

1948-49.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 127.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 1949.

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, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
 - Tariff Board—Reports—
 - Mercury Contact Tubes (Interim report).
 - Mercury Contact Tubes.
 - Spectacle Frames, Lenses and Cases : Spectacles.
 Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
 The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - National Fitness Act—Commonwealth Council for National Fitness—Report of Eleventh Session, May, 1949.
3. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
 Question—put and passed.
4. SEWERAGE INSTALLATION AT ALICE SPRINGS—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 1913-1947*, 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 results of its investigations, namely :—Sewerage installation at Alice Springs.
 Question—put and passed.
5. LABORATORY BUILDING AT GEELONG, VICTORIA, FOR WOOL TEXTILE RESEARCH—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 1913-1947*, 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 results of its investigations, namely :—The erection of a Laboratory Building at Geelong, Victoria, for Wool Textile Research.
 Question—put and passed.
6. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—EXTENSIONS TO THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE, SYDNEY.—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 :—Extensions to School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Sydney, New South Wales.
 Mr. Lemmon having laid on the Table plans in connexion with the proposed work—
 Question—put and passed.

12th October, 1949.

7. DEFENCE (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1949.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act 1946–1948*, and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Dedman 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.

Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

8. DEFENCE BILL 1949.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Act 1903–1948*, and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Dedman 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. Dedman moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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. NAVAL DEFENCE BILL 1949.—Mr. Riordan (Minister for the Navy) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Naval Defence Act 1910–1948*.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Riordan 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. Riordan moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—REPRESENTATION BILL 1949.—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. 66.

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 amend the *Representation Act 1948*.

Canberra, 10th October, 1949.

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. Johnson (Minister for the Interior) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend the *Representation Act 1948*.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Burke reported accordingly.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Johnson, by leave, was adopted by the House.

11. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES 1949–50.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(*In the Committee.*)

Vote—"Department of External Territories, £78,000"—

Vote—"Department of Immigration, £613,000"—
considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At fifteen minutes to one o'clock p.m., the Deputy Chairman (Mr. Burke) having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—"Department of Labour and National Service, £1,396,000"—

Vote—"Department of Transport, £149,000"—

Vote—"Department of Information, £339,000"—

Vote—"Department of Post-war Reconstruction, £848,000"—

Vote—"Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, £1,942,000"—
considered together.

Votes debated.

Member named and suspended.—The Temporary Chairman (Mr. Lazzarini) named the honorable Member for Wide Bay (Mr. Corser) for disregarding the authority of the Chair.

Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, That the honorable Member for Wide Bay be suspended from the service of the Committee.

Question—put.

12th October, 1949.

The Committee divided (The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Lazzarini, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 31.		Noes, 20.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Abbott	Mr. McBride
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Burke	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Calwell	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Corser	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chifley	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Daly	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy	Mr. Hughes	Mr. Davidson
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Thompson	Dame Enid Lyons	Mr. Falkinder
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Gaha			
Mr. Hadley	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Haylen			
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The Temporary Chairman forthwith suspended the proceedings of the Committee.

The House resumed.

The Temporary Chairman of Committees (Mr. Lazzarini) reported the circumstance to the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker thereupon put the question—That the honorable Member for Wide Bay (Mr. Corser) be suspended from the service of the House.

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

Ayes, 33.		Noes, 20.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Abbott	Mr. McBride
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Burke	Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Chambers	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Corser	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Conelan	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Daly	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Scully	Mr. Hughes	Mr. Davidson
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Sheehy	Dame Enid Lyons	Mr. Falkinder
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Thompson		
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Gaha			
Mr. Hadley	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Haylen			
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The honorable Member was, therefore, under Standing Order No. 59, suspended for the remainder of the day's sitting, and he accordingly withdrew from the Chamber.

Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Vote—"Department of Labour and National Service, £1,396,000"—

Vote—"Department of Transport, £149,000"—

Vote—"Department of Information, £339,000"—

Vote—"Department of Post-war Reconstruction, £848,000"—

Vote—"Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, £1,942,000"—
further considered.

