

1956.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 62.

TUESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1956.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—
    - Department of Air purposes—Amberley, Queensland.
    - Postal purposes—Mundubbera, Queensland.
  - Papua and New Guinea Act—Ordinances—
    - 1955—No. 19—Superannuation (New Guinea).
    - 1956—
      - No. 1—Native Local Government Councils (No. 2) 1955.
      - No. 2—Appropriation (No. 2) 1955–56.
      - No. 3—Coroners.
      - No. 4—Poisons and Dangerous Substances.
      - No. 5—Probate and Administration (New Guinea Intestate Estates Fund).
      - No. 6—Jury (Papua).
      - No. 7—Administrative Re-organization.
      - No. 8—Forsyth Prize Fund Trust (New Guinea).
      - No. 9—Hallstrom Live-Stock and Fauna (Papua and New Guinea) Trust.
      - No. 10—Wreck and Salvage (Papua).
      - No. 11—Mines and Works Regulation (New Guinea).
      - No. 12—Health (Papua).
      - No. 13—Printers and Newspapers.
      - No. 14—Small Debts (Papua).
      - No. 15—Swiss Evangelical Brotherhood Mission.
      - No. 16—Lutheran Mission New Guinea.
      - No. 17—Restaurants (Licensing).
      - No. 18—Housing Loans.
      - No. 19—Enclosed Land Protection.
      - No. 20—Infants.
  - Public Service Arbitration Act—Determination—1956—No. 97—Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees' Association.
3. MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR—ASSENT TO BILL.—A Message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth was announced informing the House that His Excellency, in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, had assented to the following Bill :—
  - 20th September, 1956—*Message No. 44*—Customs Tariff (Papua and New Guinea Preference) 1956.
4. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON SUEZ CANAL.—Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service), for 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 the Prime Minister from making a Statement with reference to the Suez Canal.
  - Question—put and passed.

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5. SOCIAL SERVICES 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—

Debate resumed by Mr. Thompson 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 redrafted to provide, in the light of the declining purchasing value of money, increases in the rates of social services payments to the maximum extent that the national economy will permit, and, particularly, to ensure as a minimum that each of these payments is restored to the same percentage of the (unpegged) basic wage as it was under the adjustment of rates by the Chifley Government in 1948".

Debate continued.

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

6. SUEZ CANAL—SEIZURE BY EGYPT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement regarding the seizure of the Suez Canal by Egypt on the 26th July, the proposal of the August conference of nations in London for the establishment of an international operating authority subsequently rejected by Egypt, the new proposal for a Canal Users' Association discussed at the second London conference in September, and the reference of the matter to the United Nations. Mr. Menzies also referred to other related aspects and to the circumstances in which the user nations must be prepared to impose sanctions.

Mr. Menzies then, by command of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth, laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

(1) Declaration providing for the establishment of a Suez Canal Users' Association;

(2) Suez Canal—Seizure by Egypt—Ministerial Statement—

and moved, That the Ministerial Statement be printed.

*Suspension of Standing Orders.*—Mr. McEwen (Minister for Trade) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) from making his speech without limitation of time.

Question—put and passed.

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.

7. SOCIAL SERVICES 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. Thompson, viz.:*—That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"the Bill be redrafted to provide, in the light of the declining purchasing value of money, increases in the rates of social services payments to the maximum extent that the national economy will permit, and, particularly, to ensure as a minimum that each of these payments is restored to the same percentage of the (unpegged) basic wage as it was under the adjustment of rates by the Chifley Government in 1948"—

Debate resumed.

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

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

25th September, 1956—*Message*—

No. 64—Broadcasting and Television (No. 2) 1956.

No. 65—Canned Fruits Export Control 1956.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. McEwen (Minister for Trade) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony, Mr. Brand, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Clark, Mr. Cleaver, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Fairbairn\*, Mr. Hamilton, Sir Eric Harrison, Mr. Haylen, Mr. H. V. Johnson and Mr. Riordan\*.

\* On leave.

A. A. TREGGAR,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*