

1950.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 1.

FIRST SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT.

WEDNESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1950.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday, the twenty-second day of February, in the fourteenth year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Sixth, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the dispatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Frank Clifton Green, M.C., Clerk of the House of Representatives, Albert Allan Tregear, Clerk-Assistant, Alan George Turner, Second Clerk-Assistant, and Norman James Parkes, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk :—

PROCLAMATION.

Commonwealth of Australia to wit. By His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.
W. J. McKELL
Governor-General.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things provided that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit :

Now therefore, I, William John McKell, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution do by this my Proclamation appoint Wednesday the twenty-second day of February One thousand nine hundred and fifty as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at the hour of ten-thirty a.m. on the said twenty-second day of February One thousand nine hundred and fifty.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia this twenty-fourth day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty and in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,
ROBERT G. MENZIES
Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

22nd February, 1950.

2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTY BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

HONORABLE MEMBERS,

The Deputy of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament requests the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows :—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

His Excellency the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting me his Deputy to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows :—

His Excellency the Right Honourable WILLIAM JOHN MCKELI, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary to assign to him or them :

Provided always that the appointment of such Deputy or Deputies should not affect the exercise by the Governor-General himself of any power or function :

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the twenty-fourth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the twenty-sixth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, the twenty-second day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs : and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the Building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning on the said twenty-second day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty :

NOW KNOW YOU that in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, WILLIAM JOHN MCKELL, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputy for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, and in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

W. J. MCKELL,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,
Prime Minister.

The Deputy then said :—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

I have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that after certain Members of the Senate and the Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place ; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Members of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker ; and later this day you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency, at such time and place as he shall appoint.

I will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honourable Members of that House.

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And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. COMMISSIONER TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows:—

His Excellency the Right Honourable WILLIAM JOHN MCKELL, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia :

To the Right Honourable Sir John Greig Latham, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution :

NOW THEREFORE I, WILLIAM JOHN MCKELL, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you to attend at Parliament House, Canberra, on Wednesday the twenty-second day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning and there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, and in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

