

1945.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 15.

FRIDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1945.

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 Prayers.
2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for the remainder of the Session be given to the honorable Member for the Northern Territory (Mr. Blain), on the ground of his absence from Australia as a prisoner of war.
Question—put and passed.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for the remainder of the Session be given to the honorable Member for Watson (Mr. Falstein), on duty with the Royal Australian Air Force.
Question—put and passed.
4. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday, 18th April next, at three o'clock p.m.
Question—put and passed.
5. DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that Major-General the Honorable Sir William Glasgow, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., a former Commonwealth Minister, who recently relinquished the office of High Commissioner for Australia in the Dominion of Canada, was within the precincts. The distinguished visitor thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
6. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Harrison 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 improper use by the Government of the Commonwealth Investigation and Security Services".
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—
Suspension of Standing Orders.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the debate being concluded at fifteen minutes to one o'clock p.m.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Harrison moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Ordered—That Mr. Harrison be granted an extension of time.
Debate ensued.
Ordered—That Mr. Holt be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. Mountjoy be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.
Ordered—That Mr. Burke be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.
At fifteen minutes to one o'clock p.m., the time allotted having expired, the debate was terminated.

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7. RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BILL 1945.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction), pursuant to leave given on the 22nd March, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to provide for the Re-establishment in Civil Life of Members of the Forces, for facilitating their Employment, and for other purposes*, and moved, That it be now read a first time.
Question—put and passed—Bill read a first time.
Mr. Dedman moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
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.
8. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Royal Highness the Governor-General—
Australian Prisoners of War in Japanese custody—Report from Army authorities.
Dean, Angus—Legal Proceedings and Circulars—Report of Board of Inquiry appointed under National Security (Inquiries) Regulations.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Commonwealth Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1945, No. 35.
National Security Act—National Security (Potatoes) Regulations—Order—No. 19.
9. HIGHER DEFENCE ORGANIZATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—
Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the decision to expand the Joint-Service and Inter-Departmental machinery of the Defence Department. Mr. Curtin then, by command of His Royal Highness the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—
Higher Defence Organization—Ministerial Statement, and moved, That the Paper be printed.
Mr. Holt 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.
10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at seventeen minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, 18th April, at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Adermann, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Blain*, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Drakeford, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Falstein*, Mr. Forde, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Guy, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Makin, Mr. Martens, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Spender, and Mr. Watkins.

* On leave.

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