

1945-46.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 109.

THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, 1946.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Right Honorable Peter Fraser, C.H., Prime Minister of the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Right Honorable Walter Nash, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in the Dominion Government, were within the precincts. The distinguished visitors thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, were provided with seats on the floor of the House.
3. AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD—APPOINTMENT OF MR. C. T. CHAPMAN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Scully (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House that he had appointed Mr. C. T. Chapman, of Moonta, South Australia, as a representative of the wheat-growers on the Australian Wheat Board, in place of Mr. J. E. Maycock, deceased.
4. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*War Service Homes Bill 1946*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 71.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'War Service Homes Act 1918-1941'*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 10th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[*Nationality Bill 1946*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 72.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to provide for the Retention or Acquisition of British Nationality by Women married to Aliens*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 10th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[*Judiciary Bill 1946*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 73.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to restore the number of Justices of the High Court to the number of seven*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

5. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Rankin rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "The unjust treatment of wheat-growers, and particularly the failure of the Government to pay to growers the full value of the wheat sold by Government direction from Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 Pools at concessional prices, and the necessity to pay to growers the full realization value of the No. 9 Pool".

Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—

Mr. Rankin moved, That the House do now adjourn.

11th April, 1946.

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

Ordered—That Mr. Scully (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) be granted an extension of time.

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

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

Debate continued.

Closure.—Mr. Sheehan moved. That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the House do now adjourn—was put accordingly, and negatived.

6. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—

Cairns, Queensland.

Denman, New South Wales.

7. AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY BILL 1946.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to establish and incorporate a University in the Australian Capital Territory.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Dedman 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.

8. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business.

9. NATIONAL SECURITY BILL 1946.—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.

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. Evatt (Attorney-General), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time, after debate.

10. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—BATMAN AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, FLINDERS-LANE, MELBOURNE.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing) moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1936*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report, namely:—The erection of the Batman Automatic Telephone Exchange in Flinders-lane, Melbourne.

Mr. Lazzarini having laid on the Table plans in connexion with the proposed work—

Question—put and passed.

11. AUTOMATIC EXCHANGE AND POSTAL BUILDING, RUSSELL-STREET, MELBOURNE, AND RUSSELL AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE—APPROVAL OF WORK.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing) moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1936*, it is expedient to carry out the following proposed work, which was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, and on which the Committee has duly reported to this House the result of its investigations, namely:—“The erection of an Automatic Exchange and Postal Building in Russell-street, Melbourne, and the establishment of the Russell Automatic Telephone Exchange”.

Question—put and passed.

12. SUPPLY [“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 Supply—

Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.

Debate ensued.

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

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

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

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

[*Sugar Agreement Bill 1946*].—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 74.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to approve an Agreement made between His Majesty’s Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and His Majesty’s Government of the State of Queensland, and for other purposes*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

11th April, 1946.

[Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Bill 1946]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 75.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act 1935–1945’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[Sales Tax Assessment Bill (No. 9) 1946]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 76.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Sales Tax Assessment Act (No. 9) 1930–1936’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Bill 1946]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 77.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to make provision for the performance by the next senior Judge of the duties of the Chief Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the event of his absence from office or his inability to perform the duties of his office, and for other purposes* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[National Security Bill 1946]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 78.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to provide for the termination of the ‘ National Security Act 1939–1943’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 11th April, 1946.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

14. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—
Newcastle, New South Wales.

Rockhampton, Queensland.

National Security Act—

National Security (General) Regulations—Order—Evacuation of area—Revocation.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1946, No. 67.

Superannuation Act—Superannuation Board—Twenty-third Annual Report, for year 1944–45.

War Service Homes Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1946, No. 66.

15. STERLING AREA DOLLAR POOL—AUSTRALIA'S PARTICIPATION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to Australia's gold holdings and participation in the sterling area dollar pool.

16. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.

Question—put and passed.

17. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That leave of absence be given to every member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.

Question—put and passed.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at six o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by Resolution of the House at this sitting.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Abbott, Mr. Adermann, Mr. J. A. Beasley, Mr. Clark, Mr. Francis, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Lawson, Dame Enid Lyons, Mr. Spender, and Sir Frederick Stewart.

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