

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES (HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT (1962)

The Thirty-sixth Parliament of South Australia having been prorogued until February 28, 1962, and the life of the House of Assembly, having expired on that date, general elections were held on March 3. By proclamation dated March 29 the new Parliament was summoned to meet on April 12, and the First Session began on that date.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, April 12, 1962.

The Council assembled at 11 a.m. The clerk (Mr. I. J. Ball) read the proclamation by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Edric Bastyan) summoning the first session of the Thirty-seventh Parliament.

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION.

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor to do all things necessary to prepare for the opening of the session, the Honourable Sir Mellis Napier (Chief Justice) and the Honourables Vivian Rhodes Millhouse and John Leo Travers (Judges of the Supreme Court), were announced by Black Rod (Mr. A. D. Drummond) and conducted to chairs on the dais.

A message was sent to the House of Assembly requesting members of that House to attend to hear the Governor's Commission for the opening of Parliament. The members of the House of Assembly having arrived, the Clerk read the Commission.

The Senior Commissioner (the Honourable Sir Mellis Napier) announced that His Excellency the Governor would, in person, declare the reasons for his calling the Parliament together as soon as the new members of the Legislative Council and the members of the House of Assembly had been sworn and the two Houses had notified that they had elected respectively their President and Speaker.

The members of the House of Assembly and His Honour Mr. Justice Travers withdrew.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

His Honour Mr. Justice Millhouse produced a Commission from the Governor authorizing him to be a Commissioner to administer to newly-elected members the Oath of Allegiance or receive an affirmation in lieu thereof, also writes and returns for the election of ten members.

The Oath of Allegiance was then administered to and subscribed by the new members, who signed the members' roll for their respective districts.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I remind the Council that the time has arrived for the election of its President, and I have the honour to move that the Hon. L. H. Densley be elected.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I have much pleasure in seconding the motion.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (Southern): I submit myself with humility to the will of this honourable House.

There being no other nomination, the Hon. L. H. Densley was elected and was escorted to the President's chair by the mover and seconder of the motion.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN: Now that you have been unanimously elected as our President, I should like to convey the congratulations of members upon your preferment. It is the highest office that the Council has in its power to bestow, and it is an honour you have well merited. You first entered this Council 18 years ago and very quickly proved your qualities, not only in your powers of expression, but in your mental approach to the debates in the Chamber, and you finally earned promotion to Leader of your Party in the Council. It is not surprising, therefore, that you have earned the unanimous endorsement of this Council for the position of President. I trust, Sir, that your term of office will be a pleasant one. I assure you that you will have the support of honourable members in maintaining the dignity and decorum for which this Chamber is renowned. I trust that those wishes will be fulfilled in your experience in office.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I rise to convey my congratulations to you, Mr. President, on the very high honour that has been bestowed upon you, and I associate my colleagues of the Australian Labor Party with me. The honour that has fallen to your lot, as the Chief Secretary has said, is well merited. Over the years members generally, and particularly members of my Party, have learned to recognize your many good qualities, your fairness, and your humility and goodwill towards all members. I sincerely trust that your term as President of this Council will be happy notwithstanding the present exciting political situation. On behalf of the members I have the honour to represent, I assure you that we will do our best to make your term as happy as possible. Once again, I congratulate you on the very high honour that has been bestowed upon you.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): It is my privilege to extend congratulations to you, Sir, not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of members of the Liberal and Country Party which you have served with distinction for many years. Honourable members have displayed their confidence in you. Your unanimous election to the high office of President is proof of their absolute confidence in your ability, sincerity and impartiality. Your leadership of the Liberal and Country Party in this Chamber, and the service you have given to the Parliamentary institution, act as an inspiration to all of us to strive to do our best in the interests of our electors.

I am sure that, at times, you will have the urge to vacate the President's chair and join

in the debates on certain subjects that have been close to your heart but, Sir, you will be doing a much more valuable job in presiding over this Council and its affairs. We are confident that the rights of the people are in safe hands when entrusted to your care. Your promotion has been richly deserved and on behalf of the Liberal and Country Party members I congratulate you and assure you of our loyal support at all times.

