

1944.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

No. 1.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SECOND SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH PARLIAMENT.

MONDAY, 17TH JULY, 1944.

1. The House of Representatives met pursuant to the Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor-General, dated the fifth day of July, 1944, which Proclamation was read at the Table by the Clerk, as follows :—

PROCLAMATION

Commonwealth of Australia to wit. By His Excellency the Governor-General in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

GOWRIE  
Governor-General.

WHEREAS by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia it is amongst other things enacted that the Governor-General may appoint such times for holding the Sessions of the Parliament as he thinks fit, and also from time to time, by Proclamation or otherwise, prorogue the Parliament :

Now therefore I, Alexander Gore Arkwright, Baron Gowrie, the Governor-General aforesaid, in exercise of the power conferred by the said Constitution, do by this my Proclamation prorogue the said Parliament until Monday, the seventeenth day of July, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four, or (in the event of circumstances, at present unforeseen, arising which render it expedient that the said Parliament should be summoned to assemble at a date earlier than the said Monday, the seventeenth day of July, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four) to such earlier date as is fixed by a Proclamation summoning the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business :

Furthermore I do appoint the said Monday, the seventeenth day of July, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four, or such earlier date (if any) as is fixed by Proclamation, as the day for the said Parliament to assemble and be holden for the despatch of business. And all Senators are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly, in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at Eleven o'clock a.m., on the said Monday, the seventeenth day of July, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four, or, in the event of an earlier date being fixed by Proclamation, at Eleven o'clock a.m. on the date so fixed. And all Members of the House of Representatives are hereby required to give their attendance accordingly in the building known as the Houses of Parliament, Canberra, at Three o'clock p.m. on the said Monday, the seventeenth of July, One thousand nine hundred and forty-four, or, in the event of an earlier date being fixed by Proclamation, at Three o'clock p.m. on the date so fixed.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth this fifth day of July in the year (L.S.) of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and forty-four and in the eighth year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command,

JOHN CURTIN  
Prime Minister.

GOD SAVE THE KING !

2. Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
3. MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL BY THE USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.— The following Message was delivered by the Usher of the Black Rod :—

MR. SPEAKER,

His Excellency the Governor-General desires the attendance of this honorable House in the Senate Chamber forthwith.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the Members of the House went to attend His Excellency :—And having returned—

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4. **STATUTORY DECLARATIONS BILL 1944.**—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Statutory Declarations Act 1911–1922*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Curtin then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
5. **DEATH OF MR. M. M. BLACKBURN.**—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) informed the House of the death on the 31st March of Mr. M. M. Blackburn, and moved, That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr. Maurice McCrae Blackburn, B.A., LL.B., a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Bourke, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Victoria, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow and the members of his family in their bereavement.  
And Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and other honorable Members having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—  
Question—passed.
6. **DEATH OF MR. J. H. PROWSE.**—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) referred to the death on the 20th May of Mr. J. H. Prowse, and moved, That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr. John Henry Prowse, a former Member of the House of Representatives for the Division of Forrest, and Chairman of Committees, places on record its appreciation of his meritorious public service and tenders its deep sympathy to his widow and the members of his family in their bereavement.  
And Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and Mr. Fadden having addressed the House in support thereof, and all Members present having risen, in silence—  
Question—passed.
7. **DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.**—Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) informed the House that Mr. Harrison had been appointed Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
8. **HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.**—Mr. Speaker reported that the House had that day attended His Excellency the Governor-General in the Senate Chamber, when His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of the Parliament, of which Mr. Speaker said he had received a copy, which read as follows :

## MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES :

You have been called together to deliberate upon matters of importance to the well-being of the Commonwealth.

