

1946.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 1.

FIRST SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER, 1946.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the sixth day of November, in the tenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Sixth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Albert Allan Tregear, Clerk Assistant, Sydney Friedrich Chubb, Second Clerk Assistant, and Alan George Turner, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of Australia to wit.  
HENRY  
Governor-General.

By His Royal Highness the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things provided that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit :

Now therefore, I, Henry William Frederick Albert, Duke of Gloucester, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday the sixth day of November One thousand nine hundred and forty-six as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of two o'clock p.m. on the said sixth day of November One thousand nine hundred and forty-six.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia aforesaid this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six and in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Royal Highness's Command,

J. B. CHIFLEY,  
Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

6th November, 1916.

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S DEPUTY BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

HONORABLE MEMBERS,

The Deputy of His Royal Highness the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament requests the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

His Royal Highness the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting me his Deputy to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows :—

*His Royal Highness HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, Duke of Gloucester, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Great Master and First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, General in the Army, Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force, one of His Majesty's Personal Aides-de-Camp, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them :

Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the twenty-third day of October, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the twenty-fourth day of October One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, the sixth day of November One thousand nine hundred and forty six was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the Building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of two o'clock p.m. on the said sixth day of November One thousand nine hundred and forty-six :

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, Duke of Gloucester, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputy for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this fourth day of (L.S.) November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, and in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

HENRY,  
Governor-General.

By His Royal Highness's Command,

J. B. CHIFLEY,  
Prime Minister.

The Deputy then said :—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that as soon as Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Royal Highness calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Members of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker : and thereafter you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Royal Highness, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

I will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honourable Members of that House,

6th November, 1946.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows :

*His Royal Highness HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, Duke of Gloucester, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Great Master and First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, General in the Army, Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force, one of His Majesty's Personal Aides-de-Camp, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :*

To the Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, Duke of Gloucester, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday the sixth day of November, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six at two o'clock p.m., there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, and in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

HENRY,  
Governor-General.

By His Royal Highness's Command,

J. B. CHIFLEY,  
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 74 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 28th September, 1946, which he had received from the Official Secretary to His Royal Highness the Governor-General, and announced that the return to the Writ for the election of a Member for the Northern Territory had not yet been received by him.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following had been elected, as shown hereunder :

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide ..	South Australia	Cyril Chambers.
Balaclava ..	Victoria ..	Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat ..	Victoria ..	Reginald Thomas Pollard.
Barker ..	South Australia	Archie Galbraith Cameron.
Barton ..	New South Wales	Herbert Vere Evatt.
Bass ..	Tasmania ..	Herbert Claude Barnard.
Batman ..	Victoria ..	Frank Brennan.
Bendigo ..	Victoria ..	George James Rankin.
Boothby ..	South Australia	Thomas Neil Sheehy.
Bourke ..	Victoria ..	Doris Amelia Blackburn.
Brisbane ..	Queensland ..	George Lawson.
Calare ..	New South Wales	John Brooke Howse.
Capricornia ..	Queensland ..	Charles William Davidson.
Cook ..	New South Wales	Thomas Sheehan.
Corangamite ..	Victoria ..	Allan McKenzie McDonald.
Corio ..	Victoria ..	John Johnstone Dedman.
Cowper ..	New South Wales	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Dalley ..	New South Wales	John Solomon Rosevear.
Darling ..	New South Wales	Joseph James Clark.
Darling Downs ..	Queensland ..	Arthur William Fadden.
Darwin ..	Tasmania ..	Enid Muriel Lyons.
Deakin ..	Victoria ..	William Joseph Hutchinson.
Denison ..	Tasmania ..	John Francis Gaha.

