

1960.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 12.

THURSDAY, 31ST MARCH, 1960.

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. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—A Message from the Senate was reported returning the following Bill without amendment:—
30th March, 1960—*Message No. 2*—Wheat Industry Stabilization 1960.
3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Holt (Treasurer) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the consideration of Notice of Motion No. 1, General Business, being continued until 12.45 p.m. and Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) speaking on the motion for a period not exceeding 30 minutes.
Question—put and passed.
4. EVENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Mr. Calwell (Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice, That this House—
 - (1) expresses its abhorrence at the shooting down of native men, women, and children at several places in South Africa, and its sense of outrage that a great number of people were killed in such circumstances in a member country of the British Commonwealth of Nations;
 - (2) expresses its sympathy with the relatives of the victims of these unfortunate occurrences;
 - (3) regrets that the opinions expressed by the Prime Minister will be construed as Australian condonation of the South African Prime Minister's statements and attitude;
 - (4) repudiates the parallel that the Prime Minister drew between South Africa's treatment of the natives in the Union of South Africa and South-West Africa and Australia's treatment of the indigenous inhabitants of the Commonwealth and its territories because Australia's policy in Australia and Papua-New Guinea is not apartheid nor does it require and never has required the carriage of passports governing their movements inside their country by indigenous peoples;
 - (5) emphasises that the Prime Minister's gratuitous and maladroit references to the policies of Australia in regard to its native peoples may be construed in Asia and Africa in a manner most damaging to this country, and
 - (6) agrees that all the circumstances of this tragic incident should be brought before the notice of the United Nations as speedily as possible, and should also be listed for discussion at the forthcoming Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, as an amendment, That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"this House profoundly regrets the loss of human lives occasioned in the recent incidents in South Africa; is distressed that such events should have occurred in a member country of the Commonwealth of Nations; expresses its sympathy with those who have suffered; profoundly hopes that order may be re-established as soon as possible; and earnestly hopes that the adjustment of all disputes and differences will be achieved by orderly and lawful processes for the common benefit of the people of South Africa".

Debate continued.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, the debate was interrupted and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

31st March, 1960.

5. DEFENCE REVIEW—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Townley (Minister for Defence), That the Paper [*presented on the 29th March, 1960*], viz.:—

Defence Review—Ministerial Statement, 29th March, 1960—

be printed—

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr. Whitlam be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Suspension of Sitting.—At fifteen minutes to five o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Resumption of Sitting.—At eight o'clock p.m., Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Hulme—Minister for Supply), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

6. PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS IN REPLY.—Mr. Speaker reported that, accompanied by honorable Members, he had waited that day upon His Excellency the Governor-General at Government House, and had presented to him the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech on the Opening of the Second Session of the Twenty-third Parliament, agreed to by the House on the 22nd March. His Excellency had been pleased to thank Mr. Speaker for the Address and had said that he would see that Her Majesty The Queen was speedily informed of the Message of Loyalty expressed in the Address.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Hulme (Minister for Supply) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Barnes, Mr. Browne, Mr. Clarey*, Mr. Costa, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Drummond*, Mr. J. M. Fraser, Mr. Freeth, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Lawson, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. McIvor, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Stokes* and Mr. Wilson.

* On leave.

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