

1948.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 2.

THURSDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER, 1948.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Clark) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Hughes presented a Petition from certain members of the Dee Why and North Sydney Branches of the Original Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association of Australia, praying that the Parliament will set up a competent tribunal to determine a pension rate to be adjusted quarterly in accordance with the cost of living, and that the operation of the means test be discontinued.
Petition received and read.
3. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.
Question—put and passed.
4. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr. Evatt and Senator Armstrong, Senator McKenna would act as Attorney-General, he would act as Minister for External Affairs, and Mr. Riordan would act as Minister for Supply and Development. Mr. Holloway would represent the Acting Attorney-General in the House of Representatives.
5. TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.—The following Warrant, nominating Temporary Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to Standing Order No. 25, was laid upon the Table by Mr. Deputy Speaker :—

The Parliament of the Commonwealth.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order numbered 25, I do hereby nominate—

The Honorable Joseph Palmer Abbott,
 George James Bowden, Esquire,
 Henry Baynton Somer Gullett, Esquire,
 James William Hadley, Esquire,
 William Joseph Hutchinson, Esquire,
 The Honorable Hubert Peter Lazzarini,
 Daniel Mulcahy, Esquire,
 George James Rankin, Esquire,
 Rupert Sumner Ryan, Esquire,
 Thomas Sheehan, Esquire,
 Thomas Neil Sheehy, Esquire, and
 David Oliver Watkins, Esquire,

to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees when requested so to do by the Deputy Chairman of Committees.

Given under my hand this second day of September, One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight.

J. J. CLARK,
 Deputy Speaker.

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6. MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER—TEMPORARY RELIEF.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That, during the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker be authorized to call upon any of the Temporary Chairmen of Committees to relieve him temporarily in the Chair.
Question—put and passed.
7. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Postmaster-General's Department—Thirty-seventh Annual Report, for year 1946-47.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
Defence purposes—Brighton, South Australia.
Department of Civil Aviation purposes—Mascot, New South Wales.
Postal purposes—
Glen Osmond, South Australia.
Palm Beach, New South Wales.
National Debt Sinking Fund Act—National Debt Commission—Twenty-fifth Annual Report, for year 1947-48.

8. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Thompson brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed at the previous sitting, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows :—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. Thompson moved, That the Address be agreed to.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That Mr. Harrison (Acting Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.

Mr. Lang moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the Address :—

“and to inform Your Excellency that, because the Communist Party, as an agency of a foreign power, admits it owes no allegiance to the Commonwealth of Australia, and because its avowed objective is the overthrow of constitutional government in Australia, with force if necessary, this House is of the opinion that your advisers should be asked to take the following action to deal with the grave emergency rapidly developing within the nation to threaten its security :—

- (a) The Communist Party and its auxiliaries should be declared illegal organizations and necessary legislation should be submitted to this Parliament to deal with them as treasonable agencies ;
- (b) No Communist should be employed by the Commonwealth in any position involving the security of this country ;
- (c) The appointments of all Communists on Government boards and agencies should be terminated immediately ;
- (d) All newspaper and newsprint licences of the Communist Party and its auxiliaries should be withdrawn, and the despatch of its publications through the Post Office should be prohibited ;
- (e) All premises occupied by Communist organizations (including Marx House, Sydney) should be declared illegal premises, and all telephone facilities should be withdrawn by the Postmaster-General ;
- (f) Legislation based on the New South Wales Consorting Act should be introduced, making it illegal for members of the Communist Party to consort together ;
- (g) That the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act should be amended to make it an offence for any registered trade union to pay any of its funds into any Communist Party organization ”.

Debate continued.

Mr. Harrison moved, That Mr. Spender be granted an extension of time.

Question—put.

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

Ayes, 21.

Mr. Abbott	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Adermann	Mr. McBride
Mr. Anthony	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Spender
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Francis	
Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Corser
Mr. Lang	Mr. McDonald

Tellers:

Noes, 30.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Burke	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Calwell	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Daly	Mr. Russell
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Ward
Mr. Hadley	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Williams
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. Johnson	
Mr. Langtry	
Mr. Lawson	

Tellers:

Mr. Fuller
Mr. Sheehan

And so it was negatived.

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Debate continued.

Mr. Williams 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beale, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Blain, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Holt, Mr. Howse, Mr. James, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Mulcahy, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Rosevear, Mr. Scullin and Mr. Sheehy.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.