

1958.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 27.

WEDNESDAY, 6TH AUGUST, 1958.

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. NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPH—STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER.—Mr. Speaker referred to the publication in the *Sun News-Pictorial* of an unauthorized photograph of an incident in the House yesterday and stated that the newspaper concerned had been asked for an explanation.
3. PETITIONS.—Mr. Barnard presented a Petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that the House will (1) give immediate consideration to the matter of increasing the rate of pension to at least 50 per cent. of the basic wage, (2) amend the National Health Act to make the Pensioner Medical Service available to all pensioners irrespective of means, and (3) provide increased pharmaceutical benefits for pensioners.
Mr. L. R. Johnson presented a Petition from certain electors in the States of the Commonwealth praying that the House will take immediate steps to increase social service benefits for mothers and their children. Petitions severally received and read.
Petitions from certain electors in the States of the Commonwealth praying that the House will take immediate steps to increase social service benefits for mothers and their children were presented by Mr. Lawson and Mr. Makin.
Petitions severally received.
Mr. Brand presented a Petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that immediate consideration be given to the matter of increasing the rate of age, invalid and widows' pensions to at least 50 per cent. of the basic wage.
Petition received and read.
4. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) informed the House that, for medical reasons, Senator Paltridge (Minister for Shipping and Transport and for Civil Aviation) would be absent from Canberra for a period, but would continue to administer his portfolios. During his absence he would be represented in the Senate by Senator O'Sullivan (Attorney-General).
Mr. Menzies also informed the House that during the absence, owing to illness, of Mr. Davidson, Senator Cooper (Minister for Repatriation) would act as Postmaster-General and be represented in this House by Mr. D. A. Cameron (Minister for Health). Senator Cooper would also be absent for a short time during which Senator O'Sullivan would act for him in the Senate. Mr. Osborne (Minister for Air) would act as Minister for the Navy in the absence of Mr. Davidson.
5. SOCIAL SERVICES PAYMENTS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Robertson (Minister for Social Services), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement in amplification of the Treasurer's Budget announcement that a system of supplementary assistance to certain categories of pensioners would be introduced.
6. ADVANCE TO THE TREASURER 1957-58—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.—Sir Arthur Fadden (Treasurer), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:—
Statement for the year 1957-58 of Heads of Expenditure and the Amounts charged thereto pursuant to Section 36A of the *Audit Act* 1901-1957 (Advance to the Treasurer).
Ordered—That the Statement be taken into consideration in Committee of the whole House at the next sitting.

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7. MIDDLE EAST SITUATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Casey (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement reviewing recent developments in the Middle East, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:—

Middle East Situation—Ministerial Statement, 6th August, 1958—
and moved, That the Paper be printed.

Debate ensued.

Suspension of Standing Orders.—Mr. Casey moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) speaking for a period not exceeding one hour.

Question—put and passed.

Debate continued.

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

8. 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 to 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. Crean, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. James, Mr. Mackinnon, Mr. Minogue, Mr. Townley and Mr. Watkins.

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