

1946.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 14.

TUESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 1946.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Mr. Chifley (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. Fadden, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Riordan and Mr. Williams be Members of that Committee: three to form a quorum.
Question—put and passed.
3. PRINTING COMMITTEE.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That Mr. Adermann, Mr. Conelan, Mr. Daly, Mr. Haylen, Mr. McDonald, Mr. O'Connor 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.
4. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Commonwealth Public Works Committee Act 1913-1936*, the following Members be appointed members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, viz.:—Mr. Conelan, Mr. Gullett, Mr. Howse, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Rankin and Mr. Russell.
Question—put and passed.
5. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION CONVENTION 1944—REPORT BY MINISTER—MOTION FOR PRINTING REPORT.—Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Civil Aviation) laid upon the Table, by command of His Royal Highness the Governor-General, the following Papers:—
 - (1) Statement by Minister for Civil Aviation on tabling report on ratification of Convention on International Civil Aviation, and
 - (2) Report by Minister for Civil Aviation on the Convention on International Civil Aviation, together with copy of the Final Act and related documents of the Conference, held at Chicago, November-December, 1944.
 and moved, That the Report be printed.
Mr. White 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.
6. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Royal Highness the Governor-General—

Northern Territory—Report by Mr. Justice Simpson into allegations made by counsel for the defence during hearing of charges at the Supreme Court at Alice Springs.

 Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Postal purposes—Cremorne, New South Wales.
National Security Act—National Security (Prisoners of War) Regulations—Order—Prisoners of war camp (No. 17).
Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Regulations—1946—No. 4 (Medical Benefits and Hospitals Ordinance).

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7. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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 urgent need for the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the specific allegations made on Thursday last, 28th November, 1946, by the honorable Member for Reid and the Honorable the Minister for Information and Immigration".

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. Menzies moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That Mr. Evatt (Attorney-General) be granted an extension of time.

Several Members rising to address the House—

Closure.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 36.		Noes, 26.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. James	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Anthony	Mr. Lang
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Beale	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Brennan	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Bowden	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Burke	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Davidson	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Fadden	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Russell	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Spender
Mr. Daly	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Francis	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully	Mr. Gullett	Mr. White
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy	Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Ward	Mr. Holt	Mr. Corser
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Howse	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Gaha	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Hadley			
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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

8. DECLARATION OF ESTIMATES, RESOLUTIONS, AND APPROPRIATION BILL AS URGENT—LIMITATION OF DEBATE.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) declared—

(a) That the Estimates of Expenditure are of an urgent nature ;

(b) That the Resolutions preliminary to the introduction of the Appropriation Bill are Urgent Resolutions ; and

(c) That the Appropriation Bill is an Urgent Bill.

Question—That the Estimates be considered of an urgent nature, that the Resolutions be considered Urgent Resolutions, and that the Appropriation Bill be considered an Urgent Bill—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 37.		Noes, 25.	
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Johnson	Mr. Adermann	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Lang	Mr. Anthony	Mr. McEwen
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Lemmon	Mr. Beale	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Brennan	Mr. McLeod	Mr. Bowden	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Burke	Mr. O'Connor	Mr. Cameron	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Pollard	Mr. Davidson	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Riordan	Mr. Fadden	Mr. Spender
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Russell	Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Clark	Mr. Scullin	Mr. Francis	Mr. White
Mr. Daly	Mr. Scully	Mr. Gullett	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Sheehy	Mr. Hamilton	
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Thompson	Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Ward	Mr. Holt	Mr. Corser
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Watkins	Mr. Howse	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Williams		
Mr. Gaha	<i>Tellers:</i>		
Mr. Hadley			
Mr. Haylen			
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Fuller		
Mr. James	Mr. Sheehan		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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Allotment of Time.—Mr. Chifley, then moved, That the time allotted for the consideration of the remainder of the Estimates, the Resolutions, and the stages of the Appropriation Bill, be as follows :—

(1) Estimates—

Department of External Affairs	}	until 5.30 p.m.
Department of the Treasury		
Attorney-General's Department		
Department of the Interior		
Department of Works and Housing	}	until 8.30 p.m.
Department of Civil Aviation		
Department of Trade and Customs		
Department of Health		
Department of Commerce and Agriculture	}	until 9.15 p.m.
Department of Social Services		
Department of Supply and Shipping		
Department of External Territories		
Department of Immigration	}	until 10.15 p.m.
Department of Labour and National Service		
Department of Transport		
Department of Information		
Department of Post-war Reconstruction	}	until 11.15 p.m.
Defence and Service Departments		
Production Departments		
Reciprocal Lend-Lease		
Re-establishment and Repatriation	}	until 11.30 p.m.
Lend-Lease Settlement		
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration		
Subsidies		
Miscellaneous	}	until 12.30 a.m., Wednesday, 4th December.
Miscellaneous Services		
Refunds of Revenue		
Advance to the Treasurer		
War (1914-18) Services	}	until 1 a.m.
Commonwealth Railways		
Postmaster-General's Department		
Northern Territory		
Australian Capital Territory	}	until 1.30 a.m.
Papua-New Guinea		
Norfolk Island		
Supply Resolution, and adoption of Resolution		
Ways and Means Resolution, and adoption of Resolution		

(2) Appropriation Bill—All stages

Debate ensued.

The time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B for the discussion of the motion having expired—

Question—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 39.