W. J. MCKELL,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES,
Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 123 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on 10th December, 1949, which he had received from the Official Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following had been elected, as shown hereunder:—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide	South Australia	Cyril Chambers.
Angas	South Australia	Alexander Russell Downer.
Australian Capital Territory	Lewis Windermere Nott.
Balaclava	Victoria	Thomas Walter White.
Ballaarat	Victoria	Alan Crocker Pittard.
Banks	New South Wales	Dominic Eric Costa.
Barker	South Australia	Archie Galbraith Cameron.
Barton	New South Wales	Herbert Vere Evatt.
Bass	Tasmania	Bruce Huntley Kekwick.
Batman	Victoria	Alan Charles Bird.
Bendigo	Victoria	Percy James Clarey.
Bennelong	New South Wales	John Oscar Cramer.
Blaxland	New South Wales	Eli James Harrison.
Boothby	South Australia	John McLeay.
Bowman	Queensland.. ..	Malcolm Llewellyn McColm.
Bradfield	New South Wales	William Morris Hughes.
Brisbane	Queensland.. ..	George Lawson.
Burke	Victoria	Edward William Peters.
Calare	New South Wales	John Brooke Howse
Canning	Western Australia	Leonard William Hamilton.
Capricornia	Queensland.. ..	Henry George Pearce.
Chisholm	Victoria	Wilfred Selwyn Kent Hughes.
Cook	New South Wales	Thomas Sheehan.
Corangamite	Victoria	Allan McKenzie McDonald.
Corio	Victoria	Hubert Ferdinand Opperman.
Cowper	New South Wales	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Cunningham	New South Wales	William Davies.
Curtin	Western Australia	Paul Meernaa Caedwalla Hasluck.
Dalley	New South Wales	John Solomon Rosevear.
Darebin	Victoria	Thomas William Andrews.
Darling	New South Wales	Joseph James Clark.
Darling Downs	Queensland.. ..	Reginald William Colin Swartz.
Darwin	Tasmania	Enid Muriel Lyons.
Dawson	Queensland.. ..	Charles William Davidson.
Deakin	Victoria	Francis John Davis.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Denison	Tasmania	Athol Gordon Townley.
East Sydney	New South Wales	Edward John Ward.
Eden-Monaro	New South Wales	Allan Duncan Fraser.
Evans	New South Wales	Frederick Meares Osborne.
Farrer	New South Wales	David Eric Fairbairn.
Fawkner	Victoria	William Meskill Bourke.
Fisher	Queensland	Charles Frederick Adermann.
Flinders	Victoria	Rupert Sumner Ryan.
Forrest	Western Australia	Gordon Freeth.
Franklin	Tasmania	Charles William Jackson Falkinder.
Fremantle	Western Australia	Kim Edward Beazley.
Gellibrand	Victoria	John Michael Mullens.
Gippsland	Victoria	George James Bowden.
Grayndler	New South Wales	Frederick Michael Daly.
Grey	South Australia	Edgar Hughes Deg Russell.
Griffith	Queensland	Douglas Reginald Berry.
Gwydir	New South Wales	Thomas John Treloar.
Henty	Victoria	Henry Baynton Somer Gullett.
Herbert	Queensland	William Frederick Edmonds.
Higgins	Victoria	Harold Edward Holt.
Higinbotham	Victoria	Thomas Frank Timson.
Hindmarsh	South Australia	Clyde Robert Cameron.
Hoddle	Victoria	John Lawrence Cremean.
Hume	New South Wales	Charles Groves Wright Anderson.
Hunter	New South Wales	Rowland James.
Indi	Victoria	William Dowling Bostock.
Isaacs	Victoria	William Crawford Haworth.
Kalgoorlie	Western Australia	Herbert Victor Johnson.
Kennedy	Queensland	William James Frederick Riordan.
Kingsford-Smith	New South Wales	Gordon Anderson.
Kingston	South Australia	Herbert Harry Handby.
Kooyong	Victoria	Robert Gordon Menzies.
Lalor	Victoria	Reginald Thomas Pollard.
Lang	New South Wales	Daniel Mulcahy.
La Trobe	Victoria	Richard Gardiner Casey.
Lawson	New South Wales	Laurence John Failes.
Leichhardt	Queensland	Thomas Vernon Gilmore.
Lilley	Queensland	Bruce McDonald Wight.
Lowe	New South Wales	William McMahon.
Lyne	New South Wales	Eldred James Eggins.
Macarthur	New South Wales	Henry Jefferson Bate.
Mackellar	New South Wales	William Charles Wentworth.
Macquarie	New South Wales	Joseph Benedict Chifley.
Mallee	Victoria	Winton George Turnbull.
Maranoa	Queensland	Charles Wilfred Russell.
Maribyrnong	Victoria	Arthur Samuel Drakeford.
Martin	New South Wales	William Paul O'Connor.
McMillan	Victoria	Geoffrey William Brown.
McPherson	Queensland	Arthur William Fadden.
Melbourne	Victoria	Arthur Augustus Calwell.
Melbourne Ports	Victoria	Edward James Holloway.
Mitchell	New South Wales	Roy Crawford Wheeler.
Moore	Western Australia	Hugh Alan Leslie
Moreton	Queensland	Josiah Francis.
Murray	Victoria	John McEwen.
Newcastle	New South Wales	David Oliver Watkins.
New England	New South Wales	David Henry Drummond.
Northern Territory	John Norman Nelson
North Sydney	New South Wales	William Mathers Jack.
Oxley	Queensland	Donald Alastair Cameron.
Parkes	New South Wales	Leslie Clement Haylen.
Parramatta	New South Wales	Oliver Howard Beale.
Paterson	New South Wales	Allen Fairhall.
Perth	Western Australia	Thomas Patrick Burke.
Petrie	Queensland	Alan Shallcross Hulme.
Phillip	New South Wales	Joseph Francis Fitzgerald.
Port Adelaide	South Australia	Albert Victor Thompson.
Reid	New South Wales	Charles Albert Aaron Morgan.
Richmond	New South Wales	Hubert Lawrence Anthony.
Riverina	New South Wales	Hugh Stevenson Robertson.
Robertson	New South Wales	Roger Levinge Dean.
Ryan	Queensland	Edward Nigel Drury.
Shortland	New South Wales	Charles Edward Griffiths.
St. George	New South Wales	Bruce William Graham.

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Division.	State.	Name.
Sturt	South Australia ..	Keith Cameron Wilson.
Swan	Western Australia ..	William Leonard Grayden.
Wakefield	South Australia ..	Philip Albert Martin McBride.
Wannon	Victoria	Ewen Daniel Mackinnon.
Warringah	New South Wales ..	Percy Claude Spender.
Watson	New South Wales ..	Daniel James Curtin.
Wentworth	New South Wales ..	Eric John Harrison.
Werriwa	New South Wales ..	Hubert Peter Lazzarini.
West Sydney	New South Wales ..	Daniel Minogue.
Wide Bay	Queensland	Bernard Henry Corser.
Wills	Victoria	William George Bryson.
Wilmot	Tasmania	Gilbert William Arthur Duthie.
Wimmera	Victoria	William Robert Lawrence.
Yarra	Victoria	Standish Keon.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. A. G. Cameron, who made and subscribed an Affirmation according to law.