1. This is the last occasion on which I shall have the privilege of addressing the Parliament of Australia. The time has now come for me to say good-bye. After sixteen years' residence in Australia and eight and a half years as your Governor-General, I do so with profound regret. But my regret is, to a very great extent, mitigated by the fact that I am to be succeeded in the office of Governor-General by His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, the brother of His Majesty the King. The appointment of His Royal Highness is a proof of His Majesty's appreciation of Australia's splendid contribution to the war effort, and it will demonstrate how real is the unity of the British Commonwealth of Nations and how close is the tie between the people and the Throne. I say good-bye with gratitude for the kindness and courtesy which have been shown to me and my wife during the last sixteen years; with pride in Australia's achievements; with admiration for the courage and endurance of her fighting forces and for the whole-hearted and sustained effort of the Australian people during the most critical period of her history.

2. The war continues to be the predominant and outstanding occupation of my advisers and the measures essential to its full prosecution are the paramount concern of the people.

3. Since the Parliament adjourned, the campaigns in all theatres of war have been advanced to a stage at which it is clear that the offensive which the enemy gained as the result of long preparation has now been assumed by the forces of the United Nations. The peoples of the United Nations have found a compatibility which has enabled a constantly mounting strength to be thrown against the enemy and carries with it the clear hallmark of his defeat. That has not been possible without imposing very great sacrifices on the people in each country. It has called for financial economic and man-power policy which has imposed great strains.

4. In the South-West Pacific the Allied Forces have achieved a series of outstanding victories since the offensive was initiated little more than twelve months ago.

5. Since Salamaua, Lae and Finschhafen were taken by Australian troops in September and October, 1943, successful landings were made by American Forces at Empress Augusta Bay in the Solomon Islands in November and at Arawe and Cape Gloucester in New Britain in December. Australian Forces advanced up the Markham and Ramu Valleys and the campaign for the conquest of Huon Peninsula was successfully concluded in February, 1944, when Australian troops established contact with American Forces at Saidor. Australian Forces have since pushed on along the northern coast of New Guinea to Madang, Alexishafen and Hansa Bay.

6. The landing on Green Island, at the northern end of the Solomons Archipelago, in February, 1944, was the culmination of a successful series of flanking movements which enveloped all enemy forces in the Solomon Islands and it marked the strategic end of the campaign for the Solomons. There followed the attack and capture of the Admiralty Islands in March, which changed the axis of the Allied advance from the north to the west.

7. The next stage of the offensive was the Allied landing at Aitape and Hollandia in April, 1944. These moves resulted in the isolation of the enemy forces dispersed along the coast of New Guinea, and their plight became similar to that of the beleaguered Japanese armies in the Bismarck

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and Solomons Archipelagos. These armies, which the Commander-in-Chief, South-West Pacific Area, has stated were those destined for the invasion of Australia, were thus themselves surrounded and neutralized. Much fighting still remains to be done before they are reduced but their ultimate fate is certain.

8. The landing at Biak Island in May which was followed by the recent further landing at Noemfoor Island marked, for strategic purposes, the practical end of the New Guinea campaign—a campaign which has resulted in the reconquest or neutralization of the Solomon Islands, Bismarck Archipelago, Admiralty Islands and New Guinea, and which has provided bases for the advance against Japanese-occupied territory in the Philippines and Netherlands East Indies.

9. The campaigns which have been fought in this area, under the distinguished command of General MacArthur, are notable for the unbroken run of success which has been achieved at very little cost. They have been fought against a stubborn and ruthless foe, under conditions of terrain and climate which have probably not been equalled in any other theatre. The gratitude and admiration of the people of Australia go out to the Commanders and officers and men of the Australian and American Forces of all arms for these magnificent victories.

10. In the Central Pacific, United States Forces are now established on Saipan Island in the Mariana Group, less than 1,300 miles from Tokio. This new advance will provide a base from which to cut Japanese lines of communications with their southern outposts. It will also menace the Japanese mainland itself. The failure of the Japanese Navy to meet this bold challenge demonstrates the overwhelming strength of Allied sea power in the Pacific.

11. In the Northern Pacific, the bombardment of Paramushiro by United States Naval Forces marks the growing threat to Japan from that quarter.

12. Allied air power, too, has made great advances. The development of long-range heavy bombers has already placed Japan within reach of attack by land-based aircraft.

