

All Stages.

In accordance with the foregoing resolutions, Bill introduced, passed through all stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 11.45 p.m.

Legislative Council.

Wednesday, 6th August, 1947.

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The DEPUTY PRESIDENT took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

MOTION—COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [4.34]: I desire to move the appointment of members to serve on the standing committees during the present session.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I rise to a point of order. This has been a hardy annual with members of this House. Although I was not present yesterday owing to ill-health, I am glad to know that the Chamber did the right thing and when an appointment was to be made, held a ballot. That is what we should do now. I appreciate that the Minister himself is not to blame in this matter, but rather the Standing Orders Committee, although the Minister himself was, I believe, a member of that committee. I would like to know whether the Minister is in order.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Minister is quite correct in moving his motion.

The MINISTER FOR MINES: I move—

That the following members be appointed to serve on the standing committees during the present session, namely:—

Standing Orders.—The Minister for Mines and Health, Hon. C. F. Baxter and Hon. G. Fraser.

Library.—Hon. J. G. Hislop and Hon. A. Thomson.

House.—Hon. J. A. Dimmitt, Hon. W. B. Hall, Hon. C. B. Williams and Hon. C. H. Simpson.

Printing.—Hon. E. H. Gray and Hon. W. J. Mann.

As to Election by Ballot.

HON. C. B. WILLIAMS (South) [4.36]: I want to move that ballots be taken in order to select the members of the standing committees. As I mentioned before, I am very pleased that the House adopted that method yesterday with regard to the appointment of the Deputy President. I thank the Minister for nominating me to the House Committee, but I want members to take this matter seriously. That was not done on the last occasion when I was appointed to the House Committee. This time I do not want to be on any committee. That is why I desire the ballot to be taken so that these jobs may go round and other members be given an opportunity to take part in the work. The House Committee has started to do a good job with the real work entailed in its duties. Those members have done that rather than act—I shall refer to them by name if necessary—like some members who were on the House Committee for 15 or 17 years and did nothing. If Mr. Gray likes to take umbrage at that, I cannot help it. The House Committee has started to do something now and I want members to take positions on that body with a view to helping the new Controller of the House. He is a young man, although he has been with us for 19 years and we should assist him in his task. There were some members who kept the "Hansard" staff from getting their meals, but that is ended. That was done by some of the younger members of the House Committee—younger in point of service with that body—and for the reasons I have set out. I ask for a ballot.

HON. C. G. LATHAM (East) [4.38]: I would refer you, Mr. Deputy President, to Standing Order 34 which sets out that, at the commencement of each session, the Council shall "appoint" a specified number of members to serve on the standing committees. Yesterday we had the experience of

an election and in that connection I contend members were perfectly in order in carrying out the requirements of Standing Order 29, which provides that the members present, should a quorum be available, should proceed to elect a member to fill the office and perform the duties of President during the latter's absence from Parliament. How could we appoint anybody without some member initiating the appointing by nominating him?

Hon. C. B. Williams: How were you appointed to this House? You were elected, were you not?

Hon. C. G. LATHAM: Surely there is a distinction between "election" and "appointment"! With an election, a vote is taken; but when an appointment is made, I presume it is initiated by someone who rises in his seat and nominates someone whom he wishes to be appointed. To that proposition the House will say yea or nay. Should the Minister nominate certain members for appointment to the several standing committees, there is no reason why some other member should not move an amendment to include other names and exclude some mentioned by the Minister. Surely that is the proper procedure.

Personal Explanation.

Hon. C. B. Williams: On a point of explanation, Mr. Deputy President, in my remarks I mentioned the "Hansard" staff in error. What I should have said that the House Committee had decided that the reporters on the staff of "The West Australian" or any other newspaper should, if reporting the proceedings of Parliament, be able to get meals at Parliament House. For many years they were ostracised and not allowed to get meals in the dining-room here. Of course, as members are aware, the "Hansard" reporters have been provided with meals at the House for very many years past. I meant to refer to the Press reporters.

Debate Continued.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In reply to Mr. Latham, the custom of the House has always been for the Leader of the House to nominate committees. At the same time, it has always been recognised that members have a right to demand a ballot and that when a ballot has been demanded, an election must take place. That is the pro-

cedure, and we shall follow it to-day. A ballot paper has been prepared by which members will vote for all the committees on the one sheet. I would like to point out that the President is, ex officio, a member of each committee, and the Chairman of Committees, ex officio, a member of the Standing Orders Committee. So that, when the ballot paper has been distributed, members will find the words in column one, "Standing Orders, 3." Members will elect three members, irrespective of those who are ex officio members.

Hon. C. B. Williams: May I ask who were the members of the last Standing Orders Committee?

The Honorary Minister: The names are on the notice paper.

Hon. C. B. Williams: I am asking you, Mr. Deputy President, who were the members of the last Standing Orders Committee?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Speaking from memory, they were the Honorary Minister (Hon. E. H. Gray), Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

Hon. G. FRASER: I hope, Mr. Deputy President, that you will not insist on our voting for all the committees at the one time. There is a big argument against that procedure. We may desire to appoint to a certain committee a member whom we think suitable for it and, failing his election to that committee, we may desire to nominate him for another committee. If we proceed with the three elections at the one time, it may result in some member for whom we would vote being left out altogether.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will the hon. member move to that effect?