The Commissioner retired.

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. McDonald, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. Archie Galbraith Cameron, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Bowden.

Mr. Cameron informed the House that he accepted nomination.

There being no further proposal, Mr. Cameron was declared elected as Speaker, and Mr. McDonald and Mr. Bowden conducted him to the Chair.

Mr. Cameron returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), Mr. Chifley (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. Rosevear congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) stated that he had already ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at twenty-four minutes to three o'clock p.m.

And the sitting of the House having been suspended until twenty-seven minutes to three o'clock p.m.—Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

8. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—

9. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission :—

His Excellency the Right Honourable WILLIAM JOHN MCKELL, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia:

To the Honourable ARCHIE GALBRAITH CAMERON, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

GREETING :

WHEREAS by section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution : NOW THEREFORE I, WILLIAM JOHN MCKELL, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these presents command and authorize you from time to time in the Parliament House of the Commonwealth, at Canberra, to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the House of Representatives.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this twenty-second day of (L.S.) February, in the year of our Lord, One thousand nine hundred and fifty, and in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign.

W. J. MCKELL,
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
ROBERT G. MENZIES,
Prime Minister.

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10. FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) announced to the House the names of the Ministers constituting the Commonwealth Ministry as follows:—

Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, K.C., M.P.	..	Prime Minister.
Rt. Hon. A. W. Fadden, M.P.	..	Treasurer.
Hon. Eric J. Harrison, M.P.	..	Minister for Defence and Minister for Post-war Reconstruction.
Hon. H. E. Holt, M.P.	..	Minister for Labour and National Service and Minister for Immigration.
Hon. J. McEwen, M.P.	..	Minister for Commerce and Agriculture.
Hon. P. C. Spender, K.C., M.P.	..	Minister for External Affairs and Minister for External Territories.
Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C., M.P.	..	Minister for Supply and Development and Minister for Works and Housing.
Hon. P. A. M. McBride, M.P.	..	Minister for the Interior.
Rt. Hon. Sir Earle C. G. Page, G.C.M.G., C.H., M.P.	..	Minister for Health.
Senator the Hon. N. O'Sullivan	..	Minister for Trade and Customs.
Senator the Hon. G. McLeay	..	Minister for Shipping and Fuel.
Hon. T. W. White, D.F.C., V.D., M.P.	..	Minister for Air and Minister for Civil Aviation.
Hon. H. L. Anthony, M.P.	..	Postmaster-General.
Hon. J. Francis, M.P.	..	Minister for the Army and Minister for the Navy.
Senator the Hon. J. A. Spicer, K.C.	..	Attorney-General.
Hon. Dame Enid M. Lyons, G.B.E., M.P.	..	Vice-President of the Executive Council.
Senator the Hon. W. H. Spooner	..	Minister for Social Services.
Senator the Hon. W. J. Cooper, M.B.E.	..	Minister for Repatriation.
Hon. Howard Beale, M.P.	..	Minister for Information and Minister for Transport.

Mr. Menzies further announced that Senate Ministers will be represented in the House as follows:—

Minister for Trade and Customs	..	Mr. Harrison.
Minister for Shipping and Fuel	..	Mr. Anthony.
Attorney-General	..	Mr. Menzies.
Minister for Social Services	..	Mr. Holt.
Minister for Repatriation	..	Mr. Francis.

Mr. Menzies informed the House that the following had been appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretaries:—

Mr. C. W. J. Falkinder, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P.
Mr. L. W. Hamilton, M.P.
Mr. J. B. Howse, M.P.

11. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Chifley informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Evatt had been appointed Deputy Leader.

12. LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. Fadden informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Australian Country Party, and that Mr. McEwen had been appointed Deputy Leader.

13. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE—CHANGES OF STAFF.—Mr. Speaker announced with regret, the death, since the last meeting of the previous Parliament, of Mr. S. F. Chubb, Second Clerk-Assistant, and informed the House that, consequent on that officer's death, the following changes had been made in regard to the officers in attendance in the Chamber:—

Mr. A. G. Turner to be Second Clerk-Assistant.
Mr. N. J. Parkes to be Serjeant-at-Arms.

14. ACTS INTERPRETATION BILL 1950.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1948*.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Menzies 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.

15. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had received a copy, which read as follows:—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

When last I addressed you, I indicated that His Majesty, accompanied by Her Majesty and the Princess Margaret, would visit Australia in 1949. Unhappily, this did not prove possible, His Majesty being stricken by an illness which rendered necessary prolonged rest and treatment.

This misfortune evoked widespread expressions of concern and sympathy. More than this, it served as a reminder to all of us that the King is not only a symbol of our British association but also a sincerely respected and deeply loved leader of our people.

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My Government had hoped that, with a gratifying recovery in His Majesty's health, the Royal visit might have been arranged for 1951, the year of the Jubilee of the foundation of the Commonwealth of Australia. Unfortunately, for weighty reasons which have already been made public, this has not proved possible. We are all, however, confidently hoping that Their Majesties will be able to visit us in 1952. They may be assured of a loving welcome from our loyal and British community.

The foreign affairs policy of my Government will be the subject of an early statement to Parliament by the Minister for External Affairs. It is also proposed to establish a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs to give opportunities for full study and to serve as a source of information to Parliament.

The strategic distribution of the man-power and material resources of the British Commonwealth, and the intensive development of Australia as a vital area in the Pacific, are of cardinal importance to the future of the British Commonwealth and Australia. My Government's policies for defence, immigration and development are designed to contribute in the most effective manner to the achievement of these objectives.

My advisers base their defence policy on the acceptance by Australia of its full share in co-ordinated British Empire schemes of defence, and on the closest co-operation with the United States of America.

Active steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of the Navy. Training of officers and men of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve was resumed on 1st January after having been suspended during the war. My advisers are planning its progressive strengthening over the next three years. Besides training ashore, every Reservist will do an annual period of sea training if facilities can be provided.

My Government is concerned about the man-power position of the Services, particularly in the Military Forces. It is considered that steps must be taken to fill all peace-time units and formations and to build up adequate reserves. While the Australian Regular Army will be kept at full strength by voluntary enlistment, my advisers are making preliminary preparations for the introduction of a sensible system of universal training designed to meet the military requirements of Australia with the minimum of interference with our urgent civil production.

It is my Government's intention to develop the strength of the Royal Australian Air Force to an extent more consistent with the defence needs of Australia. Public interest will be stimulated by plans to build up the Citizen Air Force, the Reserve, and the Air Training Corps, and the re-introduction of a Women's Auxiliary Air Force in certain suitable occupations.

To give effect to a policy of industrial preparedness for defence against aggression, my Government will aim at the progressive filling of industrial gaps and the establishment of the most modern techniques and equipment in industry and in Government factories, where required for direct defence needs. The long range weapons project is regarded as of the greatest importance, and this joint undertaking with the United Kingdom Government will continue to receive a high priority.

In view of the urgent need to develop Australia's vast resources and to arrest the movement of rural population to the cities my Government will create a Ministry of National Development. Major programmes of national expansion will be fostered by this Ministry in close and friendly co-operation with the States, and through them with local and regional authorities.

In all developmental plans my advisers will pay attention to the importance of achieving a well-balanced pattern of decentralization. Capital expenditure, both public and private, will be required on a scale very much greater than in the past. My Government has under preparation a great loan scheme for this purpose. This scheme will not interfere with the carrying out of the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme, to which my advisers attach great importance, and in the carrying out of which they hope to secure the statutory and administrative co-operation of the States concerned.

My advisers are also giving attention to the much needed increasing of our supplies of basic materials such as coal, steel, and building materials. Among other things now being actively investigated are the development of mechanization, improved methods of coal extraction generally, and the encouragement of high output and stable employment, with a programme of importation pending the achievement of the necessary volume of local production.

In view of the importance of expanding and facilitating industrial development, Commonwealth legislation relating to patents and trade marks will be reviewed and brought up to date.

My Government proposes to bring in a Bill to provide for an alteration to the Constitution. The object of the Bill will be to ensure that, in future, no measure giving to the Government or its instrumentalities, to the exclusion of others, monopolistic rights to engage in commerce or industry can become law unless it has first been submitted to and approved by the people at a referendum.

My advisers intend taking strong measures to protect the community against the activities of subversive organizations and individuals, and in particular they have in mind the Communist Party and its members. A Bill will be introduced early in the Parliament to deal with this matter.

Australia's external financial position is strong. With the continuance of good seasons and high prices our export income has reached record levels. As a result, substantial sterling balances have been built up in London, and, as overseas availability improves, these balances will be useful for the financing of imports essential to our developmental programme.

