

1943.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 10.

THURSDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 1943.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. 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 First Session of the Seventeenth Parliament, agreed to by the House on the 29th September, and that His Excellency had been pleased to make the following reply :—  

MR. SPEAKER,  
I desire to thank you for the Address in Reply, which you have just presented to me.  
It will afford me much pleasure to convey to His Most Gracious Majesty The King the message of loyalty from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia to which the Address gives expression.
3. SUCCESSFUL AIR ATTACK ON RABAU—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the details, contained in a communiqué issued by General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters, of a successful air attack made on enemy aircraft, installations and shipping at Rabaul.
4. COAL PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing the measures decided upon by the Government for increasing coal production and conserving coal stocks.  

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) and Mr. Fadden, by leave, also made statements in connexion with the matter.
5. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That the number of Members appointed to serve on the Standing Orders Committee be increased to eight, and that Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister, the Chairman of Committees, the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Makin and Sir Earle Page be Members of that Committee ; three to form a quorum.  

Question—put and passed.
6. LIBRARY COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Coles, Mr. Hutchinson, Dame Enid Lyons and Mr. Williams be Members of the Library Committee ; three to form a quorum.  

Question—put and passed.
7. HOUSE COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Speaker, Mr. Corser, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Francis, Mr. Holt, Mr. Mulcahy and Mr. Watkins be Members of the House Committee ; three to form a quorum.  

Question—put and passed.
8. PRINTING COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Adermann, Mr. Conelan, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Haylen, Mr. Martens, Mr. McDonald and Mr. Ryan be Members of the Printing Committee ; three to form a quorum, with power to confer with a similar Committee of the Senate.  

Question—put and passed.
9. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE (JOINT).—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Australian Broadcasting Act 1942*, the following Members be appointed members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Broadcasting, viz. :—Mr. Bowden, Mr. Bryson, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Francis, Mr. Guy and Mr. Watkins.  

Question—put and passed.
10. WAR EXPENDITURE—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—  
  - (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to examine current expenditure defrayed out of moneys voted by the Parliament for the Defence Services and other Services directly connected with the war and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided on by the Government may be effected therein.
  - (2) That the following Members of the House of Representatives, Mr. Holt, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McLeod and Mr. Rankin be appointed to serve on such Committee.

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(3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—

- (a) the Committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members ; and to refer to any such sub-committees any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to examine ;
- (b) the Committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament ; and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
- (c) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report ;
- (d) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee ;
- (e) the Committee have power, in cases where considerations of National Security preclude the publication of any recommendations and of the arguments on which they are based, or both, to address a memorandum to the Prime Minister, for the consideration of the War Cabinet, but on every occasion when the Committee exercises this power, the Committee shall report to the Parliament accordingly ; and
- (f) a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence and asking that two Members of the Senate be appointed to serve on such Committee.

Question—put and passed.

11. SOCIAL SECURITY—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—

- (1) That a Joint Committee be appointed to inquire into and, from time to time, report upon ways and means of improving social and living conditions in Australia and of rectifying any anomalies in existing legislation.
- (2) That the following Members of the House of Representatives, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Daly, Mr. Haylen, Mr. Ryan and Sir Frederick Stewart be appointed to serve on such Committee.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
  - (a) the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
  - (b) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee may add a protest or dissent to any report ;
  - (c) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum ;
  - (d) a Message be sent to the Senate requesting its concurrence and asking that two Members of the Senate be appointed to serve on such Committee.

Question—put and passed.

12. ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE—WAR SERVICE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Air), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement reviewing the part played by the Royal Australian Air Force in the war against the Axis powers.

13. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS—MISSION OVERSEAS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPERS.—Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement in relation to his recent mission overseas and to international affairs, and, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Papers :—

- (1) International Affairs—Mission Overseas—Ministerial Statement, 14th October, 1943 ;
- (2) United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture—held at Hot Springs, Virginia, U.S.A.—May–June, 1943—Report of Australian Delegation and text of the Final Act of the Conference.
- (3) United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration—Draft Agreement of 20th September, 1943.

and moved, That the Papers be printed.

Mr. Hughes moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

14. BROADCASTING OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Calwell (Minister representing the Postmaster-General), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to a proposal that the proceedings of Parliament should be broadcast.

15. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—Ballarat, Victoria.

16. WAYS AND MEANS [“ GRIEVANCE DAY ”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Ways and Means—

Question—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and negatived.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, resolve itself into the said Committee.

17. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES 1943–44.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee.)*Vote —“ Defence and War (1939–43) Services, £139,646,000 ”—further considered—  
Other Administrations—Recoverable Expenditure—agreed to.

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- Vote—" Department of Civil Aviation, £361,100 "—debated and agreed to.  
 Vote—" Department of Trade and Customs, £705,000 "—debated and agreed to.  
 Vote—" Department of Health, £154,100 "—agreed to.  
 Vote—" Department of Commerce and Agriculture, £330,000 "—debated and agreed to.  
 Vote—" Department of Social Services, £395,000 "—agreed to.  
 Vote—" Department of Supply and Shipping, £256,000 "—debated.

The Committee continuing to sit until after midnight—

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Debate continued.

Vote agreed to.

Remainder of Estimates, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the following Resolution be reported to the House :—

That, including the several sums already voted for such services, there be granted to His Majesty to defray the charges for the year 1943-44, for the several services hereunder specified, a sum not exceeding £180,657,000.

