

1945.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 26.

TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 1945.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ACTING MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.—Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the illness of Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) and the absence abroad of Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs), Mr. Makin (Minister for the Navy, for Munitions and for Aircraft Production) would act as Minister for External Affairs as from the 9th May.
3. THE WAR—SURRENDER OF GERMANY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial statement informing the House of the surrender of all German Forces in Europe.
4. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE—SEVENTH REPORT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Francis, Vice-Chairman, brought up the Seventh Report from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Broadcasting, and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Mr. Cameron 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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
  - Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determination by the Arbitrator, &c.—1945—No. 20—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia; Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association; Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Department of Trade and Customs; and others.
  - Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1945, No. 48.
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
    - Commonwealth purposes—
      - Bulimba, Queensland.
      - Mulwala, New South Wales.
      - Sydney, New South Wales.
      - Townsville, Queensland.
    - Postal purposes—
      - Marble-Bar, Western Australia.
      - Pemberton, Western Australia.
      - Proserpine, Queensland.
      - Sydney, New South Wales.
    - Telephonic purposes—Pialba, Queensland.
  - National Security Act—
    - National Security (Agricultural Aids) Regulations—Orders—
      - Oil meal (Restriction of sales).
      - Wheat (Restriction of sales).
    - National Security (Capital Issues) Regulations—Order—Exemption.
    - National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations—Orders—Military powers during emergency (2).
    - National Security (Man Power) Regulations—Orders—Protected undertakings (51).
    - National Security (Rationing) Regulations—Orders—Nos. 79, 80.
6. MOTOR VEHICLES MANUFACTURE LEGISLATION REPEAL BILL 1945.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—  
Debate resumed.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

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*(In the Committee.)*

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.  
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

7. **POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.**—Ordered—That the remaining Orders of the Day be postponed until after Notices of Motion Nos. 1 and 2, Government Business.
8. **WAR EXPENDITURE—JOINT COMMITTEE.**—Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister), for Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), moved, pursuant to notice—
- (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.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9. **SOCIAL SECURITY—JOINT COMMITTEE.**— Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister), for Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), moved, pursuant to notice—
- (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.

On the motion of Mr. Harrison, the following amendments were made, after debate :—

Paragraph (3), before sub-paragraph (a) insert the following sub-paragraph :—

“(aa) 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 ;”.

Paragraph (3), sub-paragraph (a), after “ Committee ” insert “ or any sub-committee ”.

Paragraph (3), at the end of sub-paragraph (c) add “ of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee ”.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

10. **ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.**—Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Thursday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.  
Question—put and passed.

*Suspension of Sitting.* At ten minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of Sitting.* At ten minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

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11. THE WAR—SURRENDER OF GERMANY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Acting Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing the complete defeat of Germany and the terms of surrender.

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. Fadden (Leader of the Country Party), by leave, also addressed the House.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until Thursday next 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\*, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Coles, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Evatt\*, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Forde\*, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Haylen, Mr. Langtry, Mr. McEwen\*, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Pollard\*, Mr. Sheehy, Sir Frederick Stewart, and Mr. Watkins\*.

\* On leave.

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