However, like most countries outside North America, Australia is suffering from a shortage of dollars. My Government is making a thorough review of Australia's dollar problem and is exploring vigorously all measures which may stimulate production, encourage exports to the dollar area, and so increase the supply of dollars available. My advisers are convinced that, whilst a policy of import restrictions on goods from dollar areas is necessary in present circumstances, the major effort should be directed towards increasing the dollar earnings of Australia and the rest of the

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sterling area. My Government realizes that Australia's dollar position cannot be fully considered in isolation from the position of other members of the sterling area and is satisfied that concerted efforts are required on the part of all members of the sterling area if a solution of this difficult problem is to be found.

Because they felt that restrictions upon our capacity to produce and sell goods and to receive and absorb profitably substantial numbers of migrants were most undesirable, my advisers recently announced the termination of petrol rationing.

My Government views with grave concern the increase which has been taking place in recent years in the cost of living. It is realized that the solution of this problem is not easy and calls for the closest co-operation not only as between Commonwealth and State Governments but also between all sections of the community. An intensive review is at present being made by my Government of the causes of present price trends with a view to determining the most effective measures which can be taken to remedy the current inflationary situation.

My Government will introduce legislation to repeal the *Banking Act* 1947 and to amend the *Commonwealth Bank Act* 1945-1948. The amendments to the Commonwealth Bank Act will provide for the establishment under the control of the Parliament of a Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Bank of which the Governor of the Bank will be the Chairman. It will also be provided that any policy issues which are the subject of disagreement between the Government and the Bank Board shall be referred to Parliament.

An important task being undertaken by my Government is a comprehensive review of the taxation laws of the Commonwealth. My advisers believe there is a pressing need, not only for reducing the burden of taxation but also for simplification of the various taxing Acts, and an expert committee has been appointed to examine and report upon the issues involved.

Action is also being taken to review the sales tax law with the object of determining to what extent relief may be granted in that respect. The desirability of providing exemption for goods which affect the cost of living and the value of the pound will receive earnest consideration.

My Government's policy on Civil Aviation will be progressive and constructive. Without creating public or private monopoly the aim is to develop internal and external air routes, so that the widest number of communities may enjoy the advantage of regular air services. Flying doctors will be further aided in their humanitarian work, and Aero and Gliding Clubs receive greater encouragement in their activities.

Immediately upon assumption of office, my Government gave consideration to the many requests which had been received from ex-service men's and women's organizations for a review of pensions and allowances. Such a review is now being made by a Cabinet sub-committee, all Ministers of which are ex-servicemen, and it is the intention to introduce appropriate amendments to the relevant Act as early as possible in the present Session.

My Government is proceeding with the creation of an Independent Cost-Finding Tribunal for our Primary Industries. Where it is necessary to guarantee prices to producers or to enable negotiations of prices for overseas contracts, this tribunal will determine not only the found cost of production but will provide for a reasonable profit margin for efficient production. Pending the setting up of this tribunal and to avoid any unnecessary delays in the announcement of Government policy, arrangements have been made for cost surveys to be continued.

Discussions are continuing in London between representatives of the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia for a Post Joint-Organization Marketing Scheme for Wool. My advisers will examine proposals emanating from these discussions and will confer with Australian woolgrowers' organizations and other interests before determining policy in regard to the future marketing of this important primary product.

Legislation will be introduced early in the Session to provide endowment of 5s. per week for the first or only child, under 16 years of age, in every family.

My Government realizes that the increase in the cost of living is accentuating the difficulties with which age and widow pensioners in particular have to contend. My advisers realize, also, that the present system, under which various benefits are paid subject to a means test, gives rise to problems of which there is no easy solution. My Government, however, is closely investigating the most pressing anomalies to see what can be done to remove them. It believes, moreover, that the application of its financial and economic policy will result in improvement in the purchasing power of the currency, so that pensioners, as well as other fixed income groups, will benefit.

Of vital importance to the general well-being of the people is the question of industrial relations between employer and employee. My Government is convinced that a rapid development of the Commonwealth depends largely on higher levels of production and, with them, higher standards of living, on freedom from industrial disturbances, and on the fullest co-operation of both sides of industry. The Government's responsibility will be to create, not only an atmosphere for the friendly and co-operative enterprise of management and labour, but to continue and develop the research and investigations being made into methods of improving the working environment and problems of human relations in industry.

My advisers intend to review the existing machinery for conciliation and arbitration in the light of its operations since the amending Act of 1947. An investigation is also being made of measures that might be taken to restore to Union members the opportunity to express their views, by democratic methods, in relation to the election of officers and threatened or actual disputes. Steps have been taken to centre in the Department of Labour and National Service responsibility for industrial relations in all their aspects.