The Hon. L. H. DENSLEY (President): I rise with great humility to return thanks for the very great honour that honourable members have accorded me, and to express my sincere appreciation of the honour you have done me. I realize that I follow in the footsteps of a very distinguished President. The Hon. Sir Walter Duncan served for 44 years in this Council, during 18 of which he occupied the Chair and he did, indeed, set a very high standard, a standard of which we can all be extremely proud.

The Hon. Sir Walter Duncan was elected President when I first came into the Council and on his election he made a review of the many distinguished people who had occupied this Chair. I shall not attempt to comment on any of the distinguished Presidents who occupied the Chair before Sir Walter, but I do wish to say how much we all appreciated his able occupancy of the Chair. I believe that this honourable Council, which has always been one of great dignity and stature, really gained in stature and dignity during the regime of Sir Walter Duncan. Many comments have been made by visiting Parliamentarians from various parts of the world and from other States of Australia on the fine and dignified manner in which this Council has been conducted, and I am sure much of the credit is due to the Hon. Sir Walter Duncan. He was a kindly and genial President as well as being a firm disciplinarian.

I wish, too, to pay a tribute to other leaders in this Council. The late Hon. Frank Condon, C.M.G., who for many years was a member of this Council, showed himself to be a great leader of his Party, and the Hon. Sir Collier Cudmore was a great leader of the Liberal and Country Party, and we still have with us perhaps the greatest leader of them all, the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Sir Lyell McEwin. I express appreciation of the great work those honourable gentlemen have done for this Parliament.

All honourable members have indeed been very kind to elect me to this position, and I am sure they will assist me to maintain the

dignity and standing of this Chamber; without their help it will be impossible for me to do that. I thank honourable members again for the honour they have accorded me and I shall do my best to maintain their confidence and all that I possibly can in the interests of this honourable Council.

At 11.40 a.m., attended by a deputation of members, the President proceeded to Government House.

On resuming at 12.15 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: I have to report that, accompanied by members of the Council, I proceeded to Government House and there presented myself as President to His Excellency the Governor, and claimed for the Council the right of free access to and communication with His Excellency, and that the most favourable construction might be placed on all its proceedings. To that His Excellency was pleased to reply:

I congratulate honourable members of the Legislative Council on their choice of President. I readily assure you of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges enjoyed by the Council over which you preside, and you may rest content that the proceedings of the Council will always receive my most favourable consideration.

[Sitting suspended from 12.20 to 2.15 p.m.]

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

At 2.15 p.m. His Excellency the Governor, having been announced by Black Rod, was received by the President at the Bar of the Council Chamber and by him conducted to the Chair. The Speaker and members of the House of Assembly having entered the Chamber in obedience to the summons of the Governor, His Excellency read his Opening Speech as follows:—

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly:

1. I have called you together for the dispatch of business.
2. My Ministers have advised me to call you together at this early date in order to afford an opportunity for the discussion and determination of any matters that may arise in consequence of the recent elections.
3. Very early during the Third Session of the last Parliament the State lost one of its outstanding political leaders in the death of the late Francis Joseph Condon, who had a distinguished Parliamentary career of some 37 years. I place on record our tribute to a fine man who made a great contribution to the welfare and development of the State

and I know that you will all join with me in expressing our sympathy to his widow and the members of his family. I also express our sympathy to the families of the late Rex Whiting Pearson (for many years a distinguished member of this Parliament and a Senator for this State), of the late Ernest Anthoney for 36 years a distinguished member of this Parliament, and of the late Ernest Harry Edmonds who died a few days ago, shortly after retirement from an active political career.

4. Despite excellent opening rains seasonal conditions during the past year were not good and yields were in general below average, although better than at first anticipated. My Government continues its policy of extending and increasing research and scientific services in all fields of primary production and is doing its utmost to ensure that the best use is made of all available resources in the light of scientific and technical advances.

5. My Government continues to encourage land settlement particularly in relation to areas which in the light of scientific knowledge are capable of economic development.

6. It is intended to continue the policy of exploring and developing the natural resources of the State, particularly in the field of forestry and mining. Additional expenditure is proposed in relation to mineral production especially in connection with the search for oil. It is my Government's policy in promoting the search for oil to do exploratory work itself and collaborate with private enterprise. The Government's contribution in this field will involve a capital outlay of some £450,000 and an annual operating cost of £350,000.