Hon. G. FRASER: Yes.

Hon. C. B. WILLIAMS: I second the motion.

Hon. G. W. MILES: I wish to state that I do not desire an appointment to any of the committees. I would add that I am not voting for myself.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Clerk has supplied me with a copy of "Hansard" for last year and I find that last session the Standing Orders Committee was comprised of the President, the Chairman of Committees, the Chief Secretary, Hon. C. F. Baxter and Hon. H. S. W. Parker.

The Minister for Mines: Will the first ballot be taken for the Standing Orders Committee?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

Ballot taken.

Remarks as to Procedure.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Many members have voted for the Minister for Mines. I have asked that these votes be not allowed because I know of no Minister for Mines. If I am wrong let me be corrected. We vote for members here, and not for Ministers.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We can assume definitely that the Minister for Mines and Health and Mr. Parker are one and the same person. For the purposes of this ballot we will assume that to be so.

Hon. C. B. Williams: It makes no difference to the ballot, but that is not right. We are not voting for a Minister. The Minister for Mines is also the Chief Secretary.

Hon. G. W. Miles: No, he is not. He is Minister for Health.

Hon. C. B. Williams: It is much the same thing. After all, members have to be educated to the ballot, even in this House. That means that they must vote for the individual and not for his title.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: It is laid down that no debate can take place at this stage of the proceedings.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Well, let us draw attention to this.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Have you completed the ballot?

Hon. C. B. Williams: I have, on the lines laid down by the President.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I repeat what I said before, that the Minister for Mines and Health and Mr. Parker are the one person for the purpose of this ballot.

Hon. C. B. Williams: Very well, Sir, if that is your ruling.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do I understand the hon. member has disallowed the votes in this ballot that are marked "Minister for Mines"?

Hon. C. B. Williams: I have, but it makes no difference to the ballot. We are here to do a job, and it is my job as scrutineer to see that the House does its job.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. C. B. Williams: I have disallowed the votes, but if the House wishes them to be added, that is its affair.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Will the hon. member complete the ballot on the lines I have indicated?

Hon. C. B. Williams: But not on my lines.

Hon. Sir Hal Colebatch: I suggest that the Standing Orders Committee give consideration to devising some simple method of electing sessional committees in the future.

Result of Ballots.

The ballots resulted as follows:—

Standing Orders.—The President, the Chairman of Committees, the Minister for Mines (Hon. H. S. W. Parker), Hon. C. F. Baxter, and Hon. G. Fraser.

Library.—The President, Hon. J. G. Hislop, and Hon. A. Thomson.

House.—The President, the Chairman of Committees, Hon. W. R. Hall, Hon. C. G. Latham, and Hon. C. H. Simpson.

Printing.—The President, Hon. W. J. Mann, and Hon. E. H. Gray.

BILL—SUPPLY (No. 1), £3,100,000.

Standing Orders Suspension.

On motion by the Minister for Mines, resolved—

That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as is necessary to enable a Supply Bill to pass through all stages at the one sitting.

First Reading.

Bill received from Assembly and read a first time.

Second Reading.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban) [5.35] in moving the second reading said: By this Bill authority is sought to meet the financial obligations of the State until such time as the Estimates have been passed by Parliament. The amount required under the Bill is £3,100,000, which is made up as follows:—

	£
Consolidated Revenue Fund ..	2,400,000
General Loan Fund ..	400,000
Treasurer's Advance ..	300,000

Although it was anticipated that there would be a deficit last year of £186,808, the actual deficit amounted to £47,552. Had not a special supplementary grant of £628,000 been received on the recommendation of the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the deficit would have been £675,552. Revenue during the year amounted to £14,352,875, as against an estimate of £13,906,393, this being an excess of £446,482. The excess was made up as follows:—

	£	
Taxation	99,598	
Territorial	142,873	
Commonwealth Grants (exclusive of the special Grant of £628,000) ..	145,000	
Other Revenue ..	271,689	
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	659,160	
Less Business Undertakings under-estimated ..	212,678	
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		£446,482

Expenditure last year amounted to £15,028,427, this being an excess of £935,226 over the estimate of £14,093,201. The increase was accounted for by—

	£	
Interest	23,143	
Exchange	54,251	
Social Expenditure	106,435	
Other Public Works	12,218	
Business Undertakings	452,968	
Other Expenditure	301,832	
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	950,847	
Less Expenditure over-estimated—		
Sinking Fund ..	£1,619	
Pensions	14,002	
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	15,621	
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		£935,226

This excess was mainly due to the re-establishment of peacetime activities; the increased cost of materials, and basic wage adjustments also being contributory causes. I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment and the report adopted.

Bill read a third time and *passed*.

ADJOURNMENT—SPECIAL.

THE MINISTER FOR MINES (Hon. H. S. W. Parker—Metropolitan-Suburban): I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn till Tuesday, the 12th August.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.44 p.m.

Legislative Assembly.

Wednesday, 6th August, 1947.

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The SPEAKER took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Section "B", 1946.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received from the Auditor General a copy of Section "B" of his report on the Treasurer's statement of the Public Accounts for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1946. This will be laid on the Table of the House.