

1956.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 36.

THURSDAY, 24TH MAY, 1956.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Adermann) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) announced that it was proposed to continue the practice of appointing Parliamentary Secretaries and said that experience had shown that the term "Parliamentary Under-Secretary" is not appropriate in this Parliament. Mr. Howse would be Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Territories, Mr. Swartz Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Trade, and Mr. Hamilton Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Interior and the Minister for Works.
Mr. Menzies also stated that he would take up with the Standing Orders Committee the matter of the functions which these honorable Members would perform in the House.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) informed the House that the Minister for National Development had assumed ministerial oversight of the work of the River Murray Commission and had replaced Mr. Kent Hughes as President of the Commission. Dr. L. F. Loder would continue as Deputy Commissioner and the staff of the Commission would remain with him. Mr. Menzies further stated that the national mapping function had been transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of National Development.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—Australia, 1956: An Economic Survey.
Documents relating to the simultaneous dissolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives by His Excellency the Governor-General on 19th March, 1951.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—
Defence Production—R. W. Bundock, R. V. Coleman, S. S. Schaetzle.
Interior—I. D. Wyllie.
Postmaster-General—D. E. Cannell, D. H. Johns.
Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations—1956—
No. 30—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association.
No. 35—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.
Nos. 37 and 38—Amalgamated Engineering Union and others.
No. 39—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.
5. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—ASSENT TO BILLS.—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 Bills:—
23rd May, 1956—*Message No. 21*—
Gold-Mining Industry Assistance 1956.
Defence Forces Retirement Benefits 1956.
Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment 1956.
6. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

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7. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL 1956.—Mr. Deputy 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 relating to the Allowances of Members of each House of the Parliament.

Canberra, 19th May, 1956.

Ordered—That the Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith. Mr. Deputy Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act relating to the Allowances of Members of each House of the Parliament.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Bowden reported accordingly.

Mr. Menzies 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. Menzies, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Menzies and Mr. H. E. Holt do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

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.

Mr. Menzies moved, That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

Question—put and passed.

8. INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 2) 1956.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment Act 1936-1955*, as amended by the *Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment Act 1956*.

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.

Mr. Menzies moved, by leave, That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

Question—put and passed.

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to review such aspects of the working of the Constitution as the Committee considers it can most profitably consider, and to make recommendations for such amendments of the Constitution as the Committee thinks necessary in the light of experience.
- (2) That the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives be *ex officio* members of the Committee.
- (3) That in addition, the following Members of the House of Representatives, namely, Mr. Calwell, Mr. Downer, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Joske, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Ward and Mr. Whitlam, be appointed to serve on the Committee.
- (4) That the Senate be requested to appoint four Members of the Senate to serve on the Committee, and to appoint one of those Members to be the Chairman of the Committee.
- (5) That the Chairman of the Committee may, from time to time, appoint another member of the Committee to be the Deputy Chairman of the Committee, and that the member so appointed act as Chairman of the Committee at any time when the Chairman is not present at a meeting of the Committee.
- (6) That, in the absence of both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman from a meeting of the Committee, the members present may appoint one of their number to act as Chairman.
- (7) That the Committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of four or more of its members, and to refer to any such sub-committee any matter which the Committee is empowered to examine.
- (8) That the Committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament.
- (9) That the Committee have leave to report from time to time, and that any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report.
- (10) That six members of the Committee constitute a quorum of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of the sub-committee.

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- (11) That, in matters of procedure, the Chairman, or person acting as Chairman, of the Committee, have a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of voting, have a casting vote, and that, in other matters, the Chairman, or person acting as Chairman, of the Committee have a deliberative vote only.
- (12) That the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the Standing Orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders.
- (13) That a Message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Casey (Minister for External Affairs) moved, pursuant to notice—

(1) That, until such time as the five vacancies for Members of the House of Representatives existing on the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs are filled by Members of the Opposition, Mr. Chaney, Mr. Failes, Mr. Turner, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Wight be members of the Committee.

(2) That the foregoing resolution be communicated to the Senate by Message.

Debate ensued.

Mr. C. R. Cameron addressing the House—

Closure.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the motion be agreed to—was put accordingly, and passed.

11. CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL 1956.—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. Evatt on the 22nd May (see page 164)*—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Clarey), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.

12. PARLIAMENTARY ALLOWANCES BILL 1956.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Evatt—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

13. INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 2) 1956.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Evatt—Leader of the Opposition), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

14. CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION BILL 1956.—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. Evatt on the 22nd May (see page 164)*—

Debate resumed.

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

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Cramer (Minister for the Army) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Grave disorder arising in the House—

At five minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., Mr. Deputy Speaker adjourned the House 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. Anthony*, Mr. Bland*, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. A. G. Cameron*, Mr. D. A. Cameron, Mr. Daly*, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Fox, Mr. A. D. Fraser, Mr. J. M. Fraser, Mr. Graham, Mr. Haworth*, Mr. H. V. Johnson, Mr. Kent Hughes, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Minogue, Mr. Watkins and Mr. Wilson.

*On leave.

A. A. TREGEAR,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.