

1959.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 1.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-THIRD PARLIAMENT.

TUESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 1959.

The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia begun and held in Parliament House, Canberra, on Tuesday, the seventeenth day of February, in the eighth year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, and in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

1. On which day, being the first day of the meeting of the Parliament for the despatch of business pursuant to a Proclamation (hereinafter set forth), Alan George Turner, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Norman James Parkes, Clerk Assistant, John Athol Pettifer, Second Clerk Assistant, and Alan Robert Browning, Serjeant-at-Arms, attending in the House according to their duty, the said Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk:—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of
Australia to wit.

W. J. SLIM

Governor-General.

By His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth
of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things provided that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit:

Now therefore I, Sir William Joseph Slim, the Governor-General aforesaid, in the exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation appoint Tuesday, the seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs: and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give attendance accordingly in the building known as Parliament House, Canberra, at the hour of ten-thirty o'clock in the morning on the said seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia this twentieth day
of January One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine and in the seventh year of Her
Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES

Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

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2. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY'S DEPUTY BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—

GENTLEMEN,

The Deputy of His Excellency the Governor-General for the opening of Parliament requests the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly the Members of the House of Representatives went to the Senate Chamber, where the Deputy addressed the Members of both Houses as follows:—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

His Excellency the Governor-General, not thinking fit to be present in person at this time, has been pleased to cause Letters Patent to issue under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth constituting me his Deputy to do in his name all that is necessary to be performed in declaring this Parliament open, as will more fully appear from the Letters Patent which will now be read.

The Commission was read as follows:—

His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Honourable SIR FRANK WALTERS KITTO Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Letters Patent dated the twenty-ninth day of October, One thousand nine hundred, passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, constituting the Office of Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the said Commonwealth, Her late Majesty, Queen Victoria in pursuance of the powers conferred upon Her by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, was pleased to authorize and empower the Governor-General of the Commonwealth, subject to any limitations expressed or directions given by Her, to appoint any person or persons, jointly or severally, to be his Deputy or Deputies within any part of the Commonwealth, and in that capacity to exercise, during his pleasure, such of his powers and functions as he might deem it necessary or expedient to assign to him or them;

AND WHEREAS by Proclamation dated the twentieth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, and published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* on the twenty-ninth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, the seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, was appointed as the day for the Parliament of the Commonwealth to assemble and be holden for the despatch of divers urgent and important affairs: and all Senators and Members of the House of Representatives were thereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the Building known as Parliament House, Canberra, at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning of the said seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine:

KNOW YOU THAT, in pursuance of the powers and authority vested in me by the Constitution and the said Letters Patent, I, SIR WILLIAM JOSEPH SLIM, the Governor-General aforesaid, do hereby appoint you to be my Deputy for the purpose of declaring open the said Parliament at the time and place aforesaid.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

W. J. SLIM
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
ROBERT G. MENZIES
Prime Minister.

The Deputy then said:—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I have it in command from the Governor-General to let you know that after Members of the House of Representatives shall have been sworn, the causes of His Excellency calling this Parliament will be declared by him in person at this place; and it being necessary that a Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be first chosen, you, Members of the House of Representatives, will retire to the place where you are to sit, and there proceed to the choice of some proper person to be your Speaker; and later this day you will present the person whom you shall so choose to His Excellency at such time and place as he shall appoint.

I will attend in the House of Representatives for the purpose of administering the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to Honourable Members of that House.

And thereupon the Members of the House returned to their own Chamber, and, after an interval of some minutes—

3. DEPUTY TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MEMBERS.—The Honourable Sir Frank Walters Kitto, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, having been ushered into the Chamber and conducted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair, handed to the Clerk at the Table a Commission, which was read and is as follows:—

His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Honourable SIR FRANK WALTERS KITTO, Knight Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or

17th February, 1959.

Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution: NOW THEREFORE I, SIR WILLIAM JOSEPH SLIM, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you to attend at the Chamber of the House of Representatives at Parliament House, Canberra, on Tuesday, the seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine, immediately after the opening of the Parliament of the Commonwealth at ten-thirty o'clock in the morning of that day, and there and then to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as are present.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this seventeenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

W. J. SLIM

Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,

ROBERT G. MENZIES

Prime Minister.

4. RETURNS TO WRITS FOR GENERAL ELECTION.—The Clerk laid on the Table returns to the 124 Writs for the General Election of the House of Representatives held on the 22nd November, 1958.

By the said Returns it appeared that for the several Electoral Divisions the following had been elected, as shown hereunder:—

