

1959.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 34.

TUESDAY, 18TH 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.  
Mr. Fulton 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.  
Petition received and read.  
Mr. Pearce presented a Petition from certain members of the Pensioners' League of Queensland praying that the Parliament will give immediate consideration to the question of increasing pensions to no less than 50 per cent. of the basic wage as the minimum.  
Petition received.
3. MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) informed the House that, during the absence abroad of Mr. Casey, Sir Garfield Barwick (Attorney-General) would act as Minister for External Affairs and Mr. D. A. Cameron (Minister for Health) would act as Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—  
Army—H. R. Byron.  
Postmaster-General—H. C. Laserson, S. G. P. Pennicott.  
Repatriation—C. W. Plint.  
Wheat Research Act—First Annual Report, for 1958.
5. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m. to-morrow.  
Question—put and passed.
6. 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.  
Mr. Luchetti 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 referred to a Select Committee of this House".  
Debate continued.  
Mr. Barnard was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.  
Debate adjourned, and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
7. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—EXTENDED TIME FOR SPEECH.—Sir Garfield Barwick (Attorney-General) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) speaking on the Budget without limitation of time.  
Question—put and passed.

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8. SUPPLY—BUDGET DEBATE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 101.—  
Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances .. .. . £29,600

be agreed to.

Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That the first item be reduced by £1.

Debate continued.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed; Mr. Bowden reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

9. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Osborne (Minister for Air) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at fifteen minutes to three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Bird, Mr. Bland, Mr. C. R. Cameron, Mr. D. A. Cameron, Mr. Casey, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Drury, Mr. Failes, Mr. Haworth, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Nelson, Sir Earle Page and Mr. Riordan.

A. G. TURNER,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*