

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

## No. 2.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1957.

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. THE PARLIAMENT—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—  
The Parliament—Business of the House—Ministerial Statement, 19th March, 1957, by the Minister for Labour and National Service.  
Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) moved, by leave, That the Paper be printed.  
Mr. Evatt was granted 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.
3. AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT, CANBERRA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Townley (Acting Minister for Air), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the accident to a Royal Australian Air Force *Dakota* aircraft at Canberra on the 19th March, 1957.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for postal purposes—Sunshine, Victoria.  
National Fitness Act—Report for 1955.  
Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Health—H. A. Skinner.
5. TEMPORARY CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES.—The following Warrant nominating Temporary Chairmen of Committees, pursuant to Standing Order No. 17, was laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker :—

*The Parliament of the Commonwealth.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Order numbered 17, I do hereby nominate—

George James Bowden, Esquire,  
Joseph James Clark, Esquire,  
Charles William Jackson Falkinder, Esquire,  
Gordon Freeth, Esquire,  
William Robert Lawrence, Esquire,  
Philip Ernest Lucock, Esquire,  
The Honorable Norman John Oswald Makin,  
Edward William Peters, Esquire,  
Thomas Frank Timson, Esquire, and  
Charles Harry Webb, Esquire,

to act as Temporary Chairmen of Committees when requested so to do by the Chairman of Committees.  
Given under my hand this twentieth day of March, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-seven.

J. McLEAY,  
Speaker.

6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved, pursuant to notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent—
  - (a) motions being moved in connexion with the establishment of Joint Committees on (i) Foreign Affairs, (ii) Constitution Review and (iii) the Australian Capital Territory, the consideration of such motions, and the subsequent appointment of Members to serve on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and
  - (b) the appointment of the Committee of Ways and Means and the taking of all necessary steps for the introduction and motions for the first and second readings of the following Bills :—  
Loan (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development), Loan (Qantas Empire Airways Limited), Trading with the Enemy, Removal of Prisoners (Territories), Apple and Pear Export Charges, Cotton Bounty, and Lands Acquisition.

Question—put and passed.

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## 7. CONSTITUTION REVIEW—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved—

- (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 power to consider the Minutes of Evidence and Records of the Joint Committee on Constitution Review appointed in the previous Session relating to any matter on which that Committee had not completed its inquiry.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.
- (14) 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.

## 8. AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Fairhall (Minister for the Interior) moved—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to—
  - (a) examine and report on all proposals for modifications or variations of the plan of lay-out of the City of Canberra and its environs published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the nineteenth day of November, 1925, as previously modified or varied, which are referred to the Committee by the Minister for the Interior; and
  - (b) examine and report on such other matters relating to the Australian Capital Territory as may be referred to the Committee by the Minister for the Interior.
- (2) That the Committee consist of two Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Prime Minister, two Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives, three Senators appointed by the Leader of the Government in the Senate and two Senators appointed by the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.
- (3) That every appointment of a member of the Committee be forthwith notified in writing to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) That the Committee elect as Chairman of the Committee one of the members appointed by the Leader of the Government in the Senate.
- (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 the Committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members and to refer to such a sub-committee any matter which the committee is empowered to examine.
- (7) That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament.
- (8) 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.

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- (9) That five members of the Committee, including the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, constitute a quorum of the Committee, and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of the sub-committee.
- (10) That in matters of procedure the Chairman or Deputy Chairman presiding at the meeting 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 Deputy Chairman have a deliberative vote only.
- (11) 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.
- (12) That a Message be sent to the Senate acquainting it of this resolution and requesting that it concur and take action accordingly.

Question—put and passed.

9. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—PROPOSED JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Casey (Minister for External Affairs) moved—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to consider foreign affairs generally and, in particular, to inquire into matters referred to it by the Minister for External Affairs.
- (2) That thirteen Members of the House of Representatives be appointed to serve on such Committee.
- (3) That the Minister for External Affairs shall make available to the Committee information within such categories or on such conditions as he may consider desirable.
- (4) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
  - (a) the persons appointed for the time being to serve on the Committee shall constitute the Committee notwithstanding any failure by the Senate or the House of Representatives to appoint the full number of Senators or Members referred to in these resolutions ;
  - (b) the Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of four or more of its members ; and to refer to any such sub-committees any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to examine ;
  - (c) the Committee or any sub-committee have power to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament ;
  - (d) the Committee and its sub-committees will sit *in camera* and their proceedings shall be secret unless the Minister at the request of the Committee otherwise directs ;
  - (e) (i) one-third of the number of members appointed to the Committee for the time being constitute a quorum of the Committee, save that where the number of members is not divisible by three without remainder the quorum shall be the number next higher than one-third of the number of members for the time being ;  
(ii) three members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee ;
  - (f) the Committee shall, for considerations of national security, in all cases forward its reports to the Minister for External Affairs, but on every occasion when the Committee forwards a report to the Minister it shall inform the Parliament that it has so reported ; except that in the case of matters not referred to it by the Minister for External Affairs, the Committee shall not submit a report to the Minister nor inform the Parliament accordingly without the Minister's consent. Provided the Opposition is represented on the Committee, copies of the Committee's reports to the Minister for External Affairs shall be forwarded to the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives for his confidential information ;
  - (g) subject to the Minister for External Affairs being informed, the Committee shall have power to invite persons to give evidence before it ;
  - (h) subject to the consent of the Minister for External Affairs, the Committee shall have power to call for official papers or records ;
  - (i) subject to paragraph 4 (d), all evidence submitted to the Committee, both written and oral, shall be regarded as confidential to the Committee ;
  - (j) the Senate be asked to appoint seven of its Members to serve on such Committee.
- (5) That the Committee have power to consider the Minutes of Evidence and Records of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs appointed in the previous Session relating to any matter on which that Committee had not completed its inquiry.
- (6) That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence.

Question—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. McLeay, in the Chair)—

AYES, 64.

Mr. Adermann	Mr. Chaney	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Joske	Mr. Pearce
Mr. Allan	Mr. Cleaver	Mr. Forbes	Sir W. Kent Hughes	Mr. Robertson
Mr. Anderson	Mr. Cramer	Mr. Fox	Mr. Killen	Mr. Snedden
Mr. Aston	Mr. Davidson	Mr. J. M. Fraser	Mr. Lawrence	Mr. Stokes
Mr. Bate	Mr. Davis	Mr. Freeth	Mr. Leslie	Mr. Timson
Mr. Beale	Mr. Dean	Mr. Graham	Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Townley
Mr. Bland	Mr. Downer	Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Luck	Mr. Wentworth
Mr. Bostock	Mr. Drury	Mr. Hasluck	Mr. Lucock	Mr. Wheeler
Mr. Brimblecombe	Mr. Erwin	Mr. Haworth	Mr. Mackinnon	Mr. Wight
Mr. Buchanan	Sir A. Fadden	Mr. H. E. Holt	Sir P. McBride	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Bury	Mr. Failes	Mr. Howse	Mr. McEwen	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. D. A. Cameron	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Howson	Mr. McMahan	Mr. Opperman
Mr. Casey	Mr. Fairhall	Mr. Hulme	Sir E. Page	Mr. Turnbull

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Mr. Barnard	Mr. Clark	NOES, 40.	Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Minogue	Mr. Webb
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Cope	Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Haylen	Mr. Morgan	Mr. Whitlam
Mr. Bird	Mr. Costa	Mr. R. W. Holt	Mr. R. W. Holt	Mr. O'Connor	
Mr. Bruce	Mr. Coutts	Mr. James	Mr. L. R. Johnson	Mr. Peters	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Bryant	Mr. Crean	Mr. Curtin	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Duthie
Mr. Cairns	Mr. Daly	Mr. Luchetti	Mr. Makin	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Edmonds	Mr. McIvor	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Ward	
Mr. C. R. Cameron	Mr. Galvin				
Mr. Clarey					

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10. REMOVAL OF PRISONERS (TERRITORIES) BILL 1957.—Mr. Hasluck (Minister for Territories) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Removal of Prisoners (Territories) Act 1923-1950*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Hasluck 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 Hasluck moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Edmonds), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
11. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—LOAN (INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT) BILL 1957.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General :—

W. J. SLIM,  
*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 1.*

In accordance with 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 and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to authorize the Raising of a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and for purposes connected therewith.

Canberra, 20th March, 1957.

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.)*

Sir Arthur Fadden (Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to authorize the Raising of a Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and for purposes connected therewith.

