

1948.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 36.

THURSDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 1948.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Clark) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments—Postmaster-General's Department—
G. F. Addison, J. F. M. Bryant, G. F. Flanagan, J. Irwin-Bellette, R. D. Slade, G. R. Thompson.
3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING AND SESSIONAL ORDERS—PRECEDENCE TO WANT OF CONFIDENCE MOTION.—
Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing and Sessional Orders be suspended as would prevent the Notice of Motion (Want of Confidence in the Government) taking precedence of all other Business until disposed of.
Question—put and passed.
4. WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Harrison (Acting Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in view of—
 - (1) the publication in newspapers both in Australia and overseas over the past four months of allegations that the United States Government has refused or is reluctant to make available secret information regarding atomic energy and other methods of modern warfare because of the alleged inefficiency of security in Australia, and of the serious public disquiet arising therefrom and the Government's failure to take effective steps to allay this disquiet or to reassure the public mind on such grave charges ;
 - (2) the refusal of the Government to admit or deny the following allegations made in this House and elsewhere—
 - (a) that the Prime Minister in July of this year informed the British Cabinet whilst he was in the United Kingdom that he understood the United States authorities were reluctant to communicate specially secret information about the progress of research and developments on atomic energy, and
 - (b) that the Minister for Defence, in the same month, informed the Executive Committee of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research that the American authorities had made it quite clear that they would not communicate to the United Kingdom Government any information unless it was certain that the same would not be passed on to Australia ;
 - (3) the conduct of the Government, through responsible Ministers in giving inaccurate and misleading information to this House and to the country in relation to each of the above-mentioned allegations ; and
 - (4) the failure of the Government to take any effective steps whatsoever to combat the general menace of Communistic and subversive activities in the country, as a result of which top-secret information from the United States of America vital to the welfare and security of the Australian people, including information relating to bacteriological warfare and methods to combat it, has been or is in grave danger of being withheld,

the Government is deserving of the censure of this House.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That Mr. Fadden be granted extensions of time (2).

Ordered—That Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

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Ordered—That Mr. Calwell (Minister for Information) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

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

Question—put.

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

Ayes, 22.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Adermann	Mr. McBride
Mr. Anthony	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Beale	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Spender
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Fadden	Mr. White
Mr. Falkinder	
Mr. Francis	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Corser
Mr. Harrison	Mr. McDonald

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Mr. Barnard	Mr. Lang
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Langtry
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Lawson
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. Edmonds	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Williams
Mr. Fraser	
Mr. Hadley	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Fuller
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Johnson	

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Beazley addressing the House—

Closure.—Mr. Blain moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—was put accordingly, and negatived.

5. SUPPLY ["GRIEVANCE DAY"].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—

Question—That Mr. Deputy Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and negatived.

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

6. WHEAT INDUSTRY STABILIZATION BILL 1948.—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.

Ordered—That Mr. Scully (Vice-President of the Executive Council) be granted an extension of time.

Ordered—That Mr. Turnbull be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr. Duthie 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.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Pollard (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at nine minutes past eleven 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. Evatt*, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Holt*, Mr. Howse*, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. James*, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Menzies*, Mr. Mulcahy*, Mr. Rosevear*, Mr. Scullin* and Mr. Sheehy*.

* On leave.

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