

1946-47.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 34.

TUESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1947.

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. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Turnbull 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 claim of ex-prisoners-of-war to subsistence payments covering the period of their imprisonment in enemy hands".  
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. Turnbull moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Ordered—That Mr. Turnbull be granted an extension of time.  
Debate ensued.  
The debate having been continued for two hours, it was terminated in accordance with Standing Order No. 257B.
3. WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Sir Earle Page, by leave, withdrew Notice of Motion No. 2, General Business, standing in his name.
4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), by leave, made a Financial Statement outlining certain financial proposals of the Government. Mr. Chifley then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—  
Financial Statement by the Right Honorable J. B. Chifley, M.P., Treasurer—  
and moved, That the Paper 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. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—UNITED KINGDOM GRANT BILL 1947.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—  
W. J. McKELL,  
*Governor-General.* *Message No. 18.*  
In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of Twenty-five million pounds as a Grant to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.  
Canberra, 25th March, 1947.  
Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith.  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund the sum of Twenty-five million pounds as a Grant to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

25th March, 1947.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

Mr. Chifley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Chifley and Mr. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

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.

Mr. Chifley moved, 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.

6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
- Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determination by the Arbitrator, &c.—1947—No. 13—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.
  - Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—Commerce and Agriculture—C. G. Setter.
  - Supply and Shipping—H. B. Owen, L. S. Prior, R. F. Thyer, K. H. Zelman.
  - Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1947, No. 35.
  - Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—National Security (Shipping Co-ordination) Regulations—Orders—1947, Nos. 1, 8.
  - Distillation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1947, No. 26.
  - Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1947, No. 28.
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Postal purposes—
    - Moonee Ponds, Victoria.
    - Port Augusta, South Australia.
    - Redfern (Strawberry Hills), New South Wales.
    - Southport, Queensland.
    - Talwood, Queensland.
  - Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1947, Nos. 33, 34.

7. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs), That the Papers [*presented on the 26th February, 1947—see page 85*] be printed—

Debate resumed.

Mr. Evatt was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

8. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AGREEMENTS BILL 1947.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 26.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to approve of Australia becoming a Member of the International Monetary Fund and of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and to make such provisions as are necessary or expedient by reason of the Membership of Australia of the Fund and of the Bank* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 25th March, 1947.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Evatt (Attorney-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fourteen minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Blain, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Howse, Mr. Hughes, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McEwen, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Watkins.

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