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Division.	State.	Name.
East Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. Edward John Ward.
Eden-Monaro ..	New South Wales	.. Allan Duncan Fraser.
Fawkner ..	Victoria ..	.. Harold Edward Holt.
Flinders ..	Victoria ..	.. Rupert Sumner Ryan.
Forrest ..	Western Australia	.. Nelson Lemmon.
Franklin ..	Tasmania ..	.. Charles William Jackson Falkinder.
Fremantle ..	Western Australia	.. Kim Edward Beazley.
Gippsland ..	Victoria ..	.. George James Bowden.
Grey ..	South Australia	.. Edgar Hughes Deg Russell.
Griffith ..	Queensland ..	.. William Patrick Conelan.
Gwydir ..	New South Wales	.. William James Scully.
Henty ..	Victoria ..	.. Henry Baynton Somer Gullett.
Herbert ..	Queensland ..	.. William Frederick Edmonds.
Hindmarsh ..	South Australia	.. Albert Victor Thompson.
Hume ..	New South Wales	.. Arthur Neiberding Fuller.
Hunter ..	New South Wales	.. Rowland James.
Indi ..	Victoria ..	.. John McEwen.
Kalgoorlie ..	Western Australia	.. Herbert Victor Johnson.
Kennedy ..	Queensland ..	.. William James Frederick Riordan.
Kooyong ..	Victoria ..	.. Robert Gordon Menzies.
Lang ..	New South Wales	.. Daniel Mulcahy.
Lilley ..	Queensland ..	.. James William Hadley.
Macquarie ..	New South Wales	.. Joseph Benedict Chifley.
Maranoa ..	Queensland ..	.. Charles Frederick Adermann.
Maribyrnong ..	Victoria ..	.. Arthur Samuel Drakeford.
Martin ..	New South Wales	.. Frederick Michael Daly.
Melbourne ..	Victoria ..	.. Arthur Augustus Calwell.
Melbourne Ports	Victoria ..	.. Edward James Holloway.
Moreton ..	Queensland ..	.. Josiah Francis.
Newcastle ..	New South Wales	.. David Oliver Watkins.
New England ..	New South Wales	.. Joseph Palmer Abbott.
North Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. William Morris Hughes.
Parkes ..	New South Wales	.. Leslie Clement Haylen.
Parramatta ..	New South Wales	.. Oliver Howard Beale.
Perth ..	Western Australia	.. Thomas Patrick Burke.
Reid ..	New South Wales	.. John Thomas Lang.
Richmond ..	New South Wales	.. Hubert Lawrence Anthony.
Riverina ..	New South Wales	.. Joseph Ignatius Langtry.
Robertson ..	New South Wales	.. Thomas Francis Williams.
Swan ..	Western Australia	.. Leonard William Hamilton.
Wakefield ..	South Australia	.. Philip Albert McBride.
Wannon ..	Victoria ..	.. Donald McLeod.
Warringah ..	New South Wales	.. Percy Claude Spender.
Watson ..	New South Wales	.. Sydney Max Falstein.
Wentworth ..	New South Wales	.. Eric John Harrison.
Werriva ..	New South Wales	.. Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney ..	New South Wales	.. William Paul O'Connor.
Wide Bay ..	Queensland ..	.. Bernard Henry Corser.
Wilmot ..	Tasmania ..	.. Gilbert William Arthur Duthie.
Wimmera ..	Victoria ..	.. Winton George Turnbull.
Yarra ..	Victoria ..	.. James Henry Scullin.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.— The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. Lawson (who was not then present), and Mr. Cameron, who made and subscribed an Affirmation according to law.  
The Commissioner retired
6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.— Mr. Mulcahy, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. John Solomon Rosevear, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Hadley.  
Mr. Rosevear informed the House that he accepted nomination.  
Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition), addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. Allan McKenzie McDonald, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Fadden.

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Mr. McDonald informed the House that he accepted nomination.

There being no further proposal—

Debate ensued.

*Closure.*—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the question be now put.

The Clerk thereupon put the question—That the question be now put.

The House divided—

Ayes, 44.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Johnson
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lang
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Burke	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Calwell	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Chifley	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Clark	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Conclan	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Daly	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Russell
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Scully
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Sheehy
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Ward
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Gaha	Mr. Williams
Mr. Hadley	
Mr. Haylen	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Fuller
Mr. James	Mr. Sheehan

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Mr. Abbott	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Adermann	Mr. McBride
Mr. Anthony	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Beale	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Spender
Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Harrison	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Holt	
Mr. Howse	Mr. Corser
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Hutchinson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The House accordingly proceeded to ballot; and the ballot being concluded, the Clerk reported the result, as follows:—

Mr. Rosevear	.. .. .	44 votes.
Mr. McDonald	.. .. .	29 votes.