Noes, 24.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. James
Mr. Beazley	Mr. Johnson
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Lang
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Burke	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Calwell	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Clark	Mr. Russell
Mr. Daly	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scully
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Ward
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Williams
Mr. Fraser	
Mr. Gaha	
Mr. Hadley	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Fuller
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Sheehan

Mr. Adermann	Mr. Howse
Mr. Anthony	Mr. Hughes
Mr. Beale	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Spender
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Francis	Mr. White
Mr. Gullett	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Corser
Mr. Harrison	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Holt	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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9. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES 1946-47.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Vote—" Department of External Affairs, £756,000 "—

Vote—" Department of the Treasury, £2,742,400 "—

Vote—" Attorney-General's Department, £488,000 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At half-past five o'clock p.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—" Department of the Interior, £1,075,200 "—

Vote—" Department of Works and Housing, £1,705,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Civil Aviation, £2,085,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Trade and Customs, £1,164,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Health, £237,500 "—

Vote—" Department of Commerce and Agriculture, £512,700 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At half-past eight o'clock p.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—" Department of Social Services, £701,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Supply and Shipping, £307,000 "—

Vote—" Department of External Territories, £52,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Immigration, £785,000 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At fifteen minutes past nine o'clock p.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—" Department of Labour and National Service, £1,209,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Transport, £69,000 "—

Vote—" Department of Information, £324,600 "—

Vote—" Department of Post-war Reconstruction, £611,000 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At fifteen minutes past ten o'clock p.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Defence and Post-war (1939-45) Charges—

Vote—" Defence and Service Departments, £124,409,000 "—

Vote—" Production Departments, £13,052,000 "—

Vote—" Reciprocal Lend-Lease, £5,000,000 "—

Vote—" Re-establishment and Repatriation, £28,113,000 "—

Vote—" Lend-Lease Settlement, £8,000,000 "—

Vote—" United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, £15,000,000 "—

Vote—" Subsidies, £23,086,000 "—

Vote—" Miscellaneous, £3,409,000 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At fifteen minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

Vote—" Miscellaneous Services, £2,196,000 "—

Vote—" Refunds of Revenue, £7,000,000 "—

Vote—" Advance to the Treasurer, £10,000,000 "—

Vote—" War (1914-18) Services, £700,000 "—

considered together.

Votes agreed to.

Vote—" Commonwealth Railways, £1,437,000 "—

Vote—" Postmaster-General's Department, £23,329,000 "—

considered together.

Votes debated.

The Committee continuing to sit until after midnight—

WEDNESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 1946.

Debate continued.

Limitation of Debate.—At half-past twelve o'clock a.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

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Vote—"Northern Territory, £797,900"—
 Vote—"Australian Capital Territory, £632,100"—
 Vote—"Papua-New Guinea, £1,685,000"—
 Vote—"Norfolk Island, £4,000"—
 considered together.
 Votes debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At one o'clock a.m., the Chairman having called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the time allotted for the Votes had expired—

Question—That the Votes be agreed to—put and passed.

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 1946-47, for the several services hereunder specified, a sum not exceeding £169,249,000.

PART 1.—DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES—Other than Business Undertakings and Territories of the Commonwealth.

	£
Parliament	235,400
Prime Minister's Department	1,868,200
Department of External Affairs	756,000
Department of the Treasury	2,742,400
Attorney-General's Department	488,000
Department of the Interior	1,075,200
Department of Works and Housing	1,705,000
Department of Civil Aviation	2,085,000
Department of Trade and Customs	1,164,000
Department of Health	237,500
Department of Commerce and Agriculture	512,700
Department of Social Services	701,000
Department of Supply and Shipping	307,000
Department of External Territories	52,000
Department of Immigration	785,000
Department of Labour and National Service	1,209,000
Department of Transport	69,000
Department of Information	324,600
Department of Post-war Reconstruction	611,000
Defence and Post-war (1939-45) Charges—	£
Defence and Service Departments	124,409,000
Production Departments	13,052,000
Reciprocal Lend-Lease	5,000,000
Re-establishment and Repatriation	23,113,000
Lend-Lease Settlement	8,000,000
United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration	15,000,000
Subsidies	23,086,000
Miscellaneous	3,409,000
Miscellaneous Credits	Cr. 57,000,000
	163,069,000
<i>Less</i> Amount chargeable to Loan Fund	58,529,000
	104,540,000
Miscellaneous Services	2,196,000
Refunds of Revenue	7,000,000
Advance to the Treasurer	10,000,000
War (1914-18) Services	700,000
	141,364,000

PART 2.—BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS.

Commonwealth Railways	1,437,000
Postmaster-General's Department	23,329,000
	24,766,000

PART 3.—TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Northern Territory	797,900
Australian Capital Territory	632,100
Papua-New Guinea	1,685,000
Norfolk Island	4,000
	3,119,000
TOTAL	169,249,000

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Question—put and passed.
Leave to be asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark 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.

10. WAYS AND MEANS—ESTIMATES 1946-47.—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 1946-47, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £79,393,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark 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. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

11. APPROPRIATION BILL 1946-47.—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-seven, 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.

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. Clark reported accordingly.

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

12. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1946-47.—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 1946-47, for the purposes of Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c., a sum not exceeding £21,648,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark 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.

13. WAYS AND MEANS—ESTIMATES—ADDITIONS, NEW WORKS, BUILDINGS, ETC., 1946-47.—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 1946-47, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £21,648,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark 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. Lemmon do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

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14. APPROPRIATION (WORKS AND BUILDINGS) BILL 1946-47.—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-seven, 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.

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. Clark reported accordingly.

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

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

Question—put and passed.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT. All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Conelan, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Lawson*, Mr. Lazzarini, Dame Enid Lyons, Mr. McBride, and Mr. Mulcahy.

* On leave.

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