

1954.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 24.

TUESDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 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. MEMBER SWORN.—The Honorable Arthur Samuel Drakeford made and subscribed the Oath required by law.
3. JAPAN AND THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement on the attitude of the Government to the Japanese request for admission to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—  
Japan and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—Ministerial Statement—  
and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Evatt—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
4. DEFENCE POLICY AND PROGRAMME—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—  
Sir Philip McBride (Minister for Defence), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the Government's defence policy and the defence programme approved by the Government for the present financial year. Sir Philip McBride then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—  
Defence Policy and Programme—Ministerial Statement—  
and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Chambers), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
5. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Television—Report of Royal Commission.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.
6. REPATRIATION BILL 1954.—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—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Haylen, viz. :—*That all words after " That " be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof :—" a Parliamentary Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the decisions and interpretations made under section 47 of the Repatriation Act "—  
Debate resumed.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Joske), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.
7. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
8. SOCIAL SERVICES BILL 1954.—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 provide that the rates of age and invalid pensions be a minimum of £4 a week ; and to provide similarly for increases in the rates of child endowment, widows' pensions, unemployment and sickness benefit, dependants' allowance and other social services corresponding to the increase in prices so as to restore at least the former purchasing value of these payments "—  
Debate continued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Daly), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

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9. 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 six minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Brand, Mr. Casey, Mr. Clarey, Mr. Clark, Mr. Davies, Mr. Edmonds, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Fairhall, Mr. Holt, Mr. James, Mr. Johnson, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Opperman and Mr. Robertson.

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F. C. GREEN,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*