PART I.—DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES—Other than Business Undertakings and Territories of the Commonwealth.

	£
Parliament .. .. .	172,500
Prime Minister's Department .. .. .	970,600
Department of External Affairs .. .. .	173,200
Department of the Treasury .. .. .	1,938,900
Attorney-General's Department .. .. .	311,500
Department of the Interior .. .. .	559,100
Defence and War (1939-43) Services—	£
Department of Defence .. .. .	262,000
Department of the Navy .. .. .	} 502,828,000
Department of the Army .. .. .	
Department of Air .. .. .	
Department of Munitions .. .. .	
Department of Aircraft Production .. .. .	
Reciprocal Lend-Lease to United States Forces .. .. .	} 8,295,000
Department of Supply and Shipping .. .. .	
Department of Home Security .. .. .	450,000
Other War Services .. .. .	35,250,000
Other Administrations—Recoverable Expenditure .. .. .	Cr. 5,000,000
	542,085,000
Less Amount chargeable to Loan Fund .. .. .	402,439,000
	139,646,000
Department of Civil Aviation .. .. .	361,100
Department of Trade and Customs .. .. .	705,000
Department of Health .. .. .	154,100
Department of Commerce and Agriculture .. .. .	330,000
Department of Social Services .. .. .	395,000
Department of Supply and Shipping .. .. .	256,000
Miscellaneous Services .. .. .	1,129,000
Refunds of Revenue .. .. .	5,000,000
Advance to the Treasurer .. .. .	6,000,000
War (1914-18) Services .. .. .	1,168,000
	159,270,000
PART 2.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.	
Commonwealth Railways .. .. .	2,794,000
Postmaster-General's Department .. .. .	17,961,000
	20,755,000
PART 3.—TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.	
Northern Territory .. .. .	223,400
Australian Capital Territory .. .. .	404,600
Norfolk Island .. .. .	4,000
	632,000
TOTAL .. .. .	180,657,000

Question—put and passed.

Leave to be asked to sit again.

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The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. Mr. Chifley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley was adopted by the House.

18. WAYS AND MEANS—ESTIMATES 1943-44.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(*In the Committee.*)

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty, for the service of the year 1943-44, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £110,807,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Chifley and Mr. Scully do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

19. APPROPRIATION BILL 1943-44.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four and to appropriate the Supplies granted by the Parliament for that year* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Mr. Chifley moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Chifley, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

20. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1943-44.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(*In the Committee.*)

Estimates, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That there be granted to His Majesty for the service of the year 1943-44, for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., a sum not exceeding £4,870,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. Mr. Chifley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

21. WAYS AND MEANS—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1943-44.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(*In the Committee.*)

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., for the year 1943-44, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £4,870,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Chifley and Mr. Lazzarini do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

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22. APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL 1943-44.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., and to appropriate that sum* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Mr. Chifley moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Chifley, the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.

23. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*War Expenditure—Joint Committee*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 9.*

The Senate, having considered Message No. 9 of the House of Representatives, has agreed to the following resolutions in connexion therewith, viz. :—

- (1) That the Senate agrees to the appointment of a Joint Committee to examine current expenditure defrayed out of moneys voted by the Parliament for the Defence Services and other Services directly connected with the war and to report what, if any, economies consistent with the execution of the policy decided on by the Government may be effected therein.
- (2) That Senators Large and A. J. McLachlan be appointed to serve on such Committee with Members of the House of Representatives.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
  - (a) the Committee have power to appoint sub-committees consisting of three or more of its members ; and to refer to any such sub-committees any of the matters which the Committee is empowered to examine ;
  - (b) the Committee or any sub-committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament ; and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
  - (c) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee have power to add a protest or dissent to any report ;
  - (d) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum of the Committee and two members of a sub-committee constitute a quorum of that sub-committee ; and
  - (e) the Committee have power, in cases where considerations of National Security preclude the publication of any recommendations and of the arguments on which they are based, or both, to address a memorandum to the Prime Minister for the consideration of the War Cabinet, but, on every occasion when the Committee exercises this power, the Committee shall report to the Parliament accordingly.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 14th October, 1943.

[*Social Security—Joint Committee*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 10.*

The Senate, having considered Message No. 10 of the House of Representatives, has agreed to the following resolutions in connexion therewith, viz. :—

- (1) That the Senate agrees to the appointment of a Joint Committee to inquire into and, from time to time, report upon ways and means of improving social and living conditions in Australia and of rectifying any anomalies in existing legislation.
- (2) That Senators Cooper and Tangney be appointed to serve on such Committee with Members of the House of Representatives.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the Standing Orders—
  - (a) the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, to adjourn from place to place, and to sit during any adjournment of the Parliament and during the sittings of either House of the Parliament and have leave to report from time to time the evidence taken ;
  - (b) the Committee have leave to report from time to time its proceedings, and any member of the Committee may add a protest or dissent to any report ;
  - (c) three members of the Committee constitute a quorum.

GORDON BROWN,  
President.

The Senate,

Canberra, 14th October, 1943.

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24. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past one o'clock in the morning, adjourned until this day at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Adermann, Mr. Blain\*, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Gaha, Mr. Langtry, Mr. McDonald, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Pollard, Sir Frederick Stewart, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Williams.

\* On leave.

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F. C. GREEN,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*