Mr. Rosevear was thereupon declared elected as Speaker, and Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. Hadley conducted him to the Chair.

Mr. Rosevear returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Mr. Chifley, Mr. Menzies and Mr. Fadden congratulated Mr. Speaker.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Royal Highness's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament.

Mr. Speaker thereupon went with the Members of the House to attend His Royal Highness; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Royal Highness the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Royal Highness had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

8. MESSAGE FROM HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Royal Highness the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Royal Highness:—And having returned—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Royal Highness the Governor-General the following Commission:—

*His Royal Highness* HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, *Duke of Gloucester, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, Knight of the Most Illustrious Order of Saint Patrick, Great Master and First or Principal Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, General in the Army, Air Chief Marshal in the Royal Air Force, one of His Majesty's Personal Aides-de-Camp, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia:*

To the Honourable JOHN SOLOMON ROSEVEAR, M.P., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

6th November, 1946.

## GREETING :

WHEREAS by section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT, Duke of Gloucester, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth, at Canberra, to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the said House of Representatives.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, and in the tenth year of His Majesty's reign.

HENRY,  
Governor-General.

By His Royal Highness's Command,

J. B. CHIFLEY,  
Prime Minister.

10. FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) announced that, on the 1st November, a new Ministry was formed constituted as follows :—

Prime Minister and Treasurer .. .. .	Mr. Chifley.
Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs .. .. .	Mr. Evatt.
Minister for Labour and National Service .. .. .	Mr. Holloway.
Minister for Air and Minister for Civil Aviation .. .. .	Mr. Drakeford.
Vice-President of the Executive Council .. .. .	Mr. Scully.
Minister for Supply and Shipping .. .. .	Senator Ashley.
Minister for Defence, Minister for Post-war Reconstruction and Minister in charge of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research .. .. .	Mr. Dedman.
Minister for Transport and Minister for External Territories .. .. .	Mr. Ward.
Postmaster-General .. .. .	Senator Cameron.
Minister for Information and Minister for Immigration .. .. .	Mr. Calwell.
Minister for the Interior .. .. .	Mr. Johnson.
Minister for Health and Minister for Social Services .. .. .	Senator McKenna.
Minister for Commerce and Agriculture .. .. .	Mr. Pollard.
Minister for Works and Housing .. .. .	Mr. Lemmon.
Minister for Munitions .. .. .	Senator Armstrong.
Minister for the Army .. .. .	Mr. Chambers.
Minister for Trade and Customs .. .. .	Senator Courtice.
Minister for the Navy .. .. .	Mr. Riordan.
Minister for Repatriation .. .. .	Mr. Barnard.

Mr. Chifley informed the House that Senator McKenna will assist Mr. Evatt in administering the office of Attorney-General and that Mr. Lemmon will assist the Treasurer in that office.

Senate Ministers will be represented in the House of Representatives as follows :—

Mr. Holloway will represent the Minister for Health and Minister for Social Services ;  
Mr. Dedman will represent the Minister for Supply and Shipping and the Minister for Munitions ;  
Mr. Calwell will represent the Postmaster-General ; and  
Mr. Pollard will represent the Minister for Trade and Customs.

Ministers in the House of Representatives will be represented in the Senate as follows :—

Senator Ashley will represent the Prime Minister and Treasurer, the Minister for Labour and National Service and the Minister for Defence ;  
Senator McKenna will represent the Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs, the Minister for Post-war Reconstruction and Minister in charge of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the Minister for the Navy ;  
Senator Cameron will represent the Minister for Air and Minister for Civil Aviation and the Minister for Repatriation ;  
Senator Armstrong will represent the Minister for Transport and Minister for External Territories, the Minister for Immigration and Minister for Information and the Minister for Works and Housing ; and  
Senator Courtice will represent the Minister for the Interior, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture and the Minister for the Army.

Mr. Chifley also announced that the Department of Aircraft Production had been abolished and that the functions previously carried out by that Department would now be the responsibility of the Department of Munitions.

11. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Menzies informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Harrison had been appointed Deputy Leader.

12. LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. Fadden informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Australian Country Party, and that Mr. McEwen had been appointed Deputy Leader.

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13. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL 1946.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1941*.  
 Question—put and passed.  
 Mr. Chifley 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.
14. HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Royal Highness the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Royal Highness was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had received a copy, which read as follows :—

## MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

1. When last I addressed you, I expressed the hope that my period of office would see the termination of hostilities in Europe and in the Pacific.

2. Victory has come to us, through the valour of the armed forces of the United Nations and the efforts of the people at home. We have enjoyed little more than a year free of war and this Eighteenth Parliament is the first to assemble in peace-time since 1937. I rejoice that war has ended and I hope that men and women everywhere may have the opportunity to live in a better and freer world in the future.

3. I deeply regret that this is the last occasion on which I shall have the privilege of addressing the Parliament of Australia as your Governor-General.

Because of the impending departure of The King to the Union of South Africa, His Majesty and His Advisers have deemed it expedient that I should return before the end of January next to assume duties of State in London. Accordingly I am planning to leave Australia early in the New Year. To have remained in Australia for a longer period would have given both the Duchess and myself great pleasure.

In approximately two years, we have visited many parts of this great Commonwealth and have met many thousands of people in all walks of life.

I say good-bye with gratitude for the kindness and courtesy which has been extended to the Duchess and myself and our two sons.

May happiness and prosperity be your lot in the years which lie ahead.

4. Future defence policy will be governed by the forces to be placed at the disposal of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, including regional arrangements in the Pacific; the forces to be maintained by Australia under arrangements for co-operation in Empire defence; and the forces to be maintained by Australia to provide for self-defence.

5. My Government intends that the organization and strength of the post-war defence forces will proceed on a basis that recognizes that Australia will make a larger contribution towards the defence of the British Commonwealth. It is my Government's view that this could best be done in the Pacific, and that the approach to a common scheme of defence for this area should be by agreement between the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, British Commonwealth plans being related to those of the United States, and other nations with possessions in this area. An arrangement with the United States Government for the joint use of bases in the Pacific on the principle of reciprocity would be welcomed by my Government, and discussions have been proceeding towards this end.

6. During the discussion of machinery for co-operation in Empire defence at the conference of Prime Ministers last April, the Australian Government proposed that there should be assigned to Australia the function of developing the defence aspect of matters relating to regional security in the Pacific in which the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand are concerned, with provision for overseas representation on the Australian machinery. Corresponding provision would also be necessary for Dominion representation on the parallel machinery of the United Kingdom. Action is now being organized along these lines.

7. The whole question of post-war defence policy is affected by the impact of scientific development on the types of weapons and armament for the various services. As a first step, my Government has approved of the creation of scientific and technical bodies to maintain the closest liaison for Empire Co-operation in research, design, development and production of munitions and aircraft.

8. In the meantime, Australia's defence effort will be the maintenance of the strength and organization necessary with existing weapons: to provide for commitments in the interim period for the Australian component of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan, and for forces on the mainland for administrative and maintenance purposes, as well as to provide a basis for carrying forward the organization of the peace-time forces.

9. My Government will make full and adequate provision for post-war defence. The size of each service will be determined by the blending of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Supply services in a balanced scheme which provides in the most effective manner for our self-defence, for our co-operation in Empire and regional defence, and for the fulfilment of our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations.

10. In its international policy, my Government has given, and will continue to give, unwavering support to the United Nations Organization and its related organizations, and to the principles and purposes declared both in the Atlantic Charter and the United Nations Charter. The Australian Government has consistently endeavoured to assist in establishing a just and lasting peace based on those principles.

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11. Australia has taken an active part in trying to prevent the exercise of the veto power in all cases where the Security Council is dealing with international disputes and situations by the process of peaceful adjustment.

12. In accordance with the same democratic principle, the Australian Government is maintaining that the international system of the control and development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes shall be universal in its character and operation, and not subject to any rule or exception, immunity, privilege or veto in favour of any nation.