Division.	State.	Name.
Adelaide	South Australia	Joseph Clement Leonard Sexton.
Angas	South Australia	Alexander Russell Downer.
Australian Capital Territory .. ..	.. ..	James Reay Fraser.
Balaclava	Victoria	Percy Ernest Joske.
Ballaarat	Victoria	George Dudley Erwin.
Banks	New South Wales	Dominic Eric Costa.
Barker	South Australia	Alexander James Forbes.
Barton	New South Wales	Leonard James Reynolds.
Bass	Tasmania	Lance Herbert Barnard.
Batman	Victoria	Alan Charles Bird.
Bendigo	Victoria	Percy James Clarey.
Bennelong	New South Wales	John Oscar Cramer.
Blaxland	New South Wales	Eli James Harrison.
Bonython	South Australia	Norman John Oswald Makin.
Boothby	South Australia	John McLeay.
Bowman	Queensland	Malcolm Llewellyn McColm.
Braddon	Tasmania	Ronald Davies.
Bradfield	New South Wales	Henry Basil Turner.
Brisbane	Queensland	George Lawson.
Bruce	Victoria	Billy Mackie Snedden.
Calare	New South Wales	John Brooke Howse.
Canning	Western Australia	Leonard William Hamilton.
Capricornia	Queensland	Henry George Pearce.
Chisholm	Victoria	Wilfrid Selwyn Kent Hughes.
Corangamite	Victoria	Ewen Daniel Mackinnon.
Corio	Victoria	Hubert Ferdinand Opperman.
Cowper	New South Wales	Earle Christmas Grafton Page.
Cunningham	New South Wales	Victor Dennis Kearney.
Curtin	Western Australia	Paul Meernaa Caedwalla Hasluck.
Dalley	New South Wales	William Paul O'Connor.
Darebin	Victoria	Frank Courttnay.
Darling	New South Wales	Joseph James Clark.
Darling Downs	Queensland	Reginald William Colin Swartz.
Dawson	Queensland	Charles William Davidson.
Deakin	Victoria	Francis John Davis.
Denison	Tasmania	Athol Gordon Townley.
East Sydney	New South Wales	Edward John Ward.
Eden-Monaro	New South Wales	Allan Duncan Fraser.
Evans	New South Wales	Frederick Meares Osborne.
Farrer	New South Wales	David Eric Fairbairn.
Fawkner	Victoria	Peter Howson.
Fisher	Queensland	Charles Frederick Adermann.
Flinders	Victoria	Robert William Ludovic Lindsay.
Forrest	Western Australia	Gordon Freeth.
Franklin	Tasmania	Charles William Jackson Falkinder.
Fremantle	Western Australia	Kim Edward Beazley.
Gellibrand	Victoria	Hector James McIvor.
Gippsland	Victoria	George James Bowden.
Grayndler	New South Wales	Frederick Michael Daly.
Grey	South Australia	Edgar Hughes Deg Russell.
Griffith	Queensland	Arthur Albert Chesby.
Gwydir	New South Wales	Archibald Ian Allan.
Henty	Victoria	Edmund Maxwell Cameron Fox.
Herbert	Queensland	John Murray.

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Division:	State.	Name.
Higgins	Victoria	Harold Edward Holt.
Higinbotham	Victoria	Thomas Frank Timson.
Hindmarsh	South Australia	Clyde Robert Cameron.
Hughes	New South Wales	Leslie Royston Johnson.
Hume	New South Wales	Charles Groves Wright Anderson.
Hunter	New South Wales	Herbert Vere Evatt.
Indi	Victoria	Rendle McNeillage Holten.
Isaacs	Victoria	William Crawford Haworth.
Kalgoorlie	Western Australia	Peter Grahame Browne.
Kennedy	Queensland	William James Frederick Riordan.
Kingsford-Smith	New South Wales	Daniel James Curtin.
Kingston	South Australia	Patrick Galvin.
Kooyong	Victoria	Robert Gordon Menzies.
Lalor	Victoria	Reginald Thomas Pollard.
Lang	New South Wales	Francis Eugene Stewart.
La Trobe	Victoria	Richard Gardiner Casey.
Lawson	New South Wales	Laurence John Failes.
Leichhardt	Queensland	William John Fulton.
Lilley	Queensland	Bruce McDonald Wight.
Lowe	New South Wales	William McMahon.
Lyne	New South Wales	Philip Ernest Lucock.
Macarthur	New South Wales	Henry Jefferson Bate.
Mackellar	New South Wales	William Charles Wentworth.
Macquarie	New South Wales	Anthony Sylvester Luchetti.
Mallee	Victoria	Winton George Turnbull.
Maranoa	Queensland	Wilfred John Brimblecombe.
Maribyrnong	Victoria	Philip William Clifford Stokes.
McMillan	Victoria	Alexander Andrew Buchanan.
McPherson	Queensland	Charles Edward Barnes.
Melbourne	Victoria	Arthur Augustus Calwell.
Melbourne Ports	Victoria	Frank Crean.
Mitchell	New South Wales	Roy Crawford Wheeler.
Moore	Western Australia	Hugh Victor Halbert.
Moreton	Queensland	Denis James Killen.
Murray	Victoria	John McEwen.
Newcastle	New South Wales	Charles Keith Jones.
New England	New South Wales	David Henry Drummond.
Northern Territory .. ..	.. ..	John Norman Nelson.
North Sydney	New South Wales	William Mathers Jack.
Oxley	Queensland	Donald Alastair Cameron.
Parkes	New South Wales	Leslie Clement Haylen.
Parramatta	New South Wales	Garfield Edward John Barwick.
Paterson	New South Wales	Allen Fairhall.
Perth	Western Australia	Frederick Charles Chaney.
Petrie	Queensland	Alan Shallcross Hulme.
Phillip	New South Wales	William John Aston.
Port Adelaide	South Australia	Albert Victor Thompson.
Reid	New South Wales	Thomas Uren.
Richmond	New South Wales	John Douglas Anthony.
Riverina	New South Wales	Hugh Stevenson Robertson.
Robertson	New South Wales	Roger Levinge Dean.
Ryan	Queensland	Edward Nigel Drury.
Scullin	Victoria	Edward William Peters.
Shortland	New South Wales	Charles Edward Griffiths.
St. George	New South Wales	Lionel Daniel Clay.
Stirling	Western Australia	Earl Douglas Cash.
Sturt	South Australia	Keith Cameron Wilson.
Swan	Western Australia	Richard Cleaver.
Wakefield	South Australia	Charles Robert Kelly.
Wannon	Victoria	John Malcolm Fraser.
Warringah	New South Wales	Francis Armand Bland.
Watson	New South Wales	James Francis Cope.
Wentworth	New South Wales	Leslie Harry Ernest Bury.
Werriwa	New South Wales	Edward Gough Whitlam.
West Sydney	New South Wales	Daniel Minogue.
Wide Bay	Queensland	Henry Norman Charles Bandidt.
Wills	Victoria	Gordon Munro Bryant.
Wilmot	Tasmania	Gilbert William Arthur Duthie.
Wimmera	Victoria	Robert Shannon King.
Yarra	Victoria	James Ford Cairns.