13. The progress of these offensive operations in all parts of the Pacific affords ground for sober optimism with respect to the future course of the Pacific war.

14. In the meantime, the enemy has attempted to compensate for his reverses in the islands of the Pacific by making fresh efforts on the Asiatic mainland. In South-East Asia, his offensive in Manipur has been repelled with heavy losses, while in Northern Burma the enemy has been driven from the important base of Mogaung, and American, British and Chinese Forces are maintaining continuous pressure.

15. A revival of enemy activity has been evident in China. The people of China, whose spirit of resistance is still strong despite seven years of bitter warfare, are fighting back. They are receiving support from the American Air Forces, which have established bases in China in the face of enormous difficulties of supply and maintenance.

16. A decisive phase of the European war commenced with the resumption of the offensive in Italy, followed in the West by the Allied landing in Normandy and in the East by the operations of the Soviet Armies on the White Russian front. All these operations have made excellent progress and the Germany Army is now faced with unremitting pressure on three major fronts. It has also to cope with the increasing activities of partisans and resistance movements in the occupied territories.

17. The landing in Normandy represents the culmination of a long period of planning and organization. The results achieved are eloquent testimony of the thoroughness and foresight of those responsible. Despite the most desperate efforts of the enemy, British, Canadian and American Forces are now firmly established on the mainland of Europe. Although hampered by bad weather the landing of troops and supplies over open beaches has proceeded without pause.

18. The capture of the port of Cherbourg will enable Allied strength to be marshalled on an even larger scale against the German Forces.

19. In Italy the Allied Forces have liberated Rome and are continuing their advance northward in the face of strong enemy opposition.

20. Our Russian Allies, whose courage, tenacity and military skill have evoked the admiration of the world, are now driving the German Armies back to the territory from which, three years ago, they launched their unprovoked assault on the Soviet people. The Soviet forces are advancing with great speed and have plainly achieved a considerable superiority of both men and equipment.

21. New standards have been set in respect of Naval and Air co-operation with ground forces. The enemy's submarines, whose failure against our merchant shipping had already become apparent, have equally failed to impede the naval operations in support of our forces in Normandy. The Allied Air Forces are now overwhelmingly superior to the German Air Force, which is compelled to reserve its fighter aircraft for the defence of the most critical targets.

22. In addition to their operations in support of ground forces, the Allied Air Forces continue to attack military objectives in Germany and other Axis countries.

23. German air activity over Britain has been limited to attacks by flying bombs. The sympathy of the Australian people goes out to the gallant people of Britain who will endure this fresh burden with the same magnificent courage which they displayed under the heaviest attacks of the German Air Force.

24. My Prime Minister has had important discussions in the United Kingdom and the United States on matters relating to the war and, in the course of your present deliberations, he will put before you a statement dealing with these matters.

25. The Government will ask you to provide the finance necessary to enable the war to be waged and to maintain the various essential services. This will include the necessary provision for increasing expenditure for mutual aid to the United States Forces in this country.

26. Since the Parliament adjourned, my advisers have arranged to submit to the people the legislation passed by the Parliament in respect of additional powers for the Commonwealth Parliament. The date for the referendum of the people is 19th August.

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27. As I said to you last September, final victory has still to be won. Upon the peoples of the United Nations still rests a great task. Not only must they marshal their resources, but they must share equally the perils. Their capacity to meet danger must be matched by the ability so to spread their strength at the desired places as to present to the enemy in all parts of the freedom-loving world an accomplishment that will be overwhelming. While we may watch the events now taking place and shape in our minds what is to come, we must realize soberly the great cost involved. There can be no relaxation of our efforts until victory is firmly grasped.

28. The concert that has marked the common purposes of war is one that all will fervently hope will flow over into the transition period to peace for the service of the true welfare of mankind, thereby ensuring a security that will not make the sacrifices of war vain things.

29. In the earnest hope that Divine Providence may guide your deliberations and further the welfare of the people of the Commonwealth, I now leave you to the discharge of your high and important duties.

9. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That a Committee, consisting of Mr. Frost (Minister for Repatriation), Mr. Watkins and the Mover, be appointed to prepare an Address in Reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General to both Houses of the Parliament, and that the Committee do report this day.

Question—put and passed.

10. PAPERS.—Mr. Speaker presented, pursuant to Statute—

National Security Act—National Security (Supplementary) Regulations—Statement of Australian Banking Statistics for the five quarters ended 31st March, 1944.

The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

National Security Act—

National Security (Prices) Regulations—Declarations—Nos. 135–140.

National Security (Vegetable Seeds) Regulations—Notice—Returns of vegetable seeds.

Rural Reconstruction Commission—Second Report (Settlement and Employment of Returned Men on the Land).

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 64, 75.

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1944—

No. 11—Arms, Explosives and Mmunition Workers' Federation of Australia.

No. 12—Arms, Explosives and Mmunition Workers' Federation of Australia and Australasian Society of Engineers.

No. 13—Commonwealth Legal Professional Officers' Association.

No. 14—Amalgamated Engineering Union and others.

No. 15—Arms, Explosives and Mmunition Workers' Federation of Australia.

No. 16—Arms, Explosives and Mmunition Workers' Federation of Australia; Federated Public Service Assistants' Association of Australia; Fourth Division Officers' Association of the Trade and Customs Department; Commonwealth Temporary Clerks' Association; Victorian Public Service Association; Public Service Association of South Australia; and Tasmanian Public Service Association.

No. 17—Peace Officer Guard Association.

No. 18—Commonwealth Foremen's Association.

Canberra University College—Report for 1943.

Coal Production (War-time) Act—Orders—

Cognizance of disputes—Exception of certain members of Federation (dated 21st April, 1944).

Control of coal mine—Commonwealth No. 2.

Customs Act—Proclamations prohibiting the exportation (except under certain conditions) of goods—Nos. 595–602.

Dairying Industry Assistance Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 57.

Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 65, 69, 71, 72, 82, 89.

Defence Act and Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 95, 96, 102.

Income Tax Assessment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 90.

Lands Acquisition Act or Lands Acquisition Act and National Security (Supplementary)

Regulations—Land acquired for—

Commonwealth purposes—

Adelaide, South Australia.

Alexandria, New South Wales (2).

Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

Amberley, Queensland.

Bairnsdale, Victoria.

Bondi, New South Wales.

Botany, New South Wales.

Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Broome, Western Australia.

Colac, Victoria.

Cooktown, Queensland.

Darwin, Northern Territory.

Denman, New South Wales.

Donnybrook, Western Australia.

