

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 23.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH APRIL, 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. PETITIONS.—Mr. Thompson 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.
Mr. Curtin 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 age, invalid and widows' pensions 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.
Petitions severally received and read.
3. SHIPPING SERVICE TO TASMANIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Hulme (Minister representing the Minister for Shipping and Transport), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement regarding a suggestion that the steamer *Taroona* should be kept in service on the Tasmanian run next season in addition to the new vehicle-carrying ferry *Princess of Tasmania*.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for postal purposes—Gocup, New South Wales.
Life Insurance Act—Thirteenth Annual Report of the Insurance Commissioner, for 1958.
Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Regulations—1959—No. 1 (Firearms Ordinance).
Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations—1959—
No. 8—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.
No. 9—Musicians' Union of Australia.
No. 10—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.
Superannuation Act—Superannuation Board—Thirty-sixth Annual Report, for year 1957-58
5. COMMONWEALTH AID ROADS BILL 1959.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—
Debate resumed by Mr. Bird who moved, as an amendment, That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted with a view to providing that without reduction of the amounts provided under this Bill, an amount of money not less than the full proceeds of the petrol and diesel fuel taxes shall be granted to the States for expenditure by the States, municipalities and shires on or in connexion with roads".
Debate continued.
Debate adjourned (Mr. Duthie), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

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6. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. McMahon (Minister for Labour and National Service) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty 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. Barnard, Mr. Cairns, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Falkinder, Mr. J. M. Fraser, Mr. Haworth*, Mr. Howse, Mr. McColm, Mr. McIvor, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Riordan*, Mr. Wight and Mr. Wilson.

* On leave.

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