5. MEMBERS SWORN.—The Members whose names are above set forth made and subscribed the Oath required by law, except Mr. Fulton, who was not then present.
The Deputy retired.

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6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER.—Mr. Wilson, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed to the House for its Speaker Mr. John McLeay, and moved, That he do take the Chair of this House as Speaker, which motion was seconded by Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. McLeay informed the House that he accepted nomination.

There being no further proposal Mr. McLeay was declared elected as Speaker, and Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hamilton conducted him to the Chair.

Mr. McLeay returned his acknowledgments to the House for the honour it had been pleased to confer upon him by choosing him to be its Speaker, and thereupon sat down in the Chair.

Then the Mace, which before lay under the Table, was laid upon the Table.

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) and Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) congratulated Mr. Speaker, who expressed his thanks.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) stated that he had ascertained that it would be His Excellency's pleasure to receive the Speaker in the Library of the Parliament that day at fourteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.

And the sitting of the House having been suspended until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.—

Mr. Speaker, after resuming the Chair, went with the Members of the House to attend His Excellency; and, having returned, Mr. Speaker reported that the House had proceeded to the Library of the Parliament, and that he had presented himself to His Excellency the Governor-General as the choice of the House of Representatives, and that His Excellency had been kind enough to congratulate him upon his election.

8. COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Speaker announced that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following Commission:—

His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Honourable John McLeay, M.M., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by Section forty-two of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that every Member of the House of Representatives shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor-General, or some person authorized by him, an Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance in the form set forth in the Schedule to the aforesaid Constitution:

NOW THEREFORE I, SIR WILLIAM JOSEPH SLIM, the Governor-General aforesaid, do by these Presents command and authorize you from time to time, at Parliament House, Canberra, to administer the said Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to such Members of the House of Representatives as have not already taken and subscribed the same since their election to the House of Representatives.

(L.S.) GIVEN under my Hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this seventeenth day of February One thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

W. J. SLIM
Governor-General.

By His Excellency's Command,
ROBERT G. MENZIES
Prime Minister.

9. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod:—

Mr. Speaker,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency:—And having returned—

10. FORMATION OF NEW MINISTRY AND MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) announced that the Ministry was constituted as follows:—

Cabinet—

Prime Minister	Rt. Hon. R. G. Menzies, C.H., Q.C.
Minister for Trade	Rt. Hon. J. McEwen.
Treasurer	Rt. Hon. H. E. Holt.
Minister for External Affairs and Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization	Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.
Minister for National Development	Senator the Hon. W. H. Spooner, M.M.
Minister for Defence	Hon. A. G. Townley.
Minister for Territories	Hon. P. M. C. Hasluck.
Minister for Labour and National Service	Hon. W. McMahan.
Minister for Shipping and Transport and Minister for Civil Aviation	Senator the Hon. S. Paltridge.
Postmaster-General	Hon. C. W. Davidson, O.B.E.
Minister for Immigration	Hon. A. R. Downer.
Attorney-General	Hon. Sir Garfield Barwick, Q.C.

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Other Ministers—

Minister for Repatriation	Senator the Hon. Sir Walter Cooper, M.B.E.
Minister for Health	..	..	Hon. D. A. Cameron, O.B.E.
Minister for the Army	..	..	Hon. J. O. Cramer.
Minister for Air	..	..	Hon. F. M. Osborne, D.S.C.
Minister for Social Services	..	..	Hon. H. S. Robertson.
Minister for Customs and Excise	..	..	Senator the Hon. N. H. D. Henty.
Minister for Primary Industry	..	..	Hon. C. F. Adermann.
Minister for Supply	..	..	Hon. A. S. Hulme.
Minister for the Interior and Minister for Works	..	..	Hon. G. Freeth.
Minister for the Navy	..	..	Senator the Hon. J. G. Gorton.

Mr. Menzies stated that Mr. Holt would continue to be Leader of the House of Representatives and that Senator Spooner would be Leader of the Government in the Senate and Vice-President of the Executive Council. Senator Paltridge would be Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Mr. Menzies also informed the House that representation of Ministers would be as follows:—

In the Senate—

Prime Minister, Minister for Defence, Minister for External Affairs, Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, and the Minister for Trade	..	Senator Spooner.
Treasurer, Minister for Air, and the Minister for Supply	..	Senator Paltridge.
Postmaster-General, Minister for Territories, Minister for the Interior, and the Minister for Works	..	Senator Sir Walter Cooper.
Minister for Social Services, Minister for Immigration, Minister for Health, and Minister for the Army	..	Senator Henty.
Minister for Labour and National Service, Attorney-General, and the Minister for Primary Industry	..	Senator Gorton.