7. It is the policy of my Government to develop an expanding, strong and varied economy to ensure full employment, to establish a higher standard of living and improved educational, hospital and other social services.

8. Although the year was a difficult one throughout Australia, recovery in this State has been more marked than in any other State of the Commonwealth. My Government is committed to a policy of maintaining full employment and every effort has been and is being made to carry out that policy. As in the previous year, less working days were lost on account of industrial disputes in this State than in any of the other mainland Australian States.

9. The principal industrial legislation in this State is the Industrial Code which,

although enacted in 1920 and not since frequently amended, has proved to be very effective. There are, however, some matters which require review in the light of changing conditions and it will be the intention of my Ministers to introduce a Bill to make certain amendments to the Code during this session.

10. In pursuance of its policy of developing new industries in various parts of the State and thus providing a measure of decentralization, my Government proposes to create a new department charged with the function of securing new industries and assisting them in their initial stages and generally promoting production within the State of commodities which are now imported.

11. Extensive plans are in hand concerning the supply of water and sewerage facilities. A new reservoir on the River Torrens at Kangaroo Creek to meet the requirements of the metropolitan area will be commenced in July; a further pipeline to serve the metropolitan area and central water district is being planned and discussions for a major dam at Chowilla to provide additional water from the River Murray are in progress. While the policy of my Government is to endeavour to reach agreement on this matter, it proposes, if no agreement can be reached within a reasonable time, to commence an alternative dam at Teal Flat, which would meet the requirements of the State for some 30 years. Other water projects which are under consideration include a supply from Tailem Bend to Keith, a supply for Kangaroo Island, extensions of pipelines to Kimba and Lenswood, a project for the higher regions of the Mount Lofty Ranges and a large pipeline along the foothills of the metropolitan area. Additional works to improve sewerage services for both the metropolitan and country areas are in hand.

12. My Government will continue its active policy in connection with road construction and improvement. Major projects proposed include continuation of the reconstruction of the Broken Hill road and Eyre Highway, construction of a four-lane divided highway through the Adelaide hills, a six-lane divided highway to Reynella and a four-lane highway to Morphett Vale, and other important projects in country areas. Additional plans are in hand for an outlet from the city to the newly developed areas in the north-east. In the metropolitan area my Government will continue the widening of roads and proposes to construct an additional main road between Adelaide and Glenelg.

13. Following agreement with the Commonwealth, it is expected that during the coming financial year 12 diesel electric locomotives and 100 ore waggons for use on the Port Pirie to Cockburn railway will be placed in commission. My Government has placed a proposition before the Commonwealth for the standardization of the railway gauge on the Port Pirie to Broken Hill line, which is essential to our industrial well-being.

14. The Electricity Trust of South Australia continues to extend its services and initial work has commenced in connection with the construction of a power station on Torrens Island at a completed cost of approximately £150,000,000. This will be the biggest industrial project in the State and one of the largest in Australia. With the completion of the transmission line from the metropolitan area to the South-East, all future demands for power in that area will be provided for. The trust is actively investigating means of providing further generating power in the Port Lincoln area; it is also expected that a transmission line from Port Augusta to Whyalla will be built to provide power for the new steel works. At the request of my Government the trust will construct a transmission line to join Kangaroo Island with the mainland grid, the Government providing half the cost of the cable.

15. In the field of education my Government proposes a total expenditure of over £25,000,000 during the coming financial year. A constant programme of recruitment has resulted in a considerable increase in the number of trainee teachers, and this will enable educational services to be extended in all spheres. Good progress has also been made in the provision of new schools and other educational buildings. The amount of new accommodation being made available is approximately double that required to meet new enrolments.

16. My Government will continue to promote and assist governmental and private building of houses and to enable persons of moderate incomes to purchase or rent homes without financial embarrassment. While the Housing Trust is maintaining a steady output of houses in excess of 3,000 a year and Government authorities have provided finance for the building of an equal number of houses by private builders, my Government will continue this successful policy, paying special attention to country areas and areas of industrial expansion. Two measures concerning housing loans will be laid before you. One

will extend the power to guarantee housing loans, both existing and future, from 30 to 40 years. The other will enable purchasers for a low additional weekly payment to obtain housing loans through the State Bank and under the Homes Act, with provision for discharge of the loan without further payment in the event of a borrower's death. A recent announcement of these proposals created considerable interest and despite the fact that more avenues of finance are now available than for many years, applications for housing loans received by the State Bank have increased notably in anticipation of the early enactment of the measures to which I have referred.

