

1948-49.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 67.

FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1949.

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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Supply and Development—
E. R. Smith.

Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—

National Security (Industrial Property) Regulations—Orders—Inventions and designs (14).

National Security (Prices) Regulations—Order—No. 3420.

Order—Control of new commercial motor vehicles and Control of new motor cars—Repeal.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Postal purposes—Mt. Gravatt, Queensland.

Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 9.

Stevedoring Industry Act—Orders—1949, Nos. 1-3.

Whaling Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 10.

3. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, ST. KILDA, VICTORIA.—Mr. Johnson (Minister for the Interior), for Mr. Lemmon (Minister for Works and Housing), moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1947*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, namely:—Building for an Automatic Telephone Exchange at St. Kilda, Victoria.

Mr. Johnson laid on the Table plans in connexion with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4. NEW GUINEA TIMBER RIGHTS COMMISSION BILL 1949.—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 by Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) who proposed to move, 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That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"the Bill be withdrawn until such time as the terms of reference of the Royal Commission are amended to provide for inquiry into and report upon the following additional matters—

(1) (a) Whether the Honorable Edward John Ward has obtained or assisted in obtaining any contract, concession or benefit for Sydney Pincombe Pty. Limited.

(b) The circumstances associated with the appointment of William Urquhart to that Company.

(c) The conduct by the said William Urquhart of his position as Man-power Officer at Newtown and Glebe and his financial affairs including the operation of his various bank accounts since that time.

(d) Whether there was anything improper in the circumstances of the association between the Minister and the said William Urquhart.

(2) The circumstances associated with the disappearance of Ainslie Aubyn Kingsford, and whether there is any connexion between his disappearance and the matters within the scope of the inquiry".

Speaker's Ruling.—Mr. Speaker ruled that the proposed amendment would not be in order as it was not relevant to the order of leave given for the introduction of the Bill.

Debate continued.

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

Question—That the question be now put—put.

25th February, 1949.

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

Ayes, 28.		Noes, 21.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Holloway	Mr. Abbott	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Lang
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Anthony	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Calwell	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Davidson	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Chifley	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Daly	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully	Mr. Harrison	Mr. Corser
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Holt	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Duthie	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Hadley	Mr. Sheehan		
Mr. Haylen			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

And the question—That the Bill be now read a second time—was put accordingly, 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.

Preamble debated—

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

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

And the question—That the Preamble be the Preamble of the Bill—was put accordingly, and passed.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Sheehan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister), the House adopted the Report.

Mr. Chifley asked leave to move, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Objection being raised, leave not granted.

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.

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

Ayes, 28.		Noes, 21.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Holloway	Mr. Abbott	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Lang
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Anthony	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Calwell	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Davidson	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Chifley	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Daly	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully	Mr. Harrison	Mr. Corser
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Holt	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Duthie	<i>Tellers:</i>	Mr. Hughes	
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Hadley	Mr. Sheehan		
Mr. Haylen			

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Chifley moved, That the Bill be now read a third time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a third time.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at five minutes to one o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beale, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Burke, Mr. Clark, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Gaha, Mr. James, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Lemmon, Mr. McBride, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Russell, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Scullin, Mr. Sheehy, Mr. Spender, Mr. Ward, Mr. Watkins, Mr. White and Mr. Williams.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.