Question—put and passed.  
Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Lawrence reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Arthur Fadden, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Sir Arthur Fadden and Mr. McEwen do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Sir Arthur Fadden 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 Arthur Fadden moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

12. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL—LOAN (QANTAS EMPIRE AIRWAYS LIMITED) BILL 1957.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General :—

W. J. SLIM,  
*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 2.*

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 and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to approve the Raising by way of Loans of Moneys in Foreign Currency to be lent to Qantas Empire Airways Limited, and for purposes connected therewith.

Canberra, 20th March, 1957.

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.)*

Sir Arthur Fadden (Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue and moneys be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to approve the Raising by way of Loans of Moneys in Foreign Currency to be lent to Qantas Empire Airways Limited, and for purposes connected therewith.

Question—put and passed.  
Resolution to be reported.

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The House resumed ; Mr. Lawrence reported accordingly.

On the motion of Sir Arthur Fadden, the Resolution reported from the Committee was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Sir Arthur Fadden and Mr. Fairhall do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

Sir Arthur Fadden 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 Arthur Fadden moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

13. TRADING WITH THE ENEMY BILL 1957.—Sir Arthur Fadden (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Trading with the Enemy Act 1939–1952*.

Question—put and passed.

Sir Arthur Fadden 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 Arthur Fadden moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

14. WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved, That the House do now resolve itself into a Committee to consider the Ways and Means for raising the Supply granted to Her Majesty.

Question—put and passed.

15. WAYS AND MEANS—APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT CHARGES.—The House then resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. McMahon (Minister for Primary Industry) moved—

1. That the rate of the charges imposed by the *Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938–1947* on apples and pears exported from the Commonwealth be increased to Twopence for each case, two half cases or three trays of apples or pears exported, but subject to a lower rate being prescribed by regulations.

2. That, notwithstanding the last preceding paragraph, the rate of the charges under the *Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938–1957* on apples and pears exported before a date to be fixed by the regulations under that Act, after report to the Minister administering that Act by the Australian Apple and Pear Board, be One penny for each case, two half cases or three trays of apples or pears exported.

3. That, in this Resolution, “ the *Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938–1957* ” mean the *Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938–1947*, as amended by the Act passed to give effect to this Resolution.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr Lawrence reported accordingly.

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

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

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

16. APPLE AND PEAR EXPORT CHARGES BILL 1957.—Mr. McMahon (Minister for Primary Industry) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘ Apple and Pear Export Charges Act 1938–1947 ’, and for other purposes* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

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

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

17. COTTON BOUNTY BILL 1957.—Mr. McMahon (Minister representing the Minister for Customs and Excise) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Cotton Bounty Act 1951–1955*.

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, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

18. LANDS ACQUISITION BILL 1957.—Mr. Fairhall (Minister for the Interior) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Lands Acquisition Act 1955*.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Fairhall 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.

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Mr. Fairhall moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

*Suspension of Sitting.*—At eighteen minutes past four o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

*Resumption of Sitting.*—At eight o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

19. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—EXTENDED TIME FOR SPEECHES.—Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) from speaking to the Address in Reply for a period not exceeding 45 minutes each.  
Question—put and passed.

20. 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 by Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) who moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the Address :—“ but add—

1. That the Government is censured for the statement of Housing policy made by the Prime Minister on 7th March last and for the acute social ills caused by its continued failure to establish, in conjunction with the States, a National Housing Plan.
2. This failure has been largely caused by the provision of inadequate finance for home building for—
  - (a) State Governments ;
  - (b) War Service Homes ;
  - (c) Co-operative Building Societies ;
  - (d) Australians seeking to build their own homes.
3. The National Plan should have regard to—
  - (a) the immediate reduction of migrant intake ;
  - (b) employment of the maximum work force in the home-building industry ;
  - (c) availability of materials.
4. It should also provide for—
  - (a) priority to home building over less essential private investment ;
  - (b) provision of sufficient finance to promote home ownership at low rates of interest ”.

Debate continued.

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

21. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Philip McBride (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eleven 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. Bowden, Mr. Brand, Mr. Chambers, Mr. A. D. Fraser, Mr. Jack, Mr. H. V. Johnson, Mr. Kearney, Mr. McColm, Mr. Osborne, Mr. Swartz, Mr. Turner and Mr. Watkins.

A. A. TREGEAR,  
Clerk of the House of Representatives.