My Government is firmly resolved to follow a policy of immigration on a large scale in the years ahead. It will do so with the conviction that immigration is vital to the security and development of Australia. Much has already been done since the end of the war to lay the foundations of a sound and successful immigration policy.

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Immigration has already made a substantial contribution to increasing production in Australia, particularly in the all-important basic industries. Some of the most marked effects can be seen in the production of building materials, including timber, bricks and cement, and in the output of iron and steel.

Many utilities and services which were previously in great need of additional labour are now able to operate more satisfactorily as a result of the placement of migrants. These include hospitals and welfare institutions, transport services and the great development projects. While rural industries have also been aided, it is planned that a bigger proportion of migrant labour, in the future, will be attracted to the land.

My Government attaches special importance to two major objectives in its immigration policy—first, the maintenance over a long period of the total rate of intake at the highest practicable level, and second, to ensuring a high proportion of British migrants in order to retain the fundamental British balance of Australia's population.

On the first point, it is my Government's confident expectation that Australia will receive a total of 200,000 new settlers in 1950 and that thereafter the intake will be maintained at about that level. If this figure can be achieved consistently over a number of years, the Australian population will have increased from its present 8 million to more than 10½ million in 1960.

Administration will be so carried out as to avoid as far as possible the aggregation of alien migrants into groups or colonies. It is believed that a proper distribution of such migrants will accelerate their assimilation into our community and will make it easier for them to accommodate themselves to Australian industrial and social standards. My advisers attach great importance to this matter, because they feel that new arrivals should be encouraged to regard themselves as Australians in the full sense and to realize that our community is delighted to receive them as fellow-citizens.

In this vital task of immigration, my advisers will work in the closest collaboration with State and Overseas Governments, all sections of industry, the Trade Unions, voluntary organizations and persons of goodwill throughout the community.

The crisis of the war and our subsequent growth have enormously expanded our secondary industries. My advisers believe that there must be a thorough review of departmental methods of dealing with the trade problems which developed out of emergency conditions.

It is the intention of my Government to have particular regard to the reports of the Tariff Board in the grant of protective tariffs and in relation to the methods of assistance involving the expenditure of Commonwealth funds.

Due regard will be paid to the defence significance of new industries which became established during these years. Australia's responsibilities in relation to the International Trade Organization and other International commercial organizations will be closely examined and reviewed.

Whilst ever mindful of the importance and necessity of encouraging our secondary industries, my Government will take steps to facilitate and accelerate the importation of commodities not now available here and which are essential to the construction of homes.

My Government will take all possible steps to stimulate the building of homes, including, as a temporary measure, co-operation with the State Governments in the large-scale importation of pre-fabricated houses, as a means of meeting the present serious gap between supply and demand.

Consequent upon a recent decision of the High Court that the *War Service Land Settlement Agreements Act 1945* and the 1945 Agreement on this matter between the Commonwealth and the State of New South Wales are invalid, the means of providing for the restoration of the scheme on a proper legal basis are being pursued. In the meantime there need be no apprehension concerning the scheme generally. Moneys already made available by the Commonwealth for the purpose of War Service Land Settlement will be utilized for expenditure of the same general character as provided in the 1945 Agreement.

A vigorous policy designed to develop the resources of the Northern Territory will be put into operation. Particular attention will be given transport, pastoral development for increased meat production, mining and possible agricultural settlement. Basic research into land, water, mineral, marine and timber resources will be continued. The Darwin town plan will be reviewed in the interests of greater efficiency and economy. My Government will press on with the development of Canberra to the limit of the resources available.

My Government proposes to confer with State Premiers and Ministers for Health in order to bring into being an effective programme in relation to health, medicine and medical research to ensure steady improvements in the standards of medical treatment and progressive provision of modern facilities for the prevention and diagnosis of disease.

My advisers consider that although people are often able to deal with minor illnesses families find real difficulty in meeting heavy, unexpected hospital and medical expenses of severe or long-continued illness. The policy to be followed will aim to bring the cost of modern and improved medical, surgical, obstetrical and hospital treatment within the means of the general public. It is further proposed to provide specific life-saving and disease-preventing drugs, and certain drugs for chronic diseases, free of charge to the public on presentation of a doctor's prescription. Legislation on these matters will be presented to Parliament.

My Government intends to push ahead without delay in the development of postal and telecommunication services in both urban and rural areas in order to give the public greater and improved facilities. The value of television in both entertainment and educational spheres is fully realized and my advisers will see that a system suited to Australian conditions is introduced as quickly as possible.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

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16. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Opperman, Mr. Robertson and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report this day.

Question—put and passed.

17. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—Mr. Bowden moved, That the honorable Member for Fisher (Mr. Adermann) be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House, which motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) and Mr. Chifley (Leader of the Opposition) congratulated Mr. Adermann who made his acknowledgments to the House.

Suspension of Sitting.—At twelve minutes to four o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

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

18. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—
Audit Act—Finance—Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for year 1948-49, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.

Ordered to be printed.

The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Electoral—Referendums—Statistical Returns in relation to the submission to the Electors of a Proposed Law for the Alteration of the Constitution entitled "Constitution Alteration (Rents and Prices) 1947"; together with Summaries of Referendums, 1906-1948.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

19. ELECTION PETITION.—The Clerk laid upon the Table a copy of an Election Petition which he had received from the District Registrar of the High Court, at Sydney, under section 196 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act, viz.:—Petition of Henry William Crittenden against the return of Gordon Anderson as Member for Kingsford-Smith.

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

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 82, 86, 115.

Apple and Pear Organization Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 108, 110.

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations—1949—

No. 80—Federated Clerks' Union of Australia.

No. 81—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association of Australia.

No. 82—Commonwealth Storemen and Packers' Union of Australia.

No. 83—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 84—Postal Overseas' Union of Australia.

Nos. 85 and 86—Australian Journalists' Association.

Nos. 87 and 88—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.

No. 89—Postal Telecommunications Technicians' Association (Australia).

No. 90—Printing Industry Employees' Union of Australia.

No. 91—Australian Third Division Telegraphists and Postal Clerks' Union.

No. 92—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.

No. 93—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 94—Australian Workers' Union.

No. 95—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

No. 96—Customs Officers' Association of Australia, Fourth Division.

No. 97—Fourth Division Postmasters, Postal Clerks and Telegraphists' Union.

No. 98—Federated Clerks' Union of Australia.

No. 99—Australian Third Division Telegraphists and Postal Clerks' Union.

No. 100—Meat Inspectors' Association, Commonwealth Public Service; and others.

No. 101—Meat Inspectors' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.

No. 102—Amalgamated Engineering Union.

No. 103—Association of Officers of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.

No. 104—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia; and others.

No. 105—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.

No. 106—Commonwealth Storemen and Packers' Union of Australia; and Commonwealth Naval Storehousemen's Association.

Bankruptcy Act—Rules—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 100.

Canned Fruits Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 119, 120.

Coal Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 112.

Commonwealth Bank Act—Appointment Certificates—W. C. Bourke, A. S. Hams, A. S. Machin.

Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act—Annual Report by Chief Conciliation Commissioner, dated 15th November, 1949.

Commonwealth Employees' Compensation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 90.

Commonwealth Public Service Act—

Appointments—Department—

Army—W. J. Harrison, A. Watson.

Commerce and Agriculture—A. R. Campbell, W. A. Westerman.

Defence—G. V. Candy, N. G. McNaught, J. M. Steele, R. C. Whitehead.

Health—R. L. Aujard, L. F. Dods, S. A. Mibus, G. Pasquarelli, J. F. Richardson, M. Sendak, T. N. Swindon.

Immigration—W. A. Birtwistle.

Interior—M. R. Irving, J. C. B. Jackson, G. T. Kemp, D. I. Nicholson.

Labour and National Service—C. T. Coyte, E. McDonald.

