

1946-47.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 56.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST MAY, 1947.

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. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILL.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Speaker:—

W. J. McKELL,
Governor-General.

Message No. 23.

A Proposed Law intituled "Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1947" as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Law.

Government House,
Canberra, 20th May, 1947.

3. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Lang 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 necessity for a Joint Parliamentary Committee to investigate Governmental administration, with particular reference to Land Sales Control, Prices, Import Procurement, and Disposals".

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. Lang moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Closure.—Mr. Scully (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the question be now put—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 35.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lawson
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Chambers	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Clark	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Scully
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Ward
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Williams
Mr. Gaha	
Mr. Hadley	
Mr. Haylen	
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. James	

Tellers:

Mr. Fuller
Mr. Sheehan

Noes, 27.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Adermann	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Anthony	Mr. Lang
Mr. Beale	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Bowden	Mr. McBride
Mr. Cameron	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Fadden	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Holt	
Mr. Howse	

Tellers:

Mr. Corser
Mr. McDonald

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and negatived.

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4. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after the Notices of Motion, Government Business.
5. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
6. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS—REFERENCE OF WORK—ERECTION OF REPATRIATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, PERTH.—Mr. Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1936*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, viz. :—The erection of a building in Perth for Repatriation Administrative Offices.
Mr. Lemmon having laid on the Table plans in connexion with the proposed work—
Question—put and passed.
7. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1947.—Mr. Barnard (Minister for Repatriation) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1946*, as amended by the *Commonwealth Public Service Act 1947*, and for other purposes.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Barnard 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.
8. COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS AND WORKS BILL 1947.—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.
Mr. Fadden moved, as an amendment, That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—"the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to provide for—
(1) a period of ten years instead of three, during which the schedule shall operate ;
(2) the sum of five million pounds to recoup shire councils and provincial and local authorities for damage caused to roads during the war ;
(3) an allocation of an amount of threepence a gallon from the petrol tax for roads in shires and country municipalities, and
(4) the total amount of customs duties and excise received from petrol used for the purpose of civil aviation to be devoted to the establishment and development of country aerodromes".
Debate continued.
Speaker's Ruling.—Mr. Speaker ruled the amendment out of order as it infringed the financial initiative of the Crown not only because it would increase the amount of the appropriation but also because it would vary and extend the objects and purposes expressed in the Bill founded upon the resolution agreed to by the Committee of the whole House.
Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 debated and agreed to.

Clause 6 debated—

Mr. Corser moved, as an amendment, That after "authorities" (page 3, line 14) the words "airfields, boat havens, wharves and roads connecting them to established roads" be inserted.

Chairman's Ruling.—The Chairman (Mr. Clark) ruled the amendment out of order on the ground that it would vary the appropriation.

Debate continued.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 7 debated and agreed to.

Clause 8 debated and agreed to.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Ward (Minister for Transport), the House adopted the Report, and (the Standing Orders having previously been suspended, *see* page 124), the Bill was read a third time.

9. ALIENS BILL 1947.—The Order of the Day having been read for the third reading—Mr. Calwell (Minister for Immigration) moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a third time.

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10. SERVICES TRUST FUNDS BILL 1947.—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.

Mr. White 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.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five 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. Burke, Mr. Daly, Mr. Drakeford, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Riordan, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Spender.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.