In the House of Representatives—

Minister for National Development (except War Service Homes matters)	..	..	..	Sir Garfield Barwick.
War Service Homes matters	..	..	..	Mr. Robertson.
Minister for Civil Aviation	..	..	..	Mr. Townley.
Minister for Shipping and Transport	..	..	..	Mr. Hulme.
Minister for Repatriation	..	..	..	Mr. D. A. Cameron.
Minister for Customs and Excise	..	..	..	Mr. Osborne.
Minister for the Navy	..	..	..	Mr. Freeth.

11. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Evatt informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Opposition, and that Mr. Calwell had been appointed Deputy Leader.
12. LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY PARTY.—Mr. McEwen informed the House that he had been appointed Leader of the Australian Country Party, and that Mr. Davidson had been appointed Deputy Leader.
13. OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE—CHANGES OF STAFF.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that, consequent upon the retirement of Mr. Tregear, the following promotions of officers in attendance in the Chamber had been made:—
 - Mr. Turner as Clerk of the House,
 - Mr. Parkes as Clerk Assistant,
 - Mr. Pettifer as Second Clerk Assistant,
 - Mr. Blake as Third Clerk Assistant, and
 - Mr. Browning as Serjeant-at-Arms.
14. EVIDENCE BILL 1959.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Evidence Act* 1905–1956.
 - Question—put and passed.
 - Bill brought up, and read a first time.
 - Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
15. HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker had received a copy, which read as follows:—

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

You have been called together to deal with matters of national moment. The Parliament having been dissolved and a General Election having occurred, the 23rd Parliament is now duly constituted.

When last I addressed Parliament, we were happy to have with us Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Her Majesty's visit was an outstanding success and was enjoyed, I am sure, as much by Her Majesty as by the people of Australia, who fell once more under the spell of her charm and graciousness.

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This year we are to have the honour and pleasure of another Royal Visitor—Her Royal Highness The Princess Alexandra of Kent, who, at the invitation of the Commonwealth, will visit three States and the National Capital with the prime objective of gracing by her presence the Queensland Centenary Celebrations. We congratulate Queensland on having reached this historic year: This vast and prosperous State is making giant strides towards a great and happy future.

Later this year, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will hold its General Conference in Australia. Members of Parliaments of other Commonwealth countries, nurtured in the same traditions of Parliamentary Government as ourselves, will meet in Canberra and will later tour Australia. They will be amongst us for some seven weeks and, during that time, will have every opportunity to know our country and our people.

Just before the end of the last Parliament, a joint Committee of both Houses submitted a number of specific recommendations for constitutional review. My Government proposes that the Committee should be re-constituted immediately to complete this work. My Government will then give close consideration to the proposals with a view to determining whether constitutional amendments should be submitted to Parliament and to the electors.

My advisers believe that much can be done to promote friendly international relations and bring about closer understanding and co-operation between nations by the exchange of visits of national leaders. Last year we had the pleasure of a visit from the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, and quite recently my Government had important discussions over a wide range of questions of common interest with Dr. Subandrio, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia. At the end of March my Minister for External Affairs will visit Japan and the Republic of Korea which are countries of great significance in the Pacific area.

Our relations with the countries of Asia are of first-rate importance. Trade between Australia and Asian countries will be further developed and Australia will continue to play an active part in helping to raise living standards in the countries of Asia through the Colombo Plan.

In March, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, a regional body of the United Nations, will hold its annual meeting at Broadbeach in Queensland and will be attended by distinguished representatives from many countries, principally in Asia.

My Government will continue to give full support to the South East Asia Treaty Organization. My Minister for External Affairs will lead the Australian Delegation to the annual Council of Ministers meeting, which will be held in Wellington, New Zealand, from 8th to 10th April.

Australia has always supported negotiations, both within the United Nations and elsewhere, to achieve balanced general disarmament. My Government has welcomed the fact that, at a technical conference in Geneva in July and August, substantial agreement was reached on the feasibility of instituting a control system to detect the violation of any possible agreement to suspend nuclear weapons tests. My Government hopes that the United States, the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R., will be able to agree on the actual discontinuance of nuclear tests and the establishment of a control system. My Government has already announced that it is willing to allow the establishment in Australia of international inspection posts as part of a comprehensive agreed programme for the supervision of tests and for disarmament. Since the suspension of nuclear weapons tests is not in itself real disarmament, Australia will continue to work for an effective and controlled system of all-round reduction of armaments.

Australia has also been chosen a member of a United Nations Committee set up to consider ways and means of encouraging international co-operation in the peaceful uses of Outer Space.

My Government believes that there is great scope and need for more international co-operation in the promotion of scientific research and in its dissemination and application.

This year the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition will maintain its activities at four southern stations—at Macquarie Island in the sub-Antarctic and at Mawson, Davis, and Wilkes on the Antarctic Continent. The valuable research which proceeded before and during the International Geophysical Year at these bases will be maintained. Exploration of unknown areas of Australian Antarctic territory will proceed.

