

1954.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 37.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 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 Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—Qantas Empire Airways Ltd.—Twentieth Annual Report and Financial Accounts, for 1953.  
Ordered to lie on the Table.  
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Australian National Airlines Act—Australian National Airlines Commission—Ninth Annual Report and Financial Accounts, for year 1953–54.  
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—  
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization purposes—Deniliquin, New South Wales.  
Defence purposes—  
Gosford, New South Wales.  
Newington, New South Wales.
3. ALUMINIUM PRODUCTION COMMISSION'S PROJECT, BELL BAY, TASMANIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Beale (Minister for Supply), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with respect to the comments in the Supplementary Report of the Auditor-General regarding the financial affairs of the Aluminium Production Commission's project at Bell Bay, Tasmania. Mr. Beale then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—  
Aluminium Production Commission's Project, Bell Bay, Tasmania—Ministerial Statement—  
and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) was given leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
4. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILL.—A Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill :—  
1st November, 1954—*Message No. 21*—Australian Antarctic Territory 1954.
5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That leave of absence for one month be given to the Treasurer (Sir Arthur Fadden), the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. McEwen) and the honorable Member for Paterson (Mr. Fairhall) owing to their absence from Australia, and to the Postmaster-General (Mr. Anthony) on the ground of ill health.  
Question—put and passed.
6. 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 Bendigo (Mr. Clarey) owing to his absence from Australia.  
Question—put and passed.
7. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.  
Question—put and passed.
8. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 2, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
9. CUSTOMS TARIFF VALIDATION BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for the Validation of Collections of Duties of Customs under Customs Tariff Proposals.  
Question—put and passed.  
Sir Eric Harrison 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 Eric Harrison moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

3rd November, 1954.

Debate ensued.

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.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Eric Harrison, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

10. EXCISE TARIFF VALIDATION BILL 1954.—Sir Eric Harrison (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Trade and Customs) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for the Validation of Collections of Duties of Excise under Excise Tariff Proposals.

Question—put and passed.

Sir Eric Harrison 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 Eric Harrison moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

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.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Eric Harrison, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

11. AGED PERSONS HOMES BILL 1954.—Mr. McMahon (Minister for Social Services), for Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to provide for Assistance by the Commonwealth towards the provision of Homes for Aged Persons.

Question—put and passed.

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

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

12. RIVER MURRAY WATERS BILL 1954.—Mr. Kent Hughes (Minister for Works) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to ratify and approve an Agreement for the further variation of the Agreement entered into between the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and the Premiers of the States of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, respecting the River Murray and Lake Victoria and other Waters, and for other purposes.

Question—put and passed.

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

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

13. LEIGH CREEK NORTH COALFIELD TO MARREE (CONVERSION TO STANDARD GAUGE) RAILWAY 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.

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.*)

Clause 1—

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

The House resumed ; Mr. McLeay reported accordingly.

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

14. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—LEIGH CREEK NORTH COALFIELD TO MARREE (CONVERSION TO STANDARD GAUGE) RAILWAY BILL 1954.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General :—

W. J. SLIM,

*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 22.*

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 provide for the conversion to Standard Gauge of the Railway from Leigh Creek North Coalfield to Marree in the State of South Australia, and for purposes connected therewith.

Canberra, 28th October, 1954.

3rd November, 1954.

Ordered—That the 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. Kent Hughes (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 provide for the conversion to Standard Gauge of the Railway from Leigh Creek North Coalfield to Marree in the State of South Australia, and for purposes connected therewith.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Kent Hughes, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.

15. LEIGH CREEK NORTH COALFIELD TO MARREE (CONVERSION TO STANDARD GAUGE) RAILWAY BILL 1954.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House again resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. McLeay reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Kent Hughes (Minister for the Interior), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

16. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—BANKRUPTCY BILL 1954.—Mr. Speaker reported the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 36.*

The Senate has passed a Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Bankruptcy Act 1924–1950’*”, and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

A. M. McMULLIN,  
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 3rd November, 1954.

Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Bill being passed through all its stages without delay.

Question—put and passed.

Sir Eric Harrison moved, That the Bill 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.

17. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—A Message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment :—

3rd November, 1954—*Message No. 37—Customs 1954.*

18. SOUTH-EAST ASIA COLLECTIVE DEFENCE TREATY 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.

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

19. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Messages from the Senate were reported returning the following Bills without amendment :—

3rd November, 1954—*Message—*

No. 38—Rayon Yarn Bounty 1954.

No. 39—Flax Fibre Bounty 1954.

20. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Casey (Minister for External Affairs) moved, That the House do now adjourn. Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-one minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony\*, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Clarey\*, Mr. Davies, Mr. Drury, Sir Arthur Fadden\*, Mr. Fairhall\*, Mr. Falkinder, Mr. McEwen\* and Mr. Minogue.

\* On leave.

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