

1937-38.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 21.

FRIDAY, 27TH MAY, 1938.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE BILL 1938.—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. Curtin, viz. :—That all the words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting in lieu thereof the following words :—"this House is of opinion that in its present form the Bill is unacceptable because :—*
 - (a) it seeks to place upon a contributory basis the payment of pensions for old-age, invalidity and widowhood, which should be provided as a matter of right without the exaction of individual contributions ;
 - (b) it provides unequal benefits for men and women ;
 - (c) it fails to provide medical benefit for the wives and children of contributors ;
 - (d) by partially overlapping the field of Friendly Society activity it tends to discourage young men and women from joining these associations of self-help, thus threatening the continued strength of Friendly Societies without providing in full the services which they now render ;

and therefore the Bill should be withdrawn and re-drafted and a more liberal Bill, freed from the defects now enumerated, should be introduced without delay"—

Debate resumed.
Mr. Pollard 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.
3. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Thorby (Minister for Defence) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Harrison, Mr. Hawker, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Menzies*, Sir Earle Page*, Mr. Scholfield, Sir Frederick Stewart, and Mr. White*.

* On leave.

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