

1957.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 39.

THURSDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 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. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Menzies (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement regarding the numbers of persons employed under the Commonwealth.
 3. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 Apple and Pear Organization Act—Australian Apple and Pear Board—Eleventh Annual Report, for year 1956–57, together with Statement by Minister regarding the operation of the Act.
 War Service Homes Act—Annual Report for year 1956–57.
 4. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 1, Government Business, be postponed until a later hour this day.
 5. SOCIAL SERVICES BILL 1957.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—
 Debate resumed by Mr. Thompson who moved, as an amendment, That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"the Bill be redrafted to provide, as from 1st July, 1957, in the light of the declining purchasing value of money, increases in the rates of social service payments to the maximum extent that the national economy will permit, and, particularly, to ensure as a minimum that each of these payments is restored to the same percentage of the (unpegged) basic wage as it was under the adjustment of rates by the Chifley Government in 1948".
 Debate continued.
 Debate adjourned (Mr. Lawson), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for a later hour this day.
 6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—REPATRIATION BILL 1957.—Mr. Speaker reported the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—
 MR. SPEAKER, *Message No. 50.*
 The Senate has passed a Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Repatriation Act 1920–1956', and for other purposes*", and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.
A. M. McMULLIN,
President.
 The Senate,
 Canberra, 3rd October, 1957.
- Mr. Davidson (Postmaster-General) moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.
 Mr. Davidson moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Debate adjourned (Mr. Haylen), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

3rd October, 1957.

7. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE—SEAMEN'S WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES BILL 1957.—Mr. Speaker reported the receipt of the following Message from the Senate:—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 51.

The Senate has passed a Bill for " *An Act to amend the ' Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940-1955 '* ", and transmits the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

The Senate,
Canberra, 3rd October, 1957.

A. M. McMULLIN,
President.

Mr. Davidson (Postmaster-General) moved, That the Bill be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Mr. Davidson moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Haylen), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

8. SOCIAL SERVICES BILL 1957.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Thompson, viz.:*—That all words after " That " be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—" the Bill be redrafted to provide, as from 1st July, 1957, in the light of the declining purchasing value of money, increases in the rates of social service payments to the maximum extent that the national economy will permit, and, particularly, to ensure as a minimum that each of these payments is restored to the same percentage of the (unpegged) basic wage as it was under the adjustment of rates by the Chifley Government in 1948 "—

Debate resumed.

Debate adjourned (Mr. Pearce), and the resumption of the debate made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

9. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—

Defence Production—E. B. Neve.

Repatriation—P. N. Stukeley.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Robertson (Minister for Social Services) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at sixteen minutes to eleven 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. Allan, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Beazley, Mr. Bowden*, Mr. D. A. Cameron, Mr. Casey*, Mr. Costa*, Mr. Daly, Mr. Drury, Mr. Duthie, Mr. Edmonds, Sir Arthur Fadden, Mr. Harrison*, Mr. Howse, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Jack*, Mr. James, Mr. Kearney, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Leslie, Mr. Lucock, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Peters, Mr. Pollard*, Mr. Riordan, Mr. Russell, Mr. Snedden, Mr. Turner*, Mr. Watkins*, Mr. Wheeler*, and Mr. Wight.

*On leave.

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