My Government will continue with energy to promote the defences of the nation, with emphasis on the provision of highly-trained and well-equipped forces from which Australia could make a prompt contribution in any emergency in support of our national security and Treaty obligations. During this year, two more Daring Class destroyers will be added to the Fleet. The provision of modern equipment for the First Infantry Brigade Group and other elements of the Regular Army Field Force will continue to receive high priority. The 12 Hercules transport aircraft for the Air Force have been delivered from the United States and are now being brought into service: These aircraft will be a major factor in providing mobility for the Australian Armed Forces. Units of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force continue to serve in the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve in Malaya. The Air component has recently been strengthened by a Canberra Squadron and two Sabre Fighter Squadrons.

Airfields at Butterworth in Malaya and at Townsville were completed during the last year. The strategic airfield at Darwin (which will also be used by civil airlines) is now nearing completion and other airfield works of strategic importance, including those at Alice Springs and Learmonth, are proceeding.

Work continues in the field of Defence Science, much of it in direct collaboration with the United Kingdom.

The realization of the first objective of the guided weapons testing range at Woomera—the development of the comparatively short range for testing anti-aircraft guided weapons—has been marked by the entry into production of two British air-to-air weapons and the most advanced of the ground-to-air weapons. The same range, with some elaboration, is now also in use for testing the

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deterrent "stand-off" bomb and for numerous launchings in the International Geophysical Year of the upper atmosphere research rocket, "Skylark". The progress during the year culminated in the recent successful first firing of the "Black Knight" test rocket, forerunner of Britain's ballistic missiles.

In parallel with this work, substantial progress has been made with the second stage of the development of the range, involving its extension from Woomera to the western limit of the Australian mainland. Preparations for the testing of the long range ballistic missile "Blue Streak" on this range are well advanced.

In conjunction with the Government of the United States of America, a special satellite tracking and observing station has been set up at Woomera. Data obtained at the station is transmitted to satellite centres in The United States of America by radio and its observations have been of considerable value in the study of the satellites already launched.

An outstanding achievement has been the completion of research and development on the anti-tank short range controlled weapon "Malkara" which has been proved by trials at Woomera and Puckapunyal to have an accuracy and power in excess of any comparable weapon in the world.

When I last addressed you, there had been an interruption to the growth of trade and production in some countries overseas and particularly in the United States of America. In this situation, Australia had experienced a substantial fall in prices for many of her exports. More recently, economic activity in the United States has risen and elsewhere prospects for expansion, at least later this year, appear good. The prices of a number of our exports have risen but the price of wool, which is of the greatest importance for Australia, has remained at a relatively low level. Australia's exports in the six months ended December, 1958, were £75,000,000 lower than in the corresponding six months of 1957. However, Australia's international reserves fell by only £25,000,000 between June and December, 1958, and at the end of the year stood at £500,000,000. The relatively small fall in reserves was in part the result of Government borrowing in London and New York; but an important sustaining influence has been the continued substantial inflow of private capital. Overseas investors have shown in this tangible way their confidence in the basic soundness of the Australian economy and its ability to weather temporary difficulties caused by fluctuations in world commodity markets.

My advisers inform me that production and demand in Australia continue to rise and that our economy has done better than most others in maintaining expansion. During 1958 employment opportunities continued to increase. There are some problems affecting particular localities, but employment generally is at a high level.

My Government welcomes the decision of the United Kingdom Government to provide wider convertibility for the pound sterling. Sterling is the currency in which the greater part of Australia's trade is financed and in which the bulk of Australia's international reserves are held. It is also the currency most widely used in international trade. A strong and stable pound sterling is therefore not only of great importance to Australia but also to a general revival and expansion of world trade.

My Government also welcomes the proposals for an increase in the resources of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The strengthening of these important international institutions would be a valuable support to currency convertibility and to the growth of world production and trade.

My Government considers that there is a pressing need to review the present financial relations between the Commonwealth and the State Governments. Accordingly, it has arranged for a special Premiers' Conference to be held early next month to discuss the complex problems that exist in this field.

The existing legislation under which financial assistance for roads purposes is provided to the State Governments expires on 30th June next. A meeting has already been held with representatives of the State Governments and Local Authorities and various bodies concerned with roads to discuss the general nature of the roads problem and the extent and form of future Commonwealth financial assistance to the States for roads will be discussed at the Special Premiers' Conference on Commonwealth-State Financial Relations.

My Government will set up a competent and independent public investigation of Commonwealth taxation laws.

During the last Parliament, Bills were introduced to effect certain changes in the Commonwealth's banking legislation that were considered to be necessary for the fully effective working of the Australian banking system. These Bills were twice passed by the House of Representatives, but were rejected by the Senate on each occasion. My Government is confirmed in its conviction that the proposed changes should be proceeded with, and the Bills will be again introduced early in this Session of the new Parliament.

My Government accepts the principle of decimal coinage and is establishing a committee to inquire into ways and means of adopting it. A committee of inquiry will also be formed to consider the provisions of the Bills of Exchange Act. In both these cases there will be opportunity for interested parties to make their views known.

The past year has been a difficult one for overseas trade. My Government is pursuing an active trade policy directed towards the consolidation of existing export outlets and the development of new trading opportunities. It has achieved some success in protecting Australian export industries from unfair trading practices of others.

The Australian Government has been studying closely the continuing trend towards economic integration in Europe in which a notable development on 1st January this year was the revision of tariffs and quotas between the six nations of the European Economic Community. Negotiations are continuing towards the creation of a European Free Trade Area under which other Western European

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countries, including the United Kingdom, would be associated with the European Economic Community. My Government will continue to keep in touch with these developments and to act as required to safeguard Australia's interests.

