

1959.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 32.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 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. Kearney 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.
Petition received and read.
A similar Petition was presented by Mr. Clay, and was received.
Mr. Courtney 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.
Similar Petitions were presented by Mr. McColm and Mr. Clark, and were severally received.
3. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—
Audit Act—Finance—Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for year 1958-59, accompanied by the Report of the Auditor-General.
Ordered to be printed.
The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Australian Post Office: Progress—Policy—Plans (August, 1959).
Qantas Empire Airways Limited—Twenty-fifth Annual Report and Financial Accounts, for 1958.
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Customs Tariff—Order—Customs (Intermediate Tariff) No. 12.
Customs Tariff (Primage Duties)—Order—Customs Tariff (Primage Duties) No. 12.
Public Service Act—Appointment—Department of Health—B. E. Saunders.
4. ADVANCE TO THE TREASURER 1958-59—STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer), by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:—
Statement for the year 1958-59 of Heads of Expenditure and the Amounts charged thereto pursuant to Section 36A of the *Audit Act* 1901-1959 (Advance to the Treasurer).
Ordered—That the Statement be taken into consideration in Committee of the whole House at the next sitting.
5. DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF URGENCY—COMMONWEALTH LITERARY FUND.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that Mr. Haylen had proposed that a definite matter of urgent public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The failure of the Government to enlarge the authority controlling the Commonwealth Literary Fund into a Commonwealth Literary Commission, on the lines of the Canadian Literary Commission, with an annual grant of £100,000 a year, instead of £12,000 a year, so that adequate provision for scholarships, literary pensions and the sponsorship of publications of Australian writers can be made".
The proposed discussion having received the necessary support—
Mr. Haylen addressed the House.
Discussion ensued.
Discussion concluded.

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6. POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE OF MOTION.—Ordered—That Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
7. TELEVISION SERVICES—STATEMENT BY POSTMASTER-GENERAL—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Holt (Treasurer), That the Paper [*presented on the 12th May, 1959*], viz.:—
 Extension of Television Services—Statement by Postmaster-General made on the 30th April, 1959—
 be printed—
 Debate resumed.
 Debate adjourned (Mr. Brimblecombe), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.
8. INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT BILL 1959.—Mr. McEwen (Minister for Trade) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to approve Acceptance by Australia of the International Wheat Agreement, 1959, and for other purposes.
 Question—put and passed.
 Bill brought up, and read a first time.
 Mr. McEwen moved, by leave, 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.
9. TELEVISION SERVICES—STATEMENT BY POSTMASTER-GENERAL—PRINTING OF PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Holt (Treasurer), That the Paper [*presented on the 12th May, 1959*], viz.:—
 Extension of Television Services—Statement by Postmaster-General made on the 30th April, 1959—
 be printed—
 Debate resumed.
 Question—put and passed.
10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Davidson (Postmaster-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
 Debate ensued.
 Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eighteen 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. Aston, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Bird, Mr. Failes, Mr. Haworth, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Nelson, Sir Earle Page and Mr. Riordan.

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