

1959.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 5.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1959.

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. COMMONWEALTH LOAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the success of the recently closed Commonwealth Loan.
3. SHORT-TERM MONEY MARKET—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the short-term money market in Australia.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 - Australian Imperial Force Canteens Funds Act—Thirty-eighth Annual Report by the Trustees, for year 1957–58.
 - Broadcasting and Television Act—Australian Broadcasting Control Board—Tenth Annual Report, for year 1957–58.
 - Customs Tariff—Orders—
 - Customs (British Preferential Tariff) No. 4.
 - Customs (Intermediate Tariff) No. 8.
 - Customs Tariff (Primage Duties)—Order—Customs Tariff (Primage Duties) No. 7.
 - Lands Acquisition Act—Land, &c., acquired for Civil Aviation purposes—
 - Devonport, Tasmania.
 - Pascoe Vale, Victoria.
 - Medical Research Endowment Act—National Health and Medical Research Council—Report for 1957.
 - National Fitness Act—Report for 1957.
 - Public Service Act—Appointment—Postmaster-General's Department—B. R. Mitchell.
 - Repatriation Act—Repatriation Commission—Report for year 1957–58.
5. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—BILLS RELATING TO BANKING.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, pursuant to notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the taking of all necessary steps for the introduction and motions for the first and second readings of the following Bills:—Reserve Bank, Commonwealth Banks, Banking, Banking (Transitional Provisions), Audit, Christmas Island, Commonwealth Employees' Furlough, Crimes, Income Tax and Social Services Contribution Assessment, National Debt Sinking Fund, Northern Territory (Lessees' Loans Guarantee), Officers' Rights Declaration, Re-establishment and Employment, and Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications).
Question—put and passed.
6. RESERVE BANK BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Reserve Bank of Australia, and for other purposes.
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.
7. COMMONWEALTH BANKS BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to establish a Commonwealth Banking Corporation and to make provision for the conduct of the business of the Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia, the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia and the Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia.
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.

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8. BANKING BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to regulate Banking, to make provision for the Protection of the Currency and of the Public Credit of the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.
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.
9. BANKING (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to enact certain Transitional Provisions consequential upon the enactment of the *Reserve Bank Act 1959*, the *Commonwealth Banks Act 1959* and the *Banking Act 1959*.
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.
10. AUDIT BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Audit Act 1901–1957*.
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.
11. CHRISTMAS ISLAND BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Christmas Island Act 1958*.
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.
12. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' FURLOUGH BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Commonwealth Employees' Furlough.
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.
13. CRIMES BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1914–1955*.
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.
14. INCOME TAX AND SOCIAL SERVICES CONTRIBUTION ASSESSMENT BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the Law relating to Income Tax in relation to the Commonwealth Trading Bank, and for other purposes.
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. NATIONAL DEBT SINKING FUND BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the National Debt Commission.
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.
16. NORTHERN TERRITORY (LESSEES' LOANS GUARANTEE) BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Northern Territory (Lessees' Loans Guarantee) Act 1954*.
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.
17. OFFICERS' RIGHTS DECLARATION BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to the Rights of Officers.
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.
18. RE-ESTABLISHMENT AND EMPLOYMENT BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Re-establishment and Employment.
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.
19. SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) BILL 1959.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act relating to Sales Tax Exemptions and Classifications.
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.

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20. 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 members of the Committee shall hold office as a Joint Committee until the House of Representatives expires by dissolution or effluxion of time;

(c) 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;

(d) the Committee or any sub-committee have power to adjourn from place to place and to sit during any recess or adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament;

(e) 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;

(f) (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;

(g) 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;

(h) subject to the Minister for External Affairs being informed, the Committee shall have power to invite persons to give evidence before it;

(i) subject to the consent of the Minister for External Affairs, the Committee shall have power to call for official papers or records;

(j) subject to paragraph 4 (e), all evidence submitted to the Committee, both written and oral, shall be regarded as confidential to the Committee;

(k) 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.

Debate ensued.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Closure.—Mr. Casey moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

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

AYES, 66.