My Government through the Minister for Trade made an important contribution towards the agreement on the objective of stable commodity prices reached among British Commonwealth countries at Montreal last September.

Australia, last year, became the first country to enter into a trade agreement with the Independent Federation of Malaya. We participated in the negotiations for a new international sugar agreement and will, this year, be closely associated with negotiations for a new international wheat agreement and with discussions on the problem of world trade in lead and zinc.

My Government has maintained a stable import level and avoided the disruptive effect of frequent changes in the level of import licensing. Administrative changes have been introduced to give importers greater freedoms to purchase raw materials and capital equipment from the most competitive source including dollar countries.

In the development of our natural resources which depends upon the capacity of our manufacturing industry, my advisers will continue with the well established policy of protection for efficient Australian industries.

My Government continues to support the development of research schemes for primary industries on a co-operative basis between the Government and the producers of wool, wheat, tobacco, barley and dairy products. My Government is discussing a similar research scheme with the beef industry. As a result of the schemes now in operation the funds available for research in these fields have been increased by no less than £1,500,000 a year.

The C.S.I.R.O. is achieving considerable success in research aimed at assisting wool to maintain its competitive position with man-made fibres.

My Government proposes very shortly, in association with the States, to appoint an impartial Committee of Inquiry to investigate and report on the complex problems of the dairy industry.

My Government has decided to double the amount of assistance to be provided to the Western Australian Government for the development of the area of Western Australia north of the twentieth parallel of latitude. Up to £5,000,000 will be available during the five years commencing 1st July, 1958, for projects which would make a net addition to the development of the area and which would not have been carried out without Commonwealth assistance. The prime responsibility for the selection, planning and execution of developmental projects within the area will rest with the Western Australian Government.

My Government has done much both by financial and by technical assistance to foster the search for oil in Australia and the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. This assistance will continue. In each of the financial years 1959-60 and 1960-61 £500,000 will be available under the existing subsidy arrangements. A further sum of £1,000,000 will be provided each year to assist in the search for oil.

The Snowy Mountains Agreement between my Government and the Governments of the States of New South Wales and Victoria recently came into force and this great national undertaking may now proceed on a sound constitutional basis. Action has also been taken by those Governments and the Government of South Australia to amend the River Murray Waters Agreement. Later this year the capacity of the Hume Reservoir will have been increased to 2,500,000 acre feet—double its original capacity.

Australia now has an adequate supply of coal from more efficient mines. However, mechanization has also led to re-employment problems in New South Wales, but my Government has co-operated with the State Government and with industry in measures to overcome these difficulties. Considerable success has been achieved and these efforts will continue. Consideration is also being given to possible alternative uses of coal.

The Atomic Energy Commission is continuing to assist the development of Australia's uranium resources and is proceeding with advanced research into the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

This financial year a record amount of approximately £80,000,000 is being provided by my Government for housing. This will enable the normal current demand to be met and, in addition, will permit a substantial reduction in the already diminished arrears. My Government will continue to encourage home ownership.

Work is proceeding on the major standard gauge railway project from Albury to Melbourne. The results of this operation will be of considerable assistance to my advisers in their consideration of other major rail standardization proposals.

My Government has given substantial assistance, both financial and technical, to the Australian shipbuilding industry. The subsidy arrangement is being examined by the Tariff Board and my advisers will shortly be in a position to review the subsidy.

1959 will see the introduction into service of the fleet of jet airliners which my Government authorized Qantas to purchase for its International services. Re-equipment of the domestic airlines with modern turbo-prop aircraft will be stepped up. So as to ensure the maximum use of the new equipment, my Government will accelerate the development of both International Airports and Airports at country centres.

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The Post Office is continuing to expand and improve its postal and telecommunication services to meet the growing needs of the community. Television services are now well established in Sydney and Melbourne and will be introduced by both National and Commercial Stations to Brisbane and to Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Preliminary consideration is also being given to means by which television can be extended to major provincial and country centres.

The remarkable record of freedom from industrial disturbance in 1957 was surpassed by the record in 1958; not for twenty years has there been a period of two successive years in which the record has been equalled. A particular contribution has been made by the new emphasis which my Government has placed on conciliation. My Government proposes to meet the additional cost to Unions of Court-controlled ballots.

A stable and continuing Immigration programme is generally accepted as essential to continuing development of our natural resources. The kinds of people we most want to settle in Australia are each year becoming more difficult to obtain in the numbers we require. Nevertheless, my Government will endeavour to maintain the flow of migration at a level consistent with an annual target of net immigration equal to 1 per cent. increase in our population. Legislation will be introduced to simplify naturalization procedures under the Nationality and Citizenship Act and to do away with the issue of a Certificate of Registration under the Aliens Act.

There continues to be substantial progress in the development of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. Emphasis will be placed by my Government on agricultural extension work, native land tenure and distribution problems. Steady progress is being made through native local Government Councils and through Public Service training schemes in educating the native people towards a greater participation in the administration of the Territory.