13. It is also a basic part of the Government's policy to take an active part in all measures aimed at international and economic welfare, full employment and a higher standard of living throughout the world and also at encouraging the political and economic development of dependent peoples.

14. In accordance with the above principles, Australia and New Zealand have convened a conference of Governments with interests in the South-West Pacific, which will meet in Canberra early next year to establish a permanent South Seas Regional Advisory Commission. The Governments which will be represented at the conference include the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France and the Netherlands.

15. Legislation will be introduced to submit for the approval of Parliament the draft constitution of the World Health Organization and also the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

16. Having made a substantial military contribution to victory, the Australian Government will continue to contribute towards a just and democratic peace in relation to our enemies in Europe. At the same time, the peace in relation to Japan is of primary and supreme importance to the Australian people. Through its membership of the Far Eastern Commission and its representation on the Allied Council for Japan, the Government has endeavoured to make Allied policy towards occupied Japan fit into the broad objective for building Japan into a democratic and peace-loving nation. My Government believes that in relation to Japan the procedure of peace-making adopted at the Paris Conference requires variation so that no preliminary draft of the treaty should be undertaken without the full participation of the representatives of Australia.

17. In accordance with the principles of the Australian-New Zealand Agreement, the Government has maintained continuous consultation with the New Zealand Government on all matters of common concern to the two countries in relation to the promotion of security and welfare in the South and South-Western Pacific. This is in addition to the closest consultation which Australia maintains with all other nations of the British Commonwealth, especially with the United Kingdom.

18. Following the conclusion of the final peace agreement with Siam, which was negotiated by Australia as a party principal, the Government has been concerned to secure the full protection of Australian interests in Siam. An Australian Consulate-General has been established at Bangkok.

19. The Government's greatly increased responsibilities in foreign affairs have resulted in a steadily expanding foreign service. The present and future requirements for expert personnel on foreign service are receiving close attention.

20. As a part of British Commonwealth defence policy, Australia will undertake an important role in defence production and supply. Steps will be taken to establish a Defence Production Commission which will be responsible for the production activities of the Commonwealth.

21. The proposed commission will be the executive body to carry out heavy responsibilities which, in war-time, devolved upon separate departments such as the Supply Department, the Shipping Department, the Munitions Department, the Department of Aircraft Production and the Department of Post-war Reconstruction (Secondary Industries Division).

22. My Government's demobilization plans have been carried through with marked success and men and women from the services and from war occupations have been re-absorbed into civil industry so smoothly that full employment prevails practically everywhere. My Government will employ every means to preserve this fortunate situation. It believes that full employment is essential to an increase in production of wealth and its fair distribution to the lifting of cultural standards and to the heightening of an active, progressive spirit in the community.

23. The Budget will be presented to Parliament early in the session. It will provide for the necessary defence and post-war charges with which the country is faced and for the development of peace-time services.

24. Following receipt of the report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, legislation will be introduced to provide for the payment of grants under Section 96 of the Constitution to the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

25. An agreement to avoid double taxation and to facilitate the obtaining of double tax credits has recently been concluded and signed by representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia. The agreement is designed to come into force when action has been taken in both countries to give it the force of law. My Government will accordingly introduce the necessary legislation as soon as possible.

26. The maintenance of economic stability in Australia has always been a first concern of my Government and I repeat my Government's determination expressed when last I spoke to you to ensure that, after the war, economic policy would be directed to ensuring that all available resources were employed in ways that contributed most effectively to raising standards of living, developing productive capacity, and to making adequate provision for defence.

27. The National Security Act will expire on 31st December next. My Government is determined to maintain firm control of prices, interest rates and land values, and also of other economic factors so far as is necessary to preserve the economic balance and an equitable sharing of scarce commodities. My Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive measure continuing for a time safeguards developed under the National Security Act to preserve a stabilized economy.



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28. For some time, my Government has been giving consideration to the financial relationships of the Commonwealth with the States. My Government has agreed with the States that a Committee of Commonwealth and State officers shall report on the subject to a conference of Commonwealth and State Ministers during the current financial year.

