

1957.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 33.

THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1957.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. McLeay) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. PETITIONS.—Mr. Curtin presented a Petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that immediate consideration be given to the matter of increasing the rate of age, invalid and widows' pensions to at least 50 per cent. of the basic wage.
Petition received and read.
Mr. Stewart presented a Petition from certain citizens of Australia praying that immediate consideration be given to the matter of increasing the rate of age, invalid and widows' pensions to at least 50 per cent. of the basic wage.
Petition received.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Act—Report of Commonwealth Actuary on Parliamentary Retiring Allowances Fund as at 30th June, 1956.
4. DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF URGENCY—HUNGARY—RESOLUTION BEFORE UNITED NATIONS.—Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes having proposed to Mr. Speaker that a definite matter of urgent public importance be submitted to the House for discussion, namely, "The desirability of the Australian Government giving its strongest support to the following resolution which is now before the United Nations General Assembly:—

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Recalling its resolution 1132 (XI) of January 10th, 1957 establishing a Special Committee, consisting of representatives of Australia, Ceylon, Denmark, Tunisia and Uruguay, to investigate, and to establish and maintain direct observation in Hungary and elsewhere, taking testimony, collecting evidence and receiving information, as appropriate.

Having now received the unanimous report of the Special Committee on the Problem of Hungary. Regretting that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the present authorities in Hungary have failed to co-operate in any way with the Special Committee,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee for its work;
2. Endorses the report of the Special Committee;
3. Notes the conclusion of the Special Committee that the events, which took place in Hungary in October and November, 1956, constituted a spontaneous national uprising;
4. Finds that the conclusions reached by the Special Committee on the basis of its examination of all available evidence confirm that:
 - (a) The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in violation of the United Nations Charter, has deprived Hungary of its liberty and political independence and the Hungarian people of the exercise of their fundamental human rights.
 - (b) The present Hungarian regime has been imposed on the Hungarian people by the armed intervention of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
 - (c) The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has carried out mass deportations of Hungarian citizens to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
 - (d) The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has violated the human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Treaty of Peace with Hungary.

12th September, 1957.

5. Condemns these acts and the continued defiance of the resolutions of the Assembly;
6. Reiterates its concern with the continuing plight of the Hungarian people;
7. Considers that further efforts must be made to achieve the objectives of the United Nations in regard to Hungary in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly;
8. Calls upon the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the present authorities in Hungary in the light of evidence contained in the report to desist from repressive measures against the Hungarian people, to respect the liberty and political independence of Hungary and the Hungarian people's enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms, and to ensure the return to Hungary of those Hungarian citizens who have been deported to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
9. Requests the President of the United Nations Assembly as the Special representative of the General Assembly on the Hungarian problem to take such steps as he deems appropriate, in view of the findings of the Special Committee, to achieve the objectives of the United Nations in accordance with Resolutions 1004 (ES II), 1005 (ES II), 1127 (XI), 1131 (XI), and 1132 (XI) of the General Assembly, to consult as appropriate with the Special Committee during the course of his endeavours, and to report and make recommendations as he may deem advisable to the General Assembly;
10. Decides to place the Hungarian item on the provisional agenda of the Twelfth General Assembly"—

Mr. Speaker 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—

Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes addressed the House.

Suspension of Standing Orders.—Mr. Beale (Minister for Supply) moved, by leave, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Mr. H. E. Holt (Minister for Labour and National Service) and Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition) each speaking for a period not exceeding twenty minutes.

Question—put and passed.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

5. SUPPLY—BUDGET DEBATE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 1—Senate—namely—

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Salaries and allowances | £30,000 |
|-------------------------|---------|

be agreed to, and on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Evatt (Leader of the Opposition), viz.:—

That the first item be reduced by £1.

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

The House resumed; Mr. Adermann reported accordingly.

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

6. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Beale (Minister for Supply) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at half-past ten o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Bird, Mr. Bowden*, Mr. C. R. Cameron, Mr. Casey*, Mr. Costa*, Mr. Daly, Mr. Drury, Mr. Duthie*, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Galvin, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Harrison*, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Jack*, Mr. James, Mr. H. V. Johnson, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Leslie, Mr. Lucock, Mr. Minogue, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Peters, Mr. Pollard*, Mr. Turner*, Mr. Watkins* and Mr. Wheeler*.

*On leave.

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