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- Dorset Flats (South Mount Cameron), Tasmania.  
 Drayton, Queensland.  
 Dubbo, New South Wales (2).  
 Dundas, New South Wales.  
 East Sale, Victoria.  
 Echuca, Victoria.  
 Fremantle, Western Australia.  
 Gladstone, Queensland.  
 Horsham, Victoria.  
 Islington, New South Wales.  
 Julia Creek, Queensland.  
 Kalgoorlie, Western Australia (5).  
 Lithgow, New South Wales (4).  
 Mackay, Queensland.  
 Maribyrnong, Victoria.  
 Meckering, Western Australia.  
 Moruya, New South Wales.  
 Neutral Bay, New South Wales.  
 Newcastle, New South Wales.  
 New Lambton, New South Wales.  
 Nhill, Victoria.  
 Parafield, South Australia.  
 Port Adelaide, South Australia.  
 Port Hedland, Western Australia.  
 Portland, New South Wales.  
 Rocklea, Queensland.  
 Sale, Victoria.  
 South Guildford, Western Australia.  
 Strathkellar, Victoria.  
 Toowoomba, Queensland.  
 Tottenham, Victoria.  
 Townsville, Queensland (3).  
 Wallarobba (Dungog), New South Wales.  
 Warnervale, New South Wales.  
 Whittingham (Singleton), New South Wales.  
 Williamstown, Victoria.  
 Wodonga, Victoria.  
 Wynyard, Tasmania.  
 Yarrawonga, Victoria.
- Postal purposes - -  
 Ballarat, Victoria.  
 Brisbane and Ipswich (between), Queensland.  
 Denmark, Western Australia.  
 Liverpool, New South Wales.  
 Murrurundi, New South Wales.  
 Port Pirie, South Australia.  
 Spring Hill, Brisbane, Queensland.  
 Springwood, New South Wales.
- Telephonic purposes - Perth (near), Western Australia.
- Nationality Act - Return for 1943.
- National Security Act -  
 National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations- Order - -Exemption.  
 National Security (Food Control) Regulations- Orders - Nos. 7-9.  
 National Security (General) Regulations - -
- Orders - -  
 Control of -  
 Liquid paraffin (No. 3).  
 Stock foods and remedies (No. 3).  
 Entry on wharves and ships (2).  
 Heating and cooking appliances (Control of manufacture) (No. 2).  
 Heating and cooking appliances (Retail sales) (No. 4).  
 Manufacture of domestic furniture (No. 2).  
 Post and telegraph censorship.  
 Prohibited places (8).  
 Taking possession of land, &c. (517).  
 Use of land (10).  
 Order by State Premier- New South Wales (No. 46).  
 National Security (Industrial Property) Regulations--Orders- Inventions and designs (647).  
 National Security (Land Transport) Regulations - Orders - Nos. 18, 19.  
 National Security (Liquid Fuel) Regulations - Order - No. 17.  
 National Security (Man Power) Regulations - - Orders-  
 Dental profession control.  
 Employer's return in respect of shearing labour.  
 Meat industry establishments (Queensland).  
 Protected undertakings (174).  
 Registration of domestic servants.

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- National Security (Meat Industry Control) Regulations—Orders—Meat (Returns) (Nos. 8-10).  
 National Security (Potatoes) Regulations—Order—No. 16.  
 National Security (Prices) Regulations—Orders—Nos. 1471-1569.  
 National Security (Rationing) Regulations—Orders—Nos. 40-49.  
 National Security (Shipping Co-ordination) Regulations—Order—No. 59.  
 National Security (Stevedoring Industry) Regulations—Orders—Nos. 45-58.  
 National Security (Supplementary) Regulations—  
 Order—Deferment of banking business—Termination of Order dated 10th March, 1942.  
 Orders by State Premiers—  
 New South Wales (No. 47).  
 Queensland (dated 8th June, 1944).  
 Victoria (No. 56).  
 Western Australia (dated 22nd March, 1944).  
 National Security (Universities Commission) Regulations—Order—Classes of students to be assisted.  
 National Security (War Damage to Property) Regulations—Order—Public authority.  
 National Security (War-time Banking Control) Regulations—Order—Exemption.  
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 56, 58, 59, 61, 62, 66, 67, 68, 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 92, 93, 94, 99, 100, 103.  
 Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 63, 97, 101.  
 Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 91.  
 Seat of Government Acceptance Act and Seat of Government (Administration) Act—  
 Ordinances—1944—  
 No. 5—Trespass on Commonwealth Lands (No. 2)  
 No. 6—Canberra Community Hospital.  
 No. 7—Trustee (Emergency Provisions).  
 No. 8—Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages.  
 Regulations—1944—No. 3—(Building and Services Ordinance).  
 Superannuation Act—Superannuation Board—Twenty-first Annual Report, for year 1942-43.  
 Supply and Development Acts—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 60.  
 War Service Homes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 98.  
 Women's Employment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 70.

11. ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) brought up the Address in Reply to His Excellency's Speech, prepared by the Committee appointed this day, and the same was read by the Clerk, as follows:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, in Parliament assembled, desire to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

Mr. Curtin moved, That the Address be agreed to.

Ordered—That Mr. Curtin be granted extensions of time (2).

Mr. Frost (Minister for Repatriation) seconded the motion.

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.

12. TIME OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at three o'clock p.m.

Question—put and passed.

13. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Barnard, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Blain, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Scullin.

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