

1959.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 33.

THURSDAY, 13TH AUGUST, 1959.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITIONS.—Mr. Johnson 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.  
A similar Petition was presented by Mr. Opperman, and was received.  
Mr. Johnson 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.
3. FOREIGN AFFAIRS—VISIT ABROAD OF PRIME MINISTER—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement on foreign affairs with particular reference to his recent visit abroad, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper:—  
Foreign Affairs—Visit abroad of Prime Minister—Ministerial Statement—  
and moved, That the Paper be printed.  
*Suspension of Standing Orders.*—Mr. Townley (Minister for Defence) 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 40 minutes.  
Question—put and passed.  
Debate ensued.  
Ordered—That Mr. Casey (Minister for External Affairs) be granted an extension of time.  
Ordered—That Mr. Calwell be granted an extension of time.  
Debate continued.  
Debate adjourned (Mr. Wentworth), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—  
Cocos (Keeling) Islands—Report for year 1957–58.  
New Guinea—Report to the General Assembly of the United Nations on Administration of New Guinea for year 1957–58.  
Northern Territory—Report for year 1956–57.  
Papua—Report for year 1957–58.  
Severally ordered to lie on the Table.
5. CUSTOMS HOUSE, MELBOURNE—NON-APPROVAL OF WORK.—Mr. Freeth (Minister for Works) moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1913–1953*, it is not expedient to carry out the following proposed work which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in 1956 for investigation and report and upon which the Committee reported unfavourably, namely:—The erection of additions to the Customs House, Flinders-street, Melbourne.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.
6. ORDER OF THE DAY NO. 1—SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—It being past fifteen minutes to one o'clock p.m., Order of the Day No. 1 (“Grievance Day”—pursuant to Standing Order No. 291) was not called on, and the Committee of Supply was set down for the next sitting.

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7. MATRIMONIAL CAUSES 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.

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

8. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Papua and New Guinea Act—Petroleum (Prospecting and Mining) Ordinance—Permit No. 27.  
Wireless Telegraphy Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1959, No. 65.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Garfield Barwick (Attorney-General) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beazley, Mr. Bird, Mr. Bland, Mr. Clay, Mr. Davis, Mr. Failes, Mr. Haworth, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Nelson, Sir Earle Page and Mr. Riordan.

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A. G. TURNER,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*