

1956.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 27.

TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 1956.

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. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Conciliation and Arbitration—Note on some aspects prepared by direction of the Minister for Labour and National Service.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for—

Defence purposes—Lincoln Park, South Australia.

Postal purposes—

Kapunda, South Australia.

Waikerie, South Australia.

Shipping and Transport Services purposes—Cape Northumberland, South Australia.

Papua and New Guinea Act—Superannuation (Papua and New Guinea) Ordinance—
Superannuation Board—Fourth Annual Report, for year 1954–55.

Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—

Territories—J. R. Paget.

Works—O. Harasymiw.

Public Service Arbitration Act—Determinations—1956—

No. 28—Amalgamated Engineering Union and others.

No. 29—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

Seat of Government (Administration) Act—

Ordinances—1956—

No. 5—Medical Practitioners Registration.

No. 6—Motor Traffic.

Regulations—1956—No. 4 (Medical Practitioners Registration Ordinance).

3. PRINTING COMMITTEE—FIRST REPORT.—Mr. Dean brought up the First Report from the Printing Committee (sitting in conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate).
The Report was read by the Clerk as follows:—

REPORT.

The Printing Committee have the honour to report that they have met in Conference with the Printing Committee of the Senate.

The Joint Committee, having considered the Petitions and Papers presented to Parliament since the last meeting of the Committee, recommend that the following be printed:—

Atomic Energy Act—Australian Atomic Energy Commission—Third Annual Report and financial accounts, together with the Auditor-General's Report, for year 1954–55.

Broadcasting Act—Australian Broadcasting Control Board—Seventh Annual Report, for year 1954–55.

Committee of Privileges—Report—Articles in *Bankstown Observer*.

Conciliation and Arbitration Act—

Eighth Annual Report by the Chief Conciliation Commissioner, for period 8th October, 1954 to 30th December, 1955.

Eighth Annual Report by the Senior Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, for year ended 30th September, 1955.

International Monetary Agreements Act—Annual Report on operations of the Act, and in so far as they relate to Australia, of the International Monetary Fund Agreement and the International Bank Agreement, for year 1954–55.

Parliament of the Commonwealth—Salaries and Allowances of Members—Report of Committee of Inquiry (October, 1955).

Public Works Committee Act—Twenty-fourth General Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.

8th May, 1956.

Repatriation Act—Repatriation Commission—Report for year 1954–55.
 Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Power Act—Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric
 Authority—Sixth Annual Report, for year 1954–55.

R. L. DEAN,
 Chairman.

3rd May, 1956.

Mr. Dean moved, by leave, That the Report be agreed to.

Question—put and passed.

4. BROADCASTING AND TELEVISION BILL 1956.—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. Evatt, viz. :—*That all words after “That” be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—“owing to the fact that all existing television licences in two States have been granted by the Government to corporations constituting in effect combines of newspaper, radio broadcasting and associated interests which already monopolize to a large extent mass communication of information to the people of Australia, and owing to the danger to the public interest and true freedom of expression being caused by newspaper concerns further extending their control over mass communication including radio broadcasting and television—the Bill should be withdrawn and redrafted so as to include—

(A) specific safeguards against detrimental monopoly practices by guaranteeing to the general public and to religious, educational, cultural, political and social organizations opportunities for a fair and just share of ownership or control of broadcasting and television licences and a fair and just use of the facilities of such services ;

(B) specific provisions to effect the following purposes :—

- (1) to re-establish and assure the regular functioning of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Broadcasting and Television as guardian of the public interest in those two vital fields ;
- (2) to assure the broadcasting or televising, free of charge, of religious services or subjects on an equitable basis both by the Commission and Commercial Licensees ;
- (3) to ensure that facilities are provided, free of charge, on an equitable and impartial basis for the broadcasting and televising of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current policies of national importance ;
- (4) to provide adequate safeguards against the flooding of Australian television programmes with low-grade syndicated overseas productions to the practical exclusion of productions by Australians and for this purpose to guarantee that no less than an average of 55 per cent. of the transmission time of any television station shall be occupied by Australian programmes and that in the calculation of this time no account shall be taken of the time occupied by news and sporting events ;
- (5) to secure that no less than an average of 7½ per cent. of the transmission time of any station broadcasting musical items shall be devoted to the broadcasting of works by Australian composers ; and that in the calculation of this time no account shall be taken of the time occupied by news and sporting events ;
- (6) to provide for the inclusion of a representative of the Treasury and the Postmaster-General's Department in the personnel of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and to assure that that Commission shall include a resident of each State ;
- (7) to restrict the initial granting of broadcasting and television licences to three years ; and
- (8) to protect sporting bodies and sport organizations against their fixtures being televised or broadcast without their consent or without fair and adequate remuneration ”—

Debate resumed.

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

5. ADJOURNMENT.—Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten 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. Anthony, Mr. Aston, Mr. Bland, Mr. Bostock, Mr. Brand, Mr. Brimblecombe, Mr. Bryant, Mr. A. G. Cameron, Mr. Chambers, Mr. Daly*, Mr. Downer, Mr. Edmonds, Mr. Falkinder, Mr. J. M. Fraser, Mr. E. James Harrison, Mr. Haworth*, Mr. Hulme, Mr. Killen, Mr. Lawson, Mr. McColm, Mr. Peters, Mr. Riordan, Mr. Webb and Mr. Wight.

* On leave.

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