My advisers have given close attention to the question of constitutional reform in the Northern Territory and in this session legislation will be brought down to provide for an increase in the number of non-official members of the Legislative Council for the Northern Territory and for the creation of an Administrator's Council, which will be associated with the Administrator in certain functions of administration, and changes in the procedures regarding the tabling of Northern Territory Ordinances in the Commonwealth Parliament and the procedures in respect of assent to or disallowance of Ordinances. These measures will be a marked step forward in the constitutional development of the Territory and will help to foster the growth of political responsibility in the Territory.

My Government will continue its policy of keeping Social Services under constant review to ensure that they meet the needs and changing circumstances of our growing population. It will see to it that, as the economy permits, these Social Services provide the community with the assistance it requires. The effects of the recent legislation to provide supplementary assistance to improve the circumstances of those who are in the greatest need will be closely watched.

Following its consideration of the report of the Murray Committee, my Government proposes to introduce legislation to establish a University Grants Committee. It has already selected a Chairman.

My Government has decided that there should be one law of marriage and divorce operating throughout Australia and that that law should make suitable and adequate provision for marriage guidance and other means of preserving marriages and safeguarding the interests of children. A Bill, which will be based upon a private member's Bill introduced in the last Parliament, will be brought in during the present Session. Before a full debate of the measure is undertaken, adequate time will be afforded members of the Parliament and interested bodies to examine the provisions of the legislation.

My advisers hope that the present Parliament will have an opportunity of considering legislation to bring up-to-date the law covering both copyright and bankruptcy. This will round off the programme which my present Ministers set themselves when they first came into office of reviewing and modernizing the whole of the law of industrial property and bankruptcy.

In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

16. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Browne, Mr. Bandidt and the Mover be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the Speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report this day.
Question—put and passed.
17. DEATH OF THE HONORABLE H. A. BRUCE.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) referred to the death, on the 11th October, 1958, of the Honorable H. A. Bruce who at the time of his death was a Member of the House, and moved, That this House express its deep regret at the death of the Honorable Henry Adam Bruce, a former Member of the Legislative Assembly in the State of Queensland and Member of this House since 1951, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his wife and family in their bereavement.
And Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen, in silence—
Question—passed.
18. DEATH OF MR. W. M. NAIRN.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) referred to the death, on the 12th December, 1958, of Mr. W. M. Nairn, and moved, That this House express its deep regret at the death of Walter Maxwell Nairn, a Member of this House from 1929 until 1943 and its Speaker from 1940 until 1943, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service and tenders its profound sympathy to his wife and family in their bereavement.

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And Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Chaney having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—
Question—passed.

19. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) announced the Government's proposals for the business of the House during the current period of sittings.
20. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
- Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 62.
 - Air Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 77.
 - Apple and Pear Export Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 81.
 - Apple and Pear Organization Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 82.
 - Bankruptcy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 73.
 - Christmas Island Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 61.
 - Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act—
Ordinances—1958—
No. 1—Interpretation.
No. 2—Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment).
Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 69.
 - Copper Bounty Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 75.
 - Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules—
1958—Nos. 67, 68, 86.
1959—No. 5.
 - Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules—
1958—Nos. 78, 80.
1959—No. 6.
 - Dairy Produce Levy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, Nos. 71, 72.
 - Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, Nos. 83, 84, 85.
 - Excise Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 87.
 - Flax Fibre Bounty Act—Return for year ended 31st October, 1958.
 - Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 70.
 - Judiciary Act—Rule of Court, dated 17th October, 1958.
 - Lands Acquisition Act—Land, &c., acquired for—
Civil Aviation purposes—
Evandale (near), Tasmania.
Point Lookout, New South Wales.
Tamworth, New South Wales.
Western Junction, Tasmania.
 - Defence purposes—
Fort Scratchley, New South Wales.
Murwillumbah, New South Wales.
North Geelong, Victoria.
Temora, New South Wales.
 - Defence Production purposes—St. Mary's, New South Wales.
 - Lighthouse purposes—Yamba, New South Wales.
 - Postal purposes—
Ashfield, New South Wales.
Coleraine, Victoria.
Culcairn, New South Wales.
Derwent Bridge, Tasmania.
Gladstone, Queensland.
Jimaringle, New South Wales.
Jugiong, New South Wales.
Karoola, Tasmania.
Khancoban, New South Wales.
Maryborough, Queensland.
Natural Bridge, Queensland.
Noosa, Queensland.
Pegarah, King Island, Tasmania.
Poatina, Tasmania.
Queenstown, Tasmania.
Raglan, Victoria.
Sheffield, Tasmania.
Stockton, New South Wales.
Urana, New South Wales.
Wodonga, Victoria.
Yarra Creek, King Island, Tasmania.
 - Seat of Government of the Commonwealth purposes—Uriarra, Australian Capital Territory (2).
 - Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority purposes—Adaminaby, New South Wales.