17. Among the major works to be commenced or investigated are new laboratory buildings for the Department of Agriculture at Northfield, the junior boys' reformatory at Lochiel Park, the senior boys' reformatory at Magill, a remand home at Glandore, additional buildings at Vaughan House, new buildings for the Public Library and the new Alcoholics Centre at Northfield.

18. In the sphere of public health, in addition to maintaining and improving health services by the provision of equipment and staff for preventive medicine, my Government has in hand many important works in relation to hospitals, including a multi-storey main block and new nurses' home at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, construction of a new hospital block and nurses' home for Port Lincoln, the planning of modern accommodation at Port Augusta and increases in special grants to subsidized and community hospitals. My Government has under consideration special plans in the field of industrial hygiene, including the safe disposal of dangerous trade wastes, prevention of air pollution and the safe use of radio-active substances.

19. While the policy of special assistance by way of grants, provision of housing, education, training and health services for aborigines will be continued, my Government proposes to direct its activities towards helping aborigines to help themselves. Legislation will be introduced which will have an important bearing on the status of aborigines and part aborigines in the community.

20. My Ministers consider that the economic situation warrants the retention of the prices and rent control legislation for a further period of 12 months and measures for these purposes will be laid before you.

21. A Bill to authorize my Treasurer to guarantee repayment up to a further £200,000

by South Australian Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited as part of an additional loan of £400,000 to be made by the Commonwealth Trading Bank will be laid before you. These proposals will enable the company to construct additional facilities for the bulk shipping of barley under arrangements with the Australian Barley Board.

22. There has been a very rapid growth in population in some areas, and this has meant that consideration should be given to a redistribution of electoral boundaries. My Government is prepared to explore this question with Her Majesty's Opposition to see whether agreement can be reached upon it.

23. In September last, my Treasurer presented a Budget of revenue and expenditure estimating a surplus of £3,000. Because of an extremely dry spring season, heavier expenditure than was anticipated has been incurred for pumping water and the economic conditions prevailing during the first eight months of the financial year caused a fall in stamp duty revenue. On the other hand, a somewhat better grain harvest than might have been expected resulted in some improvements in railway revenue. Since February of this year, moreover, there has been considerable evidence of a substantial improvement in employment and the general economic situation. If this improvement is maintained, as my Ministers confidently expect, the Consolidated Revenue Account should not at the end of the current financial year show any significant variation from the Estimates submitted to Parliament.

24. During the current financial year record expenditures have been made for the provision of capital and developmental works financed from loan account. In the original Loan Estimates presented to Parliament in August last it was anticipated that expenditure would exceed funds currently becoming available by approximately £1,400,000 against which nearly £900,000 from the previous year's revenue surplus was to be credited, leaving the loan account in deficit at the end of the year to the extent of about £500,000. The objective in planning this record expenditure was to combat the unemployment problem as effectively and quickly as possible.

25. At the meeting of the Australian Loan Council in February of this year it was agreed that additional moneys should be provided for public works further to combat unemployment and generally to improve the economic position throughout the Commonwealth. Additional funds of approximately £2,000,000 were accordingly made available by the Commonwealth, the

amounts secured by this State comprising a special grant of £970,000 to be used for employment—promoting works and an increase of £1,036,000 in loans for housing purposes. Expenditure of the grant was immediately authorized partly on maintenance works and partly on capital works and the housing moneys were allocated at once. All of the expenditure represented by the moneys made available at the Loan Council meeting is additional to that which had been previously approved by my Government. It is expected that the Loan Fund will at the end of this financial year show a deficit of the order of £500,000, as was anticipated.

Members of the House of Assembly:

26. Supplementary Estimates for additional expenditure of £1,290,000 during the current financial year, mainly expenditure of the special grant to which I have referred, will be laid before you. Estimates for the year ending on June 30, 1963, will also be laid before you.

