

1951-52.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 52.

TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1952.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable A. G. Cameron) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. **DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.**—Mr. Speaker informed the House that the Right Honorable the Baron Glendyne of Sanquhar, a Member of the House of Lords, was within the precincts. The distinguished visitor thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.
3. **DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI.—REPLY TO RESOLUTION.**—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received from His Excellency the Governor-General the following reply by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. to the Resolution of the House of Representatives which was transmitted to The Queen on the death of King George VI. :—

“ I much appreciate the kind terms of the Resolution passed by the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. Please assure the Members of the House how deeply I value their sympathy.

ELIZABETH R.”.
4. **ACCESSION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II.**—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, That the following Resolution be transmitted through His Excellency the Governor-General to Her Majesty The Queen :—

We, the Members of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, offer our congratulations on Your Majesty's accession to the Throne. We desire to assure your Majesty of our loyalty and allegiance, and to express our earnest hope that Your Majesty's reign may be a long and successful one, marked by the prosperity and progress of the countries of the Commonwealth.

And Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) having seconded the motion, and all Members present having risen—

Question—passed.
5. **DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI.—MESSAGE FROM THE GREEK CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.**—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had received the following message from the President of the Greek Chamber of Deputies :—

“ Chamber of Deputies profoundly moved by the passing of your beloved Sovereign and sincerely participating in the deep mourning of the peoples of the British Commonwealth. Adjourned yesterday's session, and after an appropriate address of its President in memory of the late King George VI., kept one minute's silence. I have been entrusted by the Chamber to convey to your House its heartfelt condolences to which allow me to add own feelings of deepest sympathy.”.

Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That this House thanks the President and Members of the Greek Chamber of Deputies most sincerely for its message in connexion with the death of His Majesty King George VI. and records its appreciation of the feelings of respect and sympathy to which the message gives expression.

Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) seconded the motion.

Question—put and passed.
6. **LYNE ELECTORAL DIVISION—ISSUE OF WRIT.**—Mr. Speaker informed the House that he had this day issued a Writ for the Election of a Member to serve for the Electoral Division of Lyne, in the State of New South Wales, in the place of Eldred James Eggins, deceased. The dates in connexion with the Election were fixed as follows :—

Date of Nomination	Tuesday, 4th March, 1952.
Date of Polling	Saturday, 22nd March, 1952.
Date of Return of Writ	On or before Saturday, 19th April, 1952.

19th February, 1952.

7. PETITION.—Mr. Drummond presented a petition from Members of the Executive of the New England New State Movement in the State of New South Wales praying that amendments be inserted in the Constitution to enable the Parliament in certain circumstances to take steps to test public opinion in an area and to admit any such area as a State of the Commonwealth.
Petition received and read.
8. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.—Mr. Eric J. Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) from making his speech without limitation of time when moving the motion of censure of the Government of which he had given notice.
Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.
9. CENSURE OF GOVERNMENT.—Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice, That the economic and financial policy of the Government, especially its high taxation and drastic restrictions of bank credit, is causing injury to industry and production, both primary and secondary and is undermining the established national policy of full employment. At the same time, as a result of inflated prices and the Government's failure to restore the purchasing power of the Australian pound, special hardship is being inflicted on families dependent upon fixed incomes, such as social services and repatriation benefits, and the standard of living of wage and salary earners has fallen and is falling: because of its persistence in so injurious a policy the Government has lost the confidence of the country and is deserving of censure.
Debate ensued.
Suspension of Standing Orders.—Mr. Eric J. Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) from making his speech without limitation of time.
Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.
Debate continued.
Mr. McMahon 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.
10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Eric J. Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Beazley Mr. Bostock, Mr. C. R. Cameron, Mr. Duthie, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Mullens and Mr. Wight.

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