

1953.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 5.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 1953.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable A. G. Cameron) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) announced that, during the absence through illness of Mr. McEwen (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) and Senator O'Sullivan (Minister for Trade and Customs), Senator McLeay (Minister for Shipping and Transport) would act both as Minister for Commerce and Agriculture and Minister for Trade and Customs. Mr. Anthony (Postmaster-General) would represent the Acting Minister for Commerce and Agriculture in this House, and, in the Senate, Senator McLeay would act as Leader of the Senate and would represent the Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence.
3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Science and Industry Research Act—Fifth Annual Report of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, for year 1952-53.
Ordered to be printed.
 - Apple and Pear Organization Act—Seventh Annual Report of the Australian Apple and Pear Board, for year 1952-53, together with Statement by Minister regarding the operation of the Act.
 - Canned Fruits Export Control Act—Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Australian Canned Fruits Board, for year 1952-53, together with Statement by Minister regarding the operation of the Act.
 - Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1953, No. 92.
 - Lands Acquisition Act—
 - Land, &c., acquired for—
 - Defence purposes—
 - Dee Why, New South Wales.
 - Richmond and Windsor, New South Wales.
 - Department of Civil Aviation purposes—Broken Hill, New South Wales.
 - Return of land disposed of under section 63.
 - Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1953, No. 95.
 - Northern Territory (Administration) Act—
 - Crown Lands Ordinance—Reasons for resumption of Berrimah Reserve.
 - Ordinances—1953—
 - No. 14—Police and Police Offences.
 - No. 16—Welfare.
 - No. 19—Mining (No. 2).
 - Papua and New Guinea Act—Ordinances—1952—
 - No. 121—Education.
 - No. 122—Treasury.
 - No. 123—Supreme Court.
 - No. 124—Excise (Beer) Tariff.
 - No. 125—Excise (Beer).
 - No. 126—Small Debts (Papua).
 - No. 127—Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.
 - No. 128—District Courts (New Guinea).
 - No. 129—Shipping.
 - No. 130—Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (New Guinea).
 - No. 131—Auctioneers (No. 2).
 - No. 132—Land (Papua).
 - No. 133—Immigration Restriction (Papua).
 - No. 134—Volcanic and Seismic Disturbances.
 - No. 135—Criminal Code Amendment (New Guinea) (No. 2).
 - No. 136—Pharmacy (No. 2).
 - No. 137—Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) (No. 2).
 - No. 138—Business Names.

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Public Service Act—

Appointments—Department—

Attorney-General—J. M. Lawrie.

Social Services—E. M. Skinner.

Supply—E. Jones.

Works—L. Mortimer.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1953, Nos. 93, 94 (Parliamentary Officers).

4. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Address in Reply would be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House at half-past twelve o'clock p.m. on Thursday, 26th November.
Mr. Speaker said he would be glad if the mover and seconder, together with other honorable Members, would accompany him to present the Address.
5. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered.—That the Orders of the Day, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
6. ALTERATION OF DAYS AND HOURS OF MEETING.—Mr. Eric J. Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That, until the end of the Session, unless otherwise ordered, the House shall meet on each Thursday at ten o'clock a.m. and, in addition to the days fixed by Standing Order No. 38, on each Friday at ten o'clock a.m.
Question—put and passed.
7. DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS BILL 1953.—Sir Philip McBride (Minister for Defence) moved, by leave, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Defence Forces Retirement Benefits Act 1948-1952*.
Question—put and passed.
Sir Philip McBride 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.
Sir Philip McBride moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Chambers 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.
8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—NEW GUINEA TIMBER AGREEMENT BILL 1953.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General:—
W. J. SLIM,
Governor-General. *Message No. 1.*
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 *New Guinea Timber Agreement Act 1952*.
Canberra, 18th November, 1953.
Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith.
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.
- (In the Committee.)
- Mr. Hasluck (Minister for Territories) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend the *New Guinea Timber Agreement Act 1952*.
Question—put and passed.
Resolution to be reported.
- The House resumed; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.
Mr. Hasluck 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.
On the motion of Mr. Hasluck, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.
Ordered—That Mr. Hasluck and Sir Philip McBride do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.
Mr. Hasluck 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. Hasluck moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Calwell 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. SALES TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 5) 1953.—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.
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole,

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(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Francis (Minister for the Army), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

10. THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCES BILL 1953.—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. Morgan be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.
Question—put 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.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to, after debate.
Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.
On the motion of Sir Earle Page (Minister for Health), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11. GWYDIR ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that it was his intention to issue a Writ, on Tuesday, the 24th instant, for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Gwydir, in the State of New South Wales, in the place of Mr. Thomas John Treloar, deceased. The dates in connexion with the Election would be fixed as follows :—
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|------------------------|----|----|---|
| Date of Nomination | .. | .. | Friday, 4th December, 1953. |
| Date of Polling | .. | .. | Saturday, 19th December, 1953. |
| Date of Return of Writ | .. | .. | On or before Wednesday, 20th January, 1954. |

12. NATIONAL HEALTH BILL 1953 [No.2].—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. A. D. Fraser, who moved, 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 and redrafted to place greater emphasis through co-operation with the States and Local Authorities on the promotion of positive health—

- (a) in the establishment and maintenance of diagnostic and health centres ;
 - (b) in dental care of children under sixteen years of age ;
 - (c) in the provision of medical training and research facilities and a system of regional hospitals ;
- and to provide—
- (1) for substantially increased rates of hospital benefit having regard to the rise of hospital costs ;
 - (2) for the negotiation of fresh agreements between the Commonwealth and the States to ensure that throughout Australia there should be no charge and no means test for qualified patients occupying beds in public wards of public hospitals ;
 - (3) that payment of Commonwealth Hospital Benefits or Medical Benefits shall not be conditional upon a patient being a contributor to a Hospitals Fund or a Medical Benefits Fund ;
 - (4) that registered organizations shall be subsidized to ensure that their benefits will be extended to chronic sufferers and those suffering disabilities at the commencement of their membership of registered organizations ;
 - (5) to devise in consultation with the medical profession and State Governments machinery to stabilize medical charges and to determine just variations of those charges ;
 - (6) that Medical Benefits be extended to mileage charges of medical practitioners incurred by patients especially those in outback areas ;
 - (7) that the provision of medical and hospital benefits should be financed from revenue raised on a graduated scale based upon capacity to pay ;
 - (8) for the cure and relief of mental illness ".

Ordered—That Mr. A. D. Fraser be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.

Mr. Pearce 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.

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Eric J. Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beazley, Mr. Grayden, Mr. Holt, Mr. James. Mr. McEwen, Mr. Townley and Mr. Wentworth.

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