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- National Health Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules—
 1958—No. 63.
 1959—No. 4.
- National Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 79.
- Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, Nos. 76, 88.
- Norfolk Island Act—Ordinances—1958—
 No. 7—Gun Licence.
 No. 8—Customs.
 No. 9—Provident Account.
- Northern Territory (Administration) Act—
 Ordinances—1958—
 No. 6—Local Government.
 No. 8—Lottery and Gaming.
 No. 9—Wards' Employment.
 No. 10—Mining.
 No. 11—Mining (No. 2).
 No. 12—Mining Development.
 No. 13—Leases Validation.
 No. 14—Optometrists.
 No. 15—Poisons.
 No. 16—Licensing.
 No. 17—Public Health.
 No. 18—Foot and Mouth Disease Compensation.
 No. 19—Wages Attachment.
 No. 20—Child Welfare.
 No. 21—Control of Roads.
 No. 22—Observance of Law.
 No. 23—Pearling.
- Regulations—1958—
 No. 4 (Local Courts Ordinance) (Rules of Court, dated 26th May, 1958).
 No. 5 (Local Courts Ordinance) (Rules of Court, dated 11th June, 1958).
 No. 12 (Marine Ordinance).
 No. 13 (Supply of Services Ordinance).
 No. 14 (Traffic Ordinance).
 No. 15 (Mining Development Ordinance).
 No. 16 (Fire Brigades Ordinance).
- Public Service Act—
 Appointments—Department—
 Attorney-General—G. A. Cattermole, J. F. Lohan, J. P. Maher, J. P. Morrison, A. E. Plaskitt, J. Zurc.
 Civil Aviation—D. M. Hayman, L. E. Johnson, R. Ollino, K. S. Smith, G. H. V. Taylor, C. B. Wilson.
 Defence—R. Lee, R. H. Mathams.
 External Affairs—A. D. Brown, P. J. Flood, R. S. Laurie, W. G. T. Miller, M. E. Osborne, A. L. Vincent.
 Health—A. M. V. Cocks, W. R. Horsfall, P. F. Lewis, R. K. Macpherson, N. C. Permezel, G. F. Trinca, J. O. Walker.
 Interior—D. N. Body, C. A. Den, K. G. Eldridge, F. Hutchinson, B. J. Lynch, J. K. L. Nicolson, D. W. Phie, P. F. Roblin, J. H. Ruitter, N. D. Sherrington.
 National Development—A. J. Flavelle, R. M. Sorensen, R. H. R. Vine, R. Wells.
 Parliamentary Library—R. Kaspiew.
 Postmaster-General—A. Cohen, B. R. Drayson, J. E. Stirling, M. D. Zilko.
 Primary Industry—J. O. Moulden, A. H. Rowe.
 Repatriation—M. M. Arthur, T. Burfitt-Williams, I. W. W. Charles, D. A. Dowie, J. S. Duke, A. W. Gardner, A. H. Gibson, B. Miller, J. M. Radden, R. A. Royle.
 Social Services—G. O. Walters.
 Supply—R. D. Barnes, G. E. Beltrame, R. H. G. Cole, D. J. Cooke, K. J. Crawford, F. A. G. Day, J. A. Doig, R. S. Eaton, D. Fenna, R. H. Greig, B. Harkin, M. J. Hood, Z. D. Janka, C. I. Klopotowski, I. J. Macaulay, J. R. Marsh, R. R. McDonald, A. A. Mole, G. E. Moore, J. D. Murray, D. A. Needham, L. A. Nicholls, S. Nicoll, P. G. Norman, F. J. Nott, E. R. P. O'Flaherty, P. J. Oswald, C. J. Pengilley, S. D. Popolo, T. Reid, P. E. Rogasch, K. F. Rolph, J. G. Sanderson, L. G. Sewell, G. R. Sieben, B. Solowij, J. N. Weadon, R. G. Wells, N. West, B. T. Williams.
 Territories—J. F. D. Cherry.
 Treasury—A. E. Parish, J. H. Taylor.
 Works—A. L. Airey, R. F. Barnett, G. S. Cornish, H. W. Cover, E. K. Culpin, W. C. Curnow, W. Deane, P. A. Doyle, A. Drewes, H. M. Gifford, D. R. T. Hill, J. Hodge, B. J. Lawrence, G. H. Lewis, S. G. Prior, R. Puksmann, V. A. Sapats, A. V. Stenders, J. R. Stewart, C. Webb, W. A. C. Wright, R. N. Young.
- Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 66.
- Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations—1958—
 No. 117—Australian Workers' Union.
 No. 118—Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen.
 No. 119—Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association.
 No. 120—Association of Railway Professional Officers of Australia.

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- No. 121—Australian Workers' Union.
 No. 122—Amalgamated Engineering Union.
 No. 123—North Australian Workers' Union.
 No. 124—Federated Ironworkers' Association of Australia.
 Nos. 125 and 126—Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen.
 No. 127—Federated Public Service Assistants' Association.
 Rayon Yarn Bounty Act—Return for year ended 31st October, 1958.
 Seat of Government (Administration) Act—
 Ordinance—1958—No. 20—Liquor (Upper Cotter Dam).
 Regulations—1958—Nos. 11 and 12 (Motor Traffic Ordinance).
 Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Australian Capital Territory for year 1957–58.
 Sulphuric Acid Bounty Act—Return for year 1956–57.
 Trade Commissioners Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1958, No. 74.
 Wine Grapes Charges Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1959, Nos. 1, 2.
 Wine Overseas Marketing Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1959, No. 3.

21. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.—Mr. Lucock moved, That Mr. Bowden be appointed Chairman of Committees of this House, which motion was seconded by Mr. Howse.
 Question—put and passed.
 Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. McEwen (Minister for Trade) congratulated Mr. Bowden, who made his acknowledgments to the House.
22. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Browne brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:—
 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.
 Mr. Browne moved, That the Address be agreed to.
 Mr. Bandidt seconded the motion.
 Debate adjourned (Mr. Duthie), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
23. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-one minutes past five 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. Fulton.

A. G. TURNER,
 Clerk of the House of Representatives.