Mr. McEwen proposing to raise a question of Privilege—

Temporary Chairman's Ruling.—The Temporary Chairman (Mr. Lazzarini) ruled that a question of Privilege could not be raised in Committee.

Limitation of Debate.—At half-past four o'clock p.m., the Temporary Chairman (Mr. Lazzarini) having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put.

12th October, 1949.

The Committee divided (The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Lazzarini, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 34.		Noes, 19.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Holloway	Mr. Abbott	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Burke	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Chifley	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Clark	Mr. Mulcahy	Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Conelan	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Daly	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Riordan	Dame Enid Lyons	Mr. Davidson
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Scully	Mr. McBride	Mr. Falkinder
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Sheehy		
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Thompson		
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Falstein			
Mr. Gaha	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Hadley	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Dedman moved, That the Temporary Chairman do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question—put.

The Committee divided (The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Lazzarini, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 33.		Noes, 19.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Holloway	Mr. Abbott	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Burke	Mr. Langtry	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Chifley	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Clark	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Daly	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully	Dame Enid Lyons	Mr. Davidson
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy	Mr. McBride	Mr. Falkinder
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Thompson		
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Evatt			
Mr. Falstein			
Mr. Gaha	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Hadley	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

The House resumed; Mr. Lazzarini reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

12. WAYS AND MEANS—CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (No. 3).—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Pollard (Minister representing the Minister for Trade and Customs) moved—

CUSTOMS TARIFF AMENDMENT (No. 3).

1.—(1.) That the Governor-General may, from time to time, by proclamation declare that the rates of duty set out in the column headed "British Preferential Tariff" in the Schedule to the *Customs Tariff 1933-1948*, as proposed to be amended by Customs Tariff Proposals introduced into the House of Representatives on the seventh day of September, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine and by these Proposals, shall apply to such goods as are specified in the proclamation as are the produce or manufacture of a British country, being a British non-self-governing colony or a part of the King's dominions which was on the fifteenth day of October, One thousand nine hundred and forty-six, a British non-self-governing colony, specified in that proclamation in relation to those goods, and thereupon the British Preferential Tariff shall apply to the goods so specified as are the produce or manufacture of the British country so specified.

(2.) That a proclamation issued in pursuance of the last preceding sub-paragraph may be revoked or varied by a further proclamation, and upon the revocation or variation of a proclamation so issued, the British Preferential Tariff shall cease to apply to the goods specified in the proclamation so revoked, or as the case may be, the application of the British Preferential Tariff to the goods specified in the proclamation so varied, shall be varied accordingly.

12th October, 1949.

(3.) That nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to authorize the application of the rate of duty set out in the column headed "British Preferential Tariff" in respect of Item 52 (A) to any bananas the produce of any British country other than Fiji.

(4.) That, in this paragraph—

"British non-self-governing colony" include British Protectorates, the Trust Territory of Tanganyika and so much of the Trust Territories of the Cameroons and Togoland as is administered by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom ;

"proclamation" mean a proclamation by the Governor-General, or the person for the time being administering the Government of the Commonwealth, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*.

2. That the Schedule to the *Customs Tariff* 1933-1948, as proposed to be amended by Customs Tariff Proposals introduced into the House of Representatives on the seventh day of September, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine, be further amended as hereinafter set out, and that on and after the thirteenth day of October, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, reckoned according to standard time in the Australian Capital Territory, Duties of Customs be collected in pursuance of the *Customs Tariff* 1933-1948 as so amended.

IMPORT DUTIES.

Tariff Items.	British Preferential Tariff.	Intermediate Tariff.	General Tariff.
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DIVISION VIII.—EARTHENWARE, CEMENT, CHINA, GLASS, AND STONE.