29. Australia has sent a delegation to conferences on trade and employment that have been held in London, and are being continued in the international sphere. My Government has constantly emphasized the importance of international arrangements aimed at the maintenance of the highest level of employment. Australia's presence at these conferences in no way implies an obligation to reduce or eliminate any particular margin of preference which Australia is, at present, in a position to receive or grant.

30. My Government is desirous of securing greater and more continuous production and it intends to do everything possible to eliminate causes of industrial discontent. To that end, my Government will continue its endeavours to establish improved amenities and working conditions in all workshops and factories.

31. The claim for a shorter working week is now before the Commonwealth Arbitration Court and the Government is using its best efforts to have the hearing expedited.

32. It is my Government's intention to set up as early as possible a committee, including representatives of both parties in industry, to inquire into and report upon aspects of the basic wage. The setting up of this committee will not preclude earlier consideration by the court of any application that may be made relating to the amount of the basic wage or the principles upon which it is determined or varied.

33. Legislation is now being prepared, and will be submitted to Parliament in due course, to redraft the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act; it will be designed to expedite, simplify and make less expensive approaches to industrial tribunals and to encourage conciliation in relation to industrial disputes.

34. My Government has been in consultation with the Government of New South Wales regarding the personnel of the joint authority to be appointed in terms of the Coal Industry Act and an announcement will be made in due course. My Government is very hopeful that the operation of the new Act will materially assist towards better production in the coal industry, which is so vital to Australia's economy and to its future progress and development.

35. My Government will introduce legislation, at the appropriate time, to establish a statutory body, similar to the Stevedoring Industry Commission, for the peace-time control of waterside operations.

36. My Government proposes to submit legislation for the appointment of a permanent Australian shipping authority.

37. My Government intends to bring forward an amendment of the Seamen's Compensation Act so as to bring that measure in conformity with the Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act.

38. My Government will take an early opportunity to review the activities and future of the Maritime Industry Commission.

39. In pursuance of its policy in relation to aviation, my Government will continue to take all possible steps to ensure that adequate Australian services are conducted with the highest degree of efficiency and safety.

40. It has always been my Government's desire to stabilize all forms of primary production and a bill was passed during the life of the last Parliament to achieve that objective for the wheat industry. My Government trusts that the State Governments will not delay in passing complementary legislation in regard to this important matter.

41. Conditions abroad are favorable to Australia's trade. There is, at present, a famine demand for some of the main exportable commodities and this will continue for some time yet. My Government, however, is taking long-term considerations into account and is endeavouring to provide for stable returns to producers in later periods when the demand and prices fall.

42. Following the recent grant to the Commonwealth of increased powers in the fields of social services and health, my Government will take early steps to place beyond doubt the validity of some portions of existing social service legislation; to consider other desirable social services; to proceed with its plans for social security; and to negotiate reciprocity in social services with other parts of the Empire.

43. My Government is already conferring with the States to devise a complete national medical scheme which will embrace the provision of clinical, pathological, X-ray, specialist, research, pharmaceutical, dental and hospital benefits throughout Australia, and which will be initiated as soon as possible.

44. It is the intention of my Government to explore the possibility of fuller collaboration with the States for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis.

45. My Government is to be represented at a conference of experts from various members of the British Commonwealth of Nations to be held in London in January next at which a number of matters affecting nationality legislation will be discussed.

46. My Government has completed arrangements with the States under which accelerated construction of houses is being undertaken to overtake the housing shortage which was greatly intensified by the war.

47. The States have joined with the Commonwealth in the National Works Council in promoting projects estimated to cost more than £200,000,000. This represents the greatest plan for national development in the history of the Commonwealth.

48. The Postal Department will soon be in a position to supply a wide range of improved facilities, in particular to outback areas.

49. Certain of the States have joined with my Government in an agreement to bring about the unification of railway gauges.

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50. I feel that Australia is on the threshold of great developments, both as a partner in the British Commonwealth and in the international sphere. My Government is confident that opportunities for great expansion are available in this country and asks that all Australian men and women shall play their part. The same unstinted devotion to the nation's interests as marked the efforts put forward during the war will contribute greatly to building Australia into a still greater nation.

51. In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

15. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Duthie, Mr. Edmonds and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Royal Highness the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report at the next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

16. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes to four o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow 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. Lawson.

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