

1954-55.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 79.

TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1955.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Adermann) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MINISTERIAL CHANGES.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) announced the resignation of Senator Spicer (Attorney-General) as Minister for Shipping and Transport and the appointment of Senator Paltridge to that portfolio. Sir Eric Harrison also stated that Senator Paltridge would represent, in the Senate, the Minister for Commerce and Agriculture, the Minister for the Interior, the Minister for Civil Aviation and the Minister for Air, and would be represented in this House by Mr. Townley (Minister for Civil Aviation).
3. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Papua—Report for year 1953-54.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Defence purposes—Griffith, New South Wales.
Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations—1955—
No. 33—Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Enginemen.
No. 34—Australian Journalists' Association.
4. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC POSITION.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, pursuant to notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Prime Minister from making a Statement on the economic position.
Question—put and passed.
5. SUPPLY—ESTIMATES 1955-56.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

Vote—"Department of Commerce and Agriculture, £1,952,000"—

Vote—"Department of Social Services, £2,614,000"—

Vote—"Department of Shipping and Transport, £1,034,000"—

Vote—"Department of Territories, £180,000"—

Votes further debated.

Limitation of Debate.—At six o'clock p.m., the Temporary Chairman (Mr. Bowden) 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.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Bowden reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

27th September, 1955.

6. AUSTRALIA'S ECONOMIC POSITION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—
Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister) made a Ministerial Statement in reference to the present state of the Australian economy and the reduction in international reserves, and informed the House of the decisions taken by the Government to bring the external payments situation into full balance by the 30th June, 1956. Mr. Menzies then, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—
Australia's Economic Position—Ministerial Statement—
and moved, That the Paper be printed.
Suspension of Standing Orders.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, by leave, 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.
Question—put and passed.
Debate ensued.
Ordered—That Mr. Joshua be granted an extension of time.
Debate adjourned (Mr. McMahon—Minister for Social Services), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
7. SUPPLY —ESTIMATES 1955-56.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

- Vote—" Department of Immigration, £1,543,000 "—
Vote—" Department of Labour and National Service, £1,931,000 "—
Vote—" Department of National Development, £843,000 "—
Vote—" Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, £4,449,000 "—
Vote—" Australian Atomic Energy Commission, £582,000 "—
considered together.
Votes debated.
Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Bowden reported accordingly.
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

8. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
Customs Act and Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1955, No. 61.
Nationality and Citizenship Act—Return for year 1954-55.
Superannuation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1955, No. 60.
9. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Mr. C. R. Cameron addressing the House—
Closure.—Sir Eric Harrison 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 passed.

And then the House, at five minutes to 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. Bostock, Mr. Brown, Mr. T. P. Burke, Mr. A. G. Cameron, Mr. Casey, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Clarey, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Falkinder, Mr. Francis, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Joske, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Minogue, Mr. Mullens, Mr. Russell and Mr. Wheeler.

A. A. TREGGAR,
Clerk of the House of Representatives.