Mr. Adermann	Mr. Casey	Mr. Fairhall	Mr. Jack	Mr. Snedden
Mr. Allan	Mr. Cash	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Joske	Mr. Stokes
Mr. Anderson	Mr. Chaney	Mr. Forbes	Mr. Kelly	Mr. Townley
Mr. Anthony	Mr. Chresby	Mr. Fox	Sir W. Kent Hughes	Mr. Turner
Mr. Aston	Mr. Cleaver	Mr. J. M. Fraser	Mr. Killen	Mr. Wentworth
Mr. Barnes	Mr. Cramer	Mr. Freeth	Mr. King	Mr. Wheeler
Sir G. Barwick	Mr. Davidson	Mr. Halbert	Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Wight
Mr. Bate	Mr. Davis	Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Mackinnon	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Dean	Mr. Hasluck	Mr. McColm	
Mr. Brimblecombe	Mr. Downer	Mr. Haworth	Mr. McMahon	
Mr. Browne	Mr. Drury	Mr. Holten	Mr. Murray	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Buchanan	Mr. Erwin	Mr. Howse	Mr. Osborne	
Mr. Bury	Mr. Failes	Mr. Howson	Mr. Pearce	Mr. Opperman
Mr. D. A. Cameron	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Hulme	Mr. Robertson	Mr. Turnbull

NOES, 39.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Costa	Mr. Harrison	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Waró
Mr. Bird	Mr. Courtney	Mr. Haylen	Mr. Peters	Mr. Whitlam
Mr. Bryant	Mr. Crean	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Pollard	
Mr. Cairns	Mr. Curtin	Mr. Jones	Mr. Reynolds	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Daly	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Riordan	
Mr. Clarey	Mr. Davies	Mr. Luchetti	Mr. Russell	
Mr. Clark	Mr. A. D. Fraser	Mr. Makin	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Duthie
Mr. Clay	Mr. Fulton	Mr. McIvor	Mr. Uren	Mr. Stewart
Mr. Cope	Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Minogue		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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And the question—That the motion be agreed to—being accordingly put—
The House divided (The Deputy Speaker, Mr. Lucock, in the Chair)—

AYES, 66.

Mr. Adermann	Mr. Casey	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Kelly	Mr. Stokes
Mr. Allan	Mr. Cash	Mr. Forbes	Sir W. Kent Hughes	Mr. Timson
Mr. Anderson	Mr. Chaney	Mr. Fox	Mr. Killen	Mr. Townley
Mr. Anthony	Mr. Chresby	Mr. Freeth	Mr. King	Mr. Turner
Mr. Aston	Mr. Cleaver	Mr. Halbert	Mr. Lindsay	Mr. Wentworth
Mr. Bandidt	Mr. Cramer	Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Mackinnon	Mr. Wheeler
Mr. Barnes	Mr. Davidson	Mr. Hasluck	Mr. McColm	Mr. Wight
Sir G. Barwick	Mr. Davis	Mr. Haworth	Mr. McMahon	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Dean	Mr. Holten	Mr. Murray	
Mr. Brimblecombe	Mr. Downer	Mr. Howse	Mr. Osborne	
Mr. Browne	Mr. Drury	Mr. Howson	Sir E. Page	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Buchanan	Mr. Erwin	Mr. Hulme	Mr. Pearce	
Mr. Bury	Mr. Failes	Mr. Jack	Mr. Robertson	Mr. Opperman
Mr. D. A. Cameron	Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Joske	Mr. Snedden	Mr. Turnbull

NOES, 40.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Cope	Mr. Griffiths	Mr. Minogue	Mr. Ward
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Costa	Mr. Harrison	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Whitlam
Mr. Bird	Mr. Courtney	Mr. Haylen	Mr. Peters	
Mr. Bryant	Mr. Crean	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Pollard	
Mr. Cairns	Mr. Curtin	Mr. Jones	Mr. Reynolds	
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Daly	Mr. Lawson	Mr. Riordan	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Clarey	Mr. Davies	Mr. Luchetti	Mr. Russell	
Mr. Clark	Mr. A. D. Fraser	Mr. Makin	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Duthie
Mr. Clay	Mr. Fulton	Mr. McIvor	Mr. Uren	Mr. Stewart

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

21. 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.

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

22. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Cramer (Minister for the Army) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at seven 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. Bland, Mr. C. R. Cameron, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Evatt, Mr. Galvin, Mr. Kearney and Mr. Sexton.

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