

1912.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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FIRST REPORT

FROM THE

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

STANDING ORDERS.

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TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES.

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ORDERED TO BE PRINTED, 16TH JULY, 1912.

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# R E P O R T.

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THE STANDING COMMITTEE on Standing Orders have the honour to report to your Honorable House as follows :—

That the Committee have the honour to recommend that the following Standing Order be adopted by the House:—

## TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES.

No Member shall speak for more than one hour at a time in any Debate in the House, except in the Debate on the Address-in-Reply, or in a Debate on a Motion of "No Confidence," or in moving the second reading of a Bill, or on the Debate on the Appropriation Bill or on the Financial Statement in Committee, when a Member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour and a half. In Committee of the House no Member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes at any one time, or more than four times on any one Question before the Committee : Provided that this rule shall not apply in Committee to a Member in charge of a Bill, or to a Minister when delivering the Financial Statement, or in regard to the number of his speeches, to a Minister in charge of a Class of the Estimates in Committee of Supply.

Any Member may speak for a longer period or more frequently than is allowed by the preceding rule with the leave of an ordinary majority of the House or Committee, as the case may be. The question whether the Member be further heard shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate.

CHARLES McDONALD,  
Chairman.

Speaker's Chambers,  
16th July, 1912.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

TUESDAY, 16TH JULY, 1912.

*Members present:*

MR. SPEAKER (in the Chair).

Mr. Cook,  
Mr. Deakin,  
Mr. Fisher,

Mr. Poynton,  
Mr. Wise.

The Committee deliberated on the question of a time limit of speeches, and after amendments had been made the following resolution was agreed to, and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Fisher, That the House be recommended to adopt the resolution as a Standing Order of the House :—

“TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES.

No Member shall speak for more than one hour at a time in any Debate in the House, except in the Debate on the Address-in-Reply, or in a Debate on a Motion of ‘No Confidence,’ or in moving the second reading of a Bill, or on the Debate on the Appropriation Bill or on the *Financial Statement in Committee*, when a Member shall be at liberty to speak for one hour and a half. In Committee of the House no Member shall speak for more than fifteen minutes at any one time, or more than four times on any one Question before the Committee: Provided that this rule shall not apply in Committee to a Member in charge of a Bill, or to a Minister when delivering the Financial Statement, or, in regard to the number of his speeches, to a Minister in charge of a Class of the Estimates in Committee of Supply.

Any Member may speak for a longer period or more frequently than is allowed by the preceding rule with the leave of an ordinary majority of the House or Committee, as the case may be. The question whether the Member be further heard shall be put forthwith without amendment or debate.”

Mr. Cook voted against the motion.

*Ordered*—That the Committee report to the House.

The Committee adjourned.