

1946-47-48.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 121.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1948.

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. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.
Question—put and passed.
 3. MINISTERIAL ALTERATIONS AND CHANGES IN DEPARTMENTS.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) informed the House that the Department of Supply and Shipping and the Department of Munitions had been abolished, and that Senator Ashley had been appointed to administer the new Department of Shipping and Fuel and Senator Armstrong the new Department of Supply and Development. Mr. Chifley further intimated that both Ministers would be represented in the House of Representatives by Mr. Dedman.
 4. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Australian Imperial Force Canteens Funds Act—Annual Report by the Trustees for year 1946-47.
 5. WANT OF CONFIDENCE—NOTICE OF MOTION.—Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) gave notice of a motion of Want of Confidence which he proposed to move to-morrow.
Suspension of Standing Orders.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Leader of the Opposition moving forthwith the motion of Want of Confidence of which he has given notice for the next sitting, and that such motion take precedence of all other business until disposed of.
Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority of the Members of the House.
 6. WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) moved, That in the opinion of this House—
 - (a) Communist activities in Australia are subversive,
 - (b) Communists in Australia have fomented wide spread stoppages of employment, sought to weaken the authority of the industrial law, and inflicted misery and loss upon thousands of citizens,
 - (c) there is good reason to believe that Australian Communists act in the interests of a foreign power,
 - (d) recent events in Europe have proved that Communist minorities in countries outside the Soviet Union are organized so as to overthrow by force majority rule in those countries,
 - (e) the Government has failed to take any adequate steps to attack Communist activities in Australia or to prevent the employment of Communists by the Commonwealth,
 and that, by reason of the above, the Government deserves the censure of this House.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Falkinder 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.
 7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at twenty-nine minutes past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Scullin and Mr. Watkins.

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

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