244. By omitting the whole of sub-item (B) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— " (B) Bifocal and multifocal lenses (including fused shapes for further manufacture into bifocal and multifocal lenses, whether ground or unground, polished or unpolished), and single-vision lenses ad val.	10 per cent.	32½ per cent.	37½ per cent."
By omitting the whole of sub-item (c) and inserting in its stead the following sub-item :— " (c) Lenses, edged, for spectacles, except bifocal lenses ad val.	10 per cent.	25 per cent.	30 per cent."

DIVISION XI.—JEWELLERY AND FANCY GOODS.

321. By omitting the whole item and inserting in its stead the following item :— " 321. (A) Spectacles, spectacle frames, sunglasses, and goggles— (1) Wholly or partly of gold or silver (not being included in paragraph (2)) - - - ad val.	15 per cent.	42½ per cent.	47½ per cent.
(2) Rolled-gold, gold-filled, gold-cased, gold-plated or gilt, including the articles named when fitted with pads bridges or knuckles of gold ad val.	15 per cent.	32½ per cent.	37½ per cent.
(3) N.E.I. - - - ad val.	15 per cent.	32½ per cent.	37½ per cent.
(B) Magnifying and reading glasses, not being spectacles— (1) Wholly or partly of gold or silver (not being included in paragraph (2)) - - - ad val.	Free	27½ per cent.	32½ per cent.
(2) N.E.I., including rolled-gold, gold-filled, gold-cased, gold-plated or gilt - - - ad val.	Free	17½ per cent.	22½ per cent."

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Lazzarini reported accordingly.

Mr. Pollard moved, That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

12th October, 1949.

13. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES 1949-50.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Defence Services—

Vote—"Department of Defence, £315,000"—

Vote—"Department of the Navy, £13,077,000"—

Vote—"Department of the Army, £14,104,000"—

Vote—"Department of Air, £11,166,000"—

Vote—"Department of Supply and Development, £5,575,000"—
considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At nine o'clock p.m., the Deputy Chairman (Mr. Burke) having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—"Miscellaneous Services, £12,573,000"—

Vote—"Refunds of Revenue, £12,000,000"—

Vote—"Advance to the Treasurer, £10,000,000"—

Vote—"War (1914-18) Services, £1,691,000"—

Vote—"War (1939-45) Services, £5,951,000"—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) addressing the Committee—

Closure of Member moved.—Mr. White moved, That the honorable Member be not further heard.

Question—put.

The Committee divided (The Temporary Chairman, Mr. Sheehy, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 13.

Mr. Anthony
Mr. Fadden
Mr. Francis
Mr. Gullett
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Harrison
Mr. McEwen
Mr. MenziesMr. Ryan
Mr. Turnbull
Mr. White*Tellers:*Mr. Davidson
Mr. Falkinder

Noes, 30.

Mr. Barnard
Mr. Beazley
Mr. Burke
Mr. Calwell
Mr. Chambers
Mr. Chifley
Mr. Conelan
Mr. Daly
Mr. Dedman
Mr. Drakeford
Mr. Edmonds
Mr. Evatt
Mr. Haylen
Mr. Holloway
Mr. Johnson
Mr. LangtryMr. Lawson
Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Lemmon
Mr. McLeod
Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Pollard
Mr. Riordan
Mr. Scully
Mr. Thompson
Mr. Ward
Mr. Williams*Tellers:*Mr. Fuller
Mr. Sheehan

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Limitation of Debate.—At half-past ten o'clock p.m., the Temporary Chairman (Mr. Sheehy) having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Sheehy reported accordingly.

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

14. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Tariff Board—Report—Cotton Growing Industry.
Ordered to lie on the Table.

15. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—REPRESENTATION BILL 1949.—Mr. Deputy Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER,

Message No. 99.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "An Act to amend the 'Representation Act 1948'", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 12th October, 1949.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

12th October, 1949.

And then the House, at seventeen 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. Beale, Mr. Bowden, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Holt, Mr. Howse, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. James, Mr. McDonald, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Rosevear, Mr. Russell, Mr. Scullin, Mr. Spender and Mr. Watkins.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.