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1954-55.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SPECIAL REPORT

from the

STANDING COMMITTEE

of

PRIVILEGES

relating to

AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE

BANKSTOWN OBSERVER, on Thursday,

28th April, 1955

together with

Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee.

EXTRACT FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 47
DATED TUESDAY, 3rd May, 1955.

PRIVILEGE - ARTICLE IN "BANKSTOWN OBSERVER". - Mr. Morgan raised a matter of Privilege based on an article headed "M.H.R. and Immigration Racket" published in the Bankstown Observer on Thursday, 28th April, 1955, and moved, That the article headed "M.H.R. and Immigration Racket" appearing in the issue of the Bankstown Observer of Thursday, 28th April, 1955, be referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation and report.

Question - put and passed.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS No. 51
DATED THURSDAY, 12th May, 1955.

4. COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.-- Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, by leave, That Mr. Galvin be appointed a member of the Committee of Privileges, in place of Mr. Sheehan, deceased.

Question - put and passed.

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6. COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES.--Sir Eric Harrison (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That Mr. W.M. Bourke and Mr. Freeth be appointed members of the Committee of Privileges.

Question - put and passed.

SPECIAL REPORT.

The Committee of Privileges, to which was referred the matter of the complaint made in the House on the 3rd May, 1955, of the publication of certain matter in the newspaper Bankstown Observer of the 28th April, 1955, reflecting upon the honorable Member for Reid (Mr. Morgan), has agreed to the following Special Report: -

1. From an examination of the evidence given and documents presented to your Committee in the course of its investigations your Committee considers it desirable that its order of reference should be extended so that it may include in its investigations articles concerning the honorable Member for Reid and the Committee of Privileges of this House which appeared in issues of the newspaper Bankstown Observer subsequent to that of the 28th April, 1955.
2. Your Committee therefore respectfully requests that authority be given by the House to empower your Committee to consider articles which appeared on the 5th, 12th and 19th May, 1955, in addition to that of the 28th April, 1955.

(J. McBEAY)
Chairman.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA.

Thursday, 12th May, 1955,

(21st Parliament,
Seventh Meeting).

Present:

Mr. McLeay (Chairman)

Mr. W.M. Bourke
Mr. Freeth
Mr. Galvin

Mr. Joske
Mr. Swartz
Mr. Turnbull

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Clerk attending the Committee read the entry in the Votes and Proceedings of the House of Representatives No. 47 of the 3rd May, 1955, recording the resolution of the House which referred to the Committee, for investigation and report, an Article headed "M.H.R. and Immigration Racket" published in the Bankstown Observer on Thursday, 28th April, 1955.

The Resolution of the House of 12th May, 1955, appointing Mr. W.M. Bourke, Mr. G. Freeth and Mr. P. Galvin to the Committee was reported by the Clerk attending the Committee.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved:

That Mr. C.A.A. Morgan, M.P. be ordered to attend before the Committee on Tuesday, 17th May.

The Committee adjourned until Tuesday, 17th May at 4.0 p.m.

Tuesday, 17th May, 1955.

(21st Parliament,
Eighth Meeting).

Present:

Mr. McLeay (Chairman)

Mr. W.M. Bourke
Mr. Freeth
Mr. Galvin

Mr. Joske
Mr. Swartz
Mr. Turnbull

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. C.A.A. Morgan, M.P. was called, sworn and examined.

Mr. Morgan laid before the Committee the following documents -

A statement headed "Committee of Privileges, Bankstown Observer Article".

Copies of the Bankstown Observer dated 28th April, 5th May and 12th May, 1955.

A newsheet entitled "Things I Hear" dated 14th April, 1955.

The witness withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Wednesday, 25th May, 1955. (21st Parliament,
Ninth Meeting).

Present:

Mr. McLeay (Chairman)

Mr. W. M. Bourke	Mr. Joske
Mr. Freeth	Mr. Swartz
Mr. Galvin	Mr. Turnbull

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman laid before the Committee a copy of the Bankstown Observer dated 19th May, 1955.

The Committee deliberated.

Mr. Galvin moved, That the Committee seek authority from the House to include in its investigations articles concerning the honorable Member for Reid and the Committee of Privileges appearing in the Bankstown Observer of the 5th, 12th and 19th May, in addition to that of the 28th April, 1955.

Question put -

The Committee divided -

Ayes, 5.

Mr. W. M. Bourke
Mr. Freeth
Mr. Galvin
Mr. Joske
Mr. Swartz

Noes, 1.

Mr. Turnbull

And so the question was resolved in the affirmative.

The Committee adjourned until a time to be fixed by the Chairman.

Wednesday, 25th May, 1955 (21st Parliament,
Tenth Meeting).

Present:-

Mr. McLeay (Chairman)

Mr. W. M. Bourke	Mr. Joske
Mr. Freeth	Mr. Swartz
Mr. Galvin	Mr. Turnbull

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman submitted his Draft Special Report.

Resolved - That the Draft Special Report, be the Report of the Committee.

The Committee deliberated.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday, 26th May, 1955
at 1.45 p.m.