

1940.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 17.

THURSDAY, 23RD MAY, 1940.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. WAR WITH GERMANY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. McEwen (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of the latest news of the fighting in Belgium and France.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Northern Territory Acceptance Act and Northern Territory (Administration) Act—Ordinance of 1940—No. 7—Mining Development.
4. POST AND TELEGRAPH RATES (DEFENCE FORCES) BILL 1940.—Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General), pursuant to leave given on the 21st instant, brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘ Postal Rates (Defence Forces) Act 1939’* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
5. POST AND TELEGRAPH RATES BILL 1940.—Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General), pursuant to leave given on the 21st instant, brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to amend the ‘ Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902–1931’* ”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
6. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—CESSATION OF SUSPENSION OF OPERATION OF ACT.—Mr. Jolly moved, pursuant to notice, That, in accordance with sub-section (2.) of section two of the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1932*, the suspension of the operation of the *Committee of Public Accounts Act 1913–1920* should cease forthwith.  
Mr. Nock (Assistant Minister) 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. MONETARY AND BANKING SYSTEMS—REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION—PROPOSED SELECT COMMITTEE.—  
Mr. Price moved, pursuant to notice, That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a Select Committee, comprising representatives from each party in this House, should be appointed to inquire into and report upon the Report of the Royal Commission on Monetary and Banking Systems, with particular reference to paragraph 504.  
Mr. Nock (Assistant Minister) 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.
8. PUBLIC SERVICE POSITIONS AND POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION—PROPOSED SELECT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Drakeford moved, pursuant to notice, That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the following matters :—
  - (a) The permanent filling of higher positions in the Commonwealth Public Service ;
  - (b) The temporary filling of higher positions in the Commonwealth Public Service ;
  - (c) The administration of the Postmaster-General's Department concerning the replacement of condemned telegraph poles ; and
  - (d) The administration by the Postmaster-General's Department of the provisions of the arbitration award relating to line staffs.
 Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General) moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

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Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.  
The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Bell, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 29.

Mr. Anthony	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Nock
Mr. Collins	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Francis	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Spender
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Harrison	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Street
Mr. Jennings	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Jolly	
Mr. Lane	
Mr. John Lawson	
Sir Charles Marr	
Mr. Menzies	

Tellers:

Mr. Corser
Mr. Gardner

Noes, 26.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. McHugh
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Clark	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Scully
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Spurr
Mr. Forde	Mr. Ward
Mr. Frost	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Green	
Mr. James	
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Makin	

Tellers:

Mr. Gander
Mr. George Lawson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

9. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS ACT—MAINTENANCE PROVISIONS.—Mr. James moved, pursuant to notice, That in the opinion of this House paragraph (fb) of section 17, and paragraph (h) of sub-section (1.) of section 22 of the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act* should be repealed, or, failing that, the concessions that applied to relatives under section 52M, until that section was repealed by Act No. 1 of 1935, should be allowed to parents or relatives of invalid pensioners or applicants for the invalid pension.

Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General) moved, That the debate be now adjourned.

Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put.

The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Bell, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 32.

Mr. Anthony	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Badman	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Nock
Mr. Collins	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Prowse
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Francis	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Spender
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Harrison	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Street
Mr. Jennings	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Jolly	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Lane	
Mr. John Lawson	
Sir Charles Marr	
Mr. McEwen	

Tellers:

Mr. Corser
Mr. Gardner

Noes, 28.

Mr. Barnard	Mr. Martens
Mr. Beasley	Mr. McHugh
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Clark	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Scully
Mr. Forde	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Frost	Mr. Spurr
Mr. Green	Mr. Ward
Mr. Holloway	
Mr. James	
Mr. Lazzarini	
Mr. Maloney	

Tellers:

Mr. Gander
Mr. George Lawson

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Ordered—That the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

10. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY MOVED.—Mr. Thorby (Postmaster-General) moved, That Order of the Day No. 1 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 2, Government Business.  
Motion withdrawn, by leave.
11. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—  
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and negatived.  
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
12. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDERS OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Orders of the Day Nos. 2 to 4 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 5, Government Business.
13. NORTHERN TERRITORY (ADMINISTRATION) BILL 1940.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Nock (Minister representing the Minister for the Interior) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

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Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Nock, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

14. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Seat of Government (Administration) Bill 1940*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 10.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910–1939’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

J. B. HAYES,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 23rd May, 1940.

[*Land Tax Bill 1940*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

*Message No. 11.*

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Land Tax Act 1910–1938’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without requests.

J. B. HAYES,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 23rd May, 1940.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Cameron (Minister for Commerce) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-five minutes to eleven 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. Conelan, Mr. Holt, Mr. Hutchinson, Sir Earle Page, Mr. White\*, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

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