sub-committees any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to examine;
  - (b) the Committee or any sub-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;
  - (c) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report;
  - (d) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee;
  - (e) the Committee have power, in cases where considerations of National Security preclude the publication of any recommendations and of the arguments on which they are based, or both, to address a memorandum to the Prime Minister, for the consideration of the War Cabinet, but on every occasion when the Committee exercises this power, the Committee shall report to the Parliament accordingly.
- (4) That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence and asking that two Members of the Senate be appointed to serve on such Committee.

Question—put and passed.

## 8. SOCIAL SECURITY—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to inquire into and, from time to time, report upon ways and means of improving social and living conditions in Australia and of rectifying any anomalies in existing legislation.
- (2) That the following Members of the House of Representatives, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Daly, Mr. Haylen and Mr. Ryan be appointed to serve on such Committee.
- (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;
  - (c) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum.
- (4) That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence and asking that three Members of the Senate be appointed to serve on such Committee.

Question—put and passed.

## 9. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament—

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr. Francis be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Holt be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Fadden be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Cameron be granted extensions of time (2).

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Calwell (Minister for Information) be granted an extension of time.

Mr. Corser 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. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*War Expenditure—Joint Committee*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 1.

The Senate, having considered Message No. 1 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 examine current expenditure defrayed out of moneys voted by the Parliament for the Defence Services and other Services directly connected with the war and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided on by the Government may be effected therein.
- (2) That Senators Large and Sampson 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 appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members ; and to refer to any such sub-committees any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to examine ;
  - (b) the Committee or any sub-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 Parliament ; and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
  - (c) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report ;
  - (d) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee ; and
  - (e) the Committee have power, in cases where considerations of National Security preclude the publication of any recommendations and of the arguments on which they are based, or both, to address a memorandum to the Prime Minister for the consideration of the War Cabinet, but, on every occasion when the Committee exercises this power, the Committee shall report to the Parliament accordingly.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 20th July, 1944.

[*Social Security—Joint Committee*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 2.

The Senate, having considered Message No. 2 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, from time to time, report upon ways and means of improving social and living conditions in Australia and of rectifying any anomalies in existing legislation.
- (2) That Senators Cooper, Foll and Tangney 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, 20th July, 1944.

11. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

Question—put and passed.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-eight minutes past ten 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. Barnard, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Blain, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Clark, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Scullin, and Mr. White.

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