

1946-47.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 109.

THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 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. COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. McEwen be discharged from attendance on the Committee of Privileges, and that, in his place, Mr. Abbott be appointed a member of the Committee.  
Question—put and passed.
3. DOLLAR SITUATION—STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) laid upon the Table, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, the following Paper :—  
Dollar Situation—Statement by Prime Minister, together with Appendices—  
and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Mr. Abbott addressing the House—  
*Closure of Member.*—Mr. Clark moved, That the honorable Member be not further heard.  
Question—put.  
The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 36.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lawson
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Burke	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Chambers	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Clark	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Russell
Mr. Daly	Mr. Scully
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Ward
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Williams
Mr. Haylen	
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. James	Mr. Fuller
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Sheehan

Noes, 20.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. McBride
Mr. Adermann	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Beale	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Hamilton	Mr. White
Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Holt	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Howse	Mr. Corser
Mr. Lang	Mr. McDonald

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Sheehan 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 a later hour this day.

4. WHEAT POSITION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the world position in relation to wheat for the year 1948. Australia's record wheat crop, and the future of the wheat industry in Australia.

F.6632.

4th December, 1947.

5. 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. 64.

A Proposed Law intituled "*Sugar Agreement 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, 3rd December, 1947.

6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL (No. 2) 1947.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 99.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1946', as amended by the 'Commonwealth Public Service Act 1947' and by the 'Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1947'*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 3rd December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

7. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Postmaster-General's Department—Thirty-sixth Annual Report, for year 1945-46.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Bank Act—Appointment—J. Dyer.  
Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act, Maternity Allowance Act, Child Endowment Act, Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act, Widows' Pensions Act—Fifth and Sixth Annual Reports of the Director-General of Social Services for years 1945-46 and 1946-47 respectively.

8. REPATRIATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, PERTH—APPROVAL OF WORK.—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*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works and on which the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its investigations:—The erection of a building in Perth for Repatriation Administrative Offices.  
Question—put and passed.

9. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.

10. AIR NAVIGATION BILL (No. 2) 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.

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.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Civil Aviation), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRLINES 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—  
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.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 11 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Civil Aviation), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

4th December, 1947.

12. INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION 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.  
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.

(In the Committee.)

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehy reported accordingly.  
On the motion of Mr. Holloway (Minister for Labour and National Service), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

13. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—CONSTITUTION ALTERATION (RENTS AND PRICES) BILL 1947.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 100.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to alter the Constitution by empowering the Parliament to make Laws with respect to Rents and Prices (including Charges)* ” and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

14. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—QUARANTINE BILL (No. 2) 1947. —Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 102.

The Senate has passed a Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Quarantine Act 1908-1924 ’, as amended by the ‘ Quarantine Act 1947 ’* ”, and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

Mr. Holloway (Minister representing the Minister for Health) moved. That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Mr. Holloway moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.  
Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehy reported accordingly.  
On the motion of Mr. Holloway, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

15. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION BILL 1947.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 101.

The Senate has passed a Bill for “ *An Act to Approve of Australia’s becoming a Member of the World Health Organization and for other purposes* ”, and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

Mr. Holloway (Minister representing the Minister for Health) moved, That the Bill transmitted by the foregoing Message be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Mr. Holloway moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.  
Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehy reported accordingly.  
On the motion of Mr. Holloway, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

4th December, 1947.

16. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Tariff Board—Report—Fuel Injection Equipment.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1947, No. 162.

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1947—

No. 101—Commonwealth Temporary Clerks' Association and Federated Clerks' Union of Australia.

No. 102—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.

Nos. 103 and 104—Hospital Employees' Federation of Australasia.

No. 105—Commonwealth Legal Professional Officers' Association.

Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments—Department of the Interior—G. H. N. Smith, N. L. G. Williams.

Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—National Security (Rationing) Regulations—Order—No. 151.

Papua-New Guinea Provisional Administration Act—Ordinance—1947—No. 12—Australian Lutheran Mission Property.

17. COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Hutchinson be discharged from attendance on the Committee of Privileges, and that, in his place, Mr. Spender be appointed a member of the Committee.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

18. DOLLAR SITUATION—STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER—PRINTING OF PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister), That the Paper [*presented this day*], viz. :—

Dollar Situation—Statement by Prime Minister, together with Appendices—  
be printed—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.

*Suspension of Sitting.*—At sixteen minutes to nine o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of Sitting.*—At twenty-three minutes to ten o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

19. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Egg Export Control Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 103.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act relating to the Export of Eggs*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

[*Egg Export Charges Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 104.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to impose Charges upon the Export of Eggs*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

[*Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 105.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the 'Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act 1946' and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

[*Treaty of Peace (Italy) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 106.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the Treaty of Peace with Italy, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

[*Treaty of Peace (Roumania) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 107.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the Treaty of Peace with Roumania, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Treaty of Peace (Hungary) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 108.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the Treaty of Peace with Hungary, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Treaty of Peace (Finland) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 109.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the Treaty of Peace with Finland, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Treaty of Peace (Bulgaria) Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 110.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the Treaty of Peace with Bulgaria, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Commonwealth Public Service Bill (No. 2) 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 111.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the Law regulating the Public Service*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Beer Excise Bill (No. 2) 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 112.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Beer Excise Act 1901–1928’, as amended by the ‘Beer Excise Act 1947’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Distillation Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 113.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Distillation Act 1901–1934’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Spirits Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 114.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Spirits Act 1906–1935’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

4th December, 1947.

[*Excise Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 115.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Excise Act 1901–1942’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Air Navigation Bill (No. 2) 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 116.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Air Navigation Act 1920–1936’*, as amended by the ‘*Air Navigation Act 1947’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*Australian National Airlines Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 117.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Australian National Airlines Act 1945’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

[*International Labour Organisation Bill 1947*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 118.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve the amended Constitution of the International Labour Organisation*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 4th December, 1947.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

20. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Question—put and passed.

21. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes to ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by Resolution of the House at this sitting.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Dedman, Mr. Evatt\*, Mr. Francis, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Hutchinson, Dame Enid Lyons, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Scullin and Mr. Spender.

\* On leave.

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