Honourable members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly:

27. A Supply Bill appropriating £6,000,000 for the Public Service of the State during the early weeks of the next financial year will be laid before you forthwith.

28. My Ministers are considering legislation on a variety of subjects, including Bills relating to company law, business names, explosives, honey marketing, impounding, marine, police offences, police regulation, registration of deeds and other matters of law reform.

29. I now declare this session open and trust that your deliberations may be guided by Divine Providence to the advancement of the welfare of the State.

The Governor retired from the Chamber and the Speaker and members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

The PRESIDENT again took the Chair and read prayers.

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBERS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary): I move:

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the recent deaths of two distinguished former members of the Council, the Hon. Ernest Anthony and the Hon. E. H. Edmonds, and places on record its appreciation of their public services; and that, as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased gentlemen, the sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the bells.

Both these honourable gentlemen had long and distinguished careers as members of

this House. The Hon. Mr. Anthony also served for 17 years as a member of the House of Assembly. He was a member of this Council for 18 years, with a break of only three years between both terms of service. He served on the Public Works Standing Committee for five years, from 1933 to 1938, and as a member of the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation, representing this Chamber, for the term of his membership here.

The Hon. Mr. Edmonds also had quite a distinguished career in this Chamber. He died only last Sunday, having recently retired after a period of 18 years in this House. He was a member of the Industries Development Committee for five years from 1944 to 1949 and a member of the Land Settlement Committee from 1949 to 1960, from which he retired of his own choice. He was Chairman of that committee from 1956 to 1960. Mr. Edmonds was well loved by all members. He was an active member of this Chamber, and I had particular reason to appreciate his good qualities, as he was my immediate colleague for the whole of his term in this Chamber. Mr. Edmonds was generally admired by everyone because of his sound judgment and debating strength and reasoning on all matters that came before the Council.

Only at the end of last session high tribute was paid to both these gentlemen by a number of their fellow members. As their remarks were reported in *Hansard*, I feel it is unnecessary to give a lengthy discourse in moving the motion. On behalf of the Chamber, I should like to express to the widows and families of our late esteemed colleagues our sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD (Leader of the Opposition): I rise to second the motion. I had the pleasure of knowing both the late honourable members very well and, as is quite customary in this Chamber, I, together with other members, came to appreciate their good qualities, their manners and their ways. Without reiterating all that the Chief Secretary said about their careers, I must say that both the late gentlemen had long, honoured and valuable years of service in this Parliament. I was pleased to serve on the Joint Committee on Subordinate Legislation with the late Ernest Anthony as chairman. I appreciated his guidance and wisdom on that committee as soon as I came into this Chamber. He had a kindly and friendly way that helped us over our arduous committee tasks, thus enabling us to do what we thought was right and wise.

The late Mr. Edmonds was a member of this Chamber for 18 years and his valuable work, too, on various committees was well known and it is unnecessary for me to recapitulate remarks on his abilities. Both gentlemen were quite fair in debate. Their reasoning was sound, their contributions to the debates were in the interests of the people they represented, and they were generally accepted by Council members. I wish to associate my colleagues with me in extending to the widows and the families of the deceased gentlemen our sincere and deep sympathy at the very sad and irreparable loss they have suffered.

The Hon. C. R. STORY (Midland): I wish to associate my colleagues of the Liberal and Country Party with the motion. I heartily concur in the sentiments expressed by both the Chief Secretary and the Hon. Mr. Shard. During their time in this Chamber we all appreciated the friendship and ability of both the Hon. Mr. Anthony and the Hon. Mr. Edmonds. Mr. Anthony served Parliament and the Liberal and Country Party with great distinction over many many years and I think I am expressing the sentiments of all honourable members in saying that we remember him as a great patron of the arts, as a man with a very keen wit, and with an appreciation of the good things of our Australian way of life. Of Mr. Edmonds I would say that he was a very keen and logical thinker, a true son of the land, and a good Australian. In saying that I believe I could not say more about any colleague in this Council. It is with very deep regret that I express to Mrs. Anthony and her son, and to Mrs. Edmonds and the family of the late Mr. Edmonds our most sincere and deep sympathy.

