

1954.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 2.

THURSDAY, 5TH AUGUST, 1954.

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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
 Australian National University Act—Australian National University—Report for 1953.  
 Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Postal purposes—  
     Armidale, New South Wales.  
     Doncaster East, Victoria.  
     Mooball, New South Wales.  
 Papua and New Guinea Act—Superannuation (Papua and New Guinea) Ordinance—  
     Superannuation Board—Second Annual Report, for year 1952-53.  
 Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—  
     Repatriation—J. Crosthwaite, V. Feain, W. D. Franks, M. M. Walsh.  
     Works—I. A. Black, R. H. Bridie, N. M. Hawkins, G. T. Hunt.  
 Repatriation Act—Repatriation Commission—Report for year 1952-53.
3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER.—Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) moved, That leave of absence for one month be given to the honorable Member for Fremantle (Mr. Beazley), owing to his absence from Australia.  
 Question—put and passed.
4. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—ROYAL COMMISSION ON ESPIONAGE BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent, before the Address in Reply is adopted, the introduction and passing through all stages without delay of a Royal Commission on Espionage Bill.  
 Question—put and passed.
5. ROYAL COMMISSION ON ESPIONAGE BILL 1954.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Royal Commission on Espionage.  
 Question—put and passed.
6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent, before the Address in Reply is adopted, the Prime Minister from making a Statement on Foreign Affairs and the consideration of any motion moved in connexion therewith.  
 Question—put and passed.
7. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to :—  
     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—  
 Debate resumed.  
 Debate adjourned (Mr. Stewart), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

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8. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement referring to the cease fire in Indo-China, the Geneva Settlement, and the effect of events upon Australia's position and policy. Mr. Menzies announced the Government's policy and its decision to accept the responsibilities of membership, including military commitments, of any South-Eastern Asia Defence Organization. The Prime Minister then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—

Foreign Affairs—Ministerial Statement, 5th August, 1954—

and moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Casey—Minister for External Affairs), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

9. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That the following Address in Reply to the Speech of His Excellency the Governor-General be agreed to :—

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—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Hamilton), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-one minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beazley\*, Mr. Davies, Mr. Drakeford, Mr. James, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Opperman and Mr. Robertson.

\* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*