

1948.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 8.

WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1948.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Clark) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITION.—Mr. Spender (for Mr. Howse) presented a Petition from certain members of the Orange and Wellington 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. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING—REPORTS.—  
Mr. Watkins, Vice-Chairman, brought up the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Broadcasting.  
Severally ordered to be printed.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Town Gas Production from—  
    (a) Leigh Creek and Moorlands Coal by Luigi Pressure Gasification and  
    (b) Victorian Brown Coal—  
    Reports by Dr. F. S. W. Danulat and Mr. E. A. Bruggemann.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1948—  
    No. 62.—Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Department of Trade and Customs of Australia.  
    No. 63.—Australian Journalists' Association.  
Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—  
    External Affairs—K. R. Douglas-Scott, J. C. Ingram, H. G. Marshall, C. Nelson, P. H. O'Connor, J. E. Thomson.  
    Interior—J. G. Cocks, G. C. Dalton, D. A. Hamilton.  
    Social Services—J. A. Thwaites.  
    Works and Housing—E. C. Gardiner.  
Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—National Security (Industrial Property) Regulations—  
    Orders—Inventions and designs (36).  
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—  
    Department of Civil Aviation purposes—Kingscote, South Australia.  
    Postal purposes—Arthur's Seat, Victoria.  
Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Crown  
    Lands Ordinance—Reasons for resumption of reservation of the Bagot Aboriginal Reserve.

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5. ORDER OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That, unless otherwise ordered, Government Business shall, on each day of sitting, have precedence of all other Business, except on that Thursday on which, under the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the question is put "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair". On such Thursday General Business shall have precedence of Government Business until nine o'clock p.m.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
6. SOCIAL SERVICES CONSOLIDATION BILL 1948.—Mr. Holloway (Minister representing the Minister for Social Services) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, and for other purposes.  
Question—put and passed.
7. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1948.—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 1920-1947*, and for other purposes.  
Question—put and passed.
8. INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATION BILL 1948.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to approve the Acceptance by Australia of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Havana Charter for an International Trade Organization, and for other purposes.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
9. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION BILL 1948.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act 1930-1944*, and for other purposes.  
Question—put and passed.
10. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—UNITED KINGDOM GRANT BILL 1948.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Deputy Speaker :—

W. J. McKELL,  
*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 8.*

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 Ten million pounds as a Grant to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Canberra, 15th September, 1948.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith.

Mr. Deputy 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 Ten million pounds as a Grant to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehan 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. Dedman 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. Spender 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.

*Suspension of Sitting.*—At twenty-five minutes past four o'clock p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of Sitting.*—At eight o'clock p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

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11. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY.—Mr. Deputy Speaker reported that accompanied by honorable Members, he had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech on the Opening of the Second Session of the Eighteenth Parliament, agreed to by the House on the 9th September, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply:—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER,

I desire to thank you for the Address in Reply which you have just presented to me.

It will afford me much pleasure to convey to His Most Gracious Majesty The King, the Message of Loyalty from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, to which the Address gives expression.

12. SUPPLY—BUDGET DEBATE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 1.—Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances .. .. . £12,000

be agreed to.

Mr. Harrison (Acting Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That the first item be reduced by £1.

*Suspension of Standing Orders.*—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Harrison from concluding his speech without interruption.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Sheehan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Holloway (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten 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. Anthony, Mr. Beale, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Holt, Mr. Howse, Mr. James, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Rosevear, Mr. Scullin, Mr. Sheehy and Mr. Williams.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.