The PRESIDENT: Before submitting the motion I add my own personal tribute to the memory of the two late honourable gentlemen. When I first came into the Council the Hon. Mr. Anthony was the first to welcome me and on all occasions I found him a very friendly member who was always prepared to take his share of the work. I think, during the 35 years he spent in Parliamentary life, he never made an enemy, and we can say that he did a great deal of excellent work and was always a friendly personality.

Of the Hon. Mr. Edmonds I would say he was one who was peculiarly fitted to be a member of Parliament. He undertook pioneering work in scrubland in his early life and he spent a long period in local government before coming into this honourable Council. On all

occasions when matters arose regarding our primary industries Mr. Edmonds spoke with knowledge and wisdom born out of years of experience. I, too, extend to the families of those two late gentlemen my deepest sympathies.

Motion carried by members standing in their places in silence.

[Sitting suspended from 3.10 to 3.37 p.m.]

SENATE VACANCY.

The PRESIDENT: I have received the following message from His Excellency the Governor:

The Governor informs the Legislative Council that the President of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia, in accordance with section 21 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, has notified him that, in consequence of the resignation of Senator Nancy Eileen Buttfeld, a vacancy has happened in the representation of this State in the Senate of the Commonwealth. The Governor is advised that, by such vacancy having happened, the place of a Senator has become vacant before the expiration of the term within the meaning of section 15 of the said Constitution, and that such vacancy must be filled by the Houses of Parliament, sitting and voting together, choosing a person to hold it in accordance with the provisions of the said section.

I shall confer with the Speaker of the House of Assembly and arrange to call a joint meeting of the two Houses for the purpose of complying with section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act.

Later:

The PRESIDENT: I have to inform honourable members that I have decided to issue notices to members of both Houses of Parliament to attend a joint sitting in the Legislative Council Chamber on Thursday, April 19, 1962, at 12 noon for the purpose of filling the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Nancy Eileen Buttfeld.

QUESTION.

EQUAL PAY IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

The Hon. A. J. SHARD: I ask the Minister of Labour and Industry whether he or Cabinet has given any consideration to the question of implementing the International Labour Organization motion of 1951, namely, to give equal payment for equal work to men and women in the Public Service. If the matter has not been considered, is it the intention of the Minister or the Cabinet to consider it?

The Hon. C. D. ROWE: I would be grateful if the honourable member would put his question on notice.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The PRESIDENT laid on the table the following reports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, together with minutes of evidence:

Aldinga Beach Water Supply,
Cummins Area School (Final),
Kangaroo Inn Area School (Final),
Mount Burr Sewerage Scheme,
Mount Gambier Sewerage Scheme (Revised Scheme),
Port Augusta Gaol Rebuilding (Final).

ADDRESS IN REPLY.

The PRESIDENT having laid on the table a copy of the Governor's Speech, the Hon. Sir Lyell McEwin (Chief Secretary) moved:

That a committee consisting of the Hons. M. B. Dawkins, G. J. Gilfillan, A. J. Shard, C. R. Story and the Chief Secretary be appointed to prepare a draft Address in Reply to the Speech delivered this day by His Excellency the Governor and to report on the next day of sitting.

Motion carried.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Sessional Committees were appointed as follows:

Standing Orders: The President, the Chief Secretary, the Hons. Sir Frank Perry, Sir Arthur Rymill, and A. J. Shard.

Library: The President, the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, M. B. Dawkins, and A. C. Hookings.

Printing: The Hons. S. C. Bevan, G. O'H. Giles, G. J. Gilfillan, A. F. Kneebone, and F. J. Potter.

COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS.

The Hon. Sir LYELL McEWIN (Chief Secretary) moved:

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, 1929-1955, four members be elected by ballot to be members of a Court of Disputed Returns.

Motion carried.

A ballot was taken, and the Chief Secretary and the Hons. K. E. J. Bardolph, S. C. Bevan, and C. R. Story were declared duly elected.

CONSTITUTION ACT AMENDMENT ACT.

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of honourable members to a proclamation in the *Government Gazette* dated February 22, 1962, signifying Her Majesty's assent to the Constitution Act Amendment Act, 1961.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 4.25 p.m. the Council adjourned until Wednesday, April 18, at 2.15 p.m.