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- Parliamentary Library—H. J. Gibbney, I. D. Raymond.
 Postmaster-General—P. Freadman.
 Post-war Reconstruction—H. W. Allen, J. R. L. Hocking, L. J. Hume, T. Langford-Smith, G. Rudduck.
 Repatriation—E. B. Ackroyd, L. R. Crouch, B. N. Dawson, B. C. Everard, G. U. Grogan, A. R. Hardy, W. G. Harvey, F. E. Smith.
 Shipping and Fuel—J. Bruce, W. B. Nicholson.
 Supply and Development—P. B. Atkins, R. A. Baddams, H. G. Ball, K. A. Buckley, J. A. Clark, A. K. M. Edwards, C. A. Everingham, J. L. Harvey, J. A. Heath, R. E. Hind, H. J. Lawrence, L. A. Murphy, V. J. Payne, K. R. Vale, B. P. Walpole, E. B. Ware, F. W. Wood, W. F. Yann.
 Treasury—F. W. Huxham, J. P. Kemp, C. R. Morgan, A. D. Taylor.
 Works and Housing—J. Ashton, G. R. O. Davis, L. C. Day, K. S. Eales, R. L. Franklin, G. W. Hughes, R. H. Kennedy, K. G. Lewis, J. P. McCusker, R. R. Middlecoat, S. J. Ryan, B. G. A. Smith, R. W. Smith, S. J. Smith, T. C. H. Tacey, C. O. Tesch, D. B. Vallance, H. M. Wilson, T. C. Wolferstan.
- Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 81, 84, 98.
 Commonwealth Railways Act—By-law No. 88.
 Customs Act—
 Customs Proclamation—No. 764.
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 87, 94, 95, 111, 113.
 Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 107.
 Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 93.
 Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 88, 101, 102, 116.
 Distillation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 97.
 Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 96 (substitute copy).
 Judiciary Act—Rules of Court, dated—
 21st October, 1949 and 21st November, 1949.
 12th December, 1949 (Statutory Rules 1949, No. 122).
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
 Australian Aluminium Production Commission purposes—Bell Bay, Tasmania.
 Defence purposes—
 Forest Hill, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales.
 Learmonth, Western Australia.
 Tolga, Queensland.
 Department of Civil Aviation purposes—
 Essendon, Victoria (2).
 Monto, Queensland.
 Tamworth, New South Wales.
 Department of the Interior purposes—
 Carnarvon, Western Australia.
 Ceduna, South Australia.
 Oodnadatta, South Australia.
 Department of Supply and Development purposes—Fortitude Valley, Queensland.
 Department of Trade and Customs purposes—Morphett Vale, South Australia.
 Overseas Telecommunications Commission purposes—
 Bringelly, New South Wales.
 Eastern Creek, New South Wales.
 Postal purposes—
 Blackburn, Victoria.
 Brookfield, Queensland.
 Busselton, Western Australia.
 Collaroy Beach, New South Wales.
 Deniliquin, New South Wales.
 Dingley, Victoria.
 Edwardstown, South Australia.
 Ferntree Gully, Victoria.
 Flinders Park, South Australia.
 Gardenvale, Victoria.
 Gundagai, New South Wales.
 Gympie, Queensland.
 Heywood, Victoria.
 Hobart, Tasmania.
 Katoomba, New South Wales.
 Laidley, Queensland.
 Newport Beach, New South Wales.
 Nyngan, New South Wales.
 Orange, New South Wales.
 Paddington, New South Wales.
 Quirindi, New South Wales.
 Seaford, Victoria.
 Sydenham, New South Wales.
 Victor Harbour, South Australia.
 Whyalla, South Australia.
 Wyandra, Queensland.
- Liquid Fuel (Defence Stocks) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 83.
 Liquid Fuel (Rationing) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 85.

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- Meat Export Control Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 109, 117, 118.
 National Health Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 92.
 Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules—
 1949, No. 114.
 1950, Nos. 3, 4.
 Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1950, No. 2.
 Northern Territory Administration Act—
 Ordinances—1949—
 No. 8—Traffic.
 No. 9—Adoption of Children.
 No. 10—Places of Public Entertainment.
 No. 11—Fisheries.
 No. 12—Apprentices.
 No. 13—Licensing (No. 2).
 No. 14—Police Arbitral Tribunal.
 No. 15—Motor Vehicles.
 No. 16—Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents).
 No. 17—Prices Regulation.
 No. 18—Workmen's Compensation (No. 2).
 No. 19—Weights and Measures.
 No. 20—Darwin Town Management.
 No. 21—Buildings and Services.
 Regulations—1950—No. 1 (Food and Drugs Ordinance).
 Papua and New Guinea Act—
 Ordinances—
 1949—
 No. 7—Prices Regulation.
 No. 8—Administration Employees' Compensation.
 No. 9—Hallstrom Live-stock and Fauna (Papua and New Guinea) Trust.
 No. 10—Appropriation 1949-50.
 No. 11—Native Village Councils.
 1950—No. 1—Matrimonial Causes (Papua).
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 121.
 Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 99.
 Patents Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 89.
 Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 91, 106.
 Re-establishment and Employment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, Nos. 103, 104.
 Science and Industry Endowment Act—Report by the Auditor-General on the accounts of the
 Science and Industry Endowment Fund for year 1948-49.
 Science and Industry Research Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1949, No. 105.
 Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—
 Ordinances—
 1949—
 No. 12—Prices Regulation.
 No. 13—Court of Petty Sessions.
 1950—No. 1—Boarding-houses (Unclaimed Goods).
 War Damage to Property Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1950, No. 1.
 War Service Homes Act—Land acquired at—
 Albury, New South Wales.
 Moorooka, Queensland.

21. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Opperman brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed this day, 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. Opperman moved, That the Address be agreed to.

Mr. Robertson seconded the motion.

Mr. Chifley (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.

22. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

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

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at nine minutes to six 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).

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