

1937-38.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 28.

TUESDAY, 14TH JUNE, 1938.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.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 further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 25—

Mr. Beasley moved, as an amendment, That the clause be omitted, and the following clause be inserted in place thereof:—

“25.—(1.) When a woman being an insured person marries if she—

(a) had at any time before marriage ceased; or

(b) at any time during the period of her marriage ceases,

to be a person whose normal occupation is insurable employment within the meaning of this Act, she shall until the expiration of a period of two years from the date of her marriage be treated as if she were an insured person in respect of whom contributions have been continuously paid.

(2.) At the expiration of the period of two years referred to in the preceding sub-section, such a married woman may, if she gives notice in the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, elect to become a special contributor under the Act for—

(a) sickness benefit, disablement benefit and old-age pension; or

(b) sickness benefit and disablement benefit; or

(c) old-age pension only,

and thereupon she shall become a contributor.

(3.) Except in accordance with this section, at the expiration of a period of two years from the date of her marriage, a married woman who is not engaged in insurable employment shall cease to be insured.”

*Chairman's Ruling.*—The Chairman (Mr. Prowse) ruled that the amendment would increase the benefits proposed and would bring in persons who would not otherwise be included, thereby increasing the cost to the Consolidated Revenue, and, therefore, was out of order.

Mr. Beasley moved, That the clause be postponed.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the clause be postponed—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 26.

Mr. Baker	Mr. Martens
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Clark	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Forde	Mr. Ward
Mr. Frost	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Green	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Gregory	
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Gander
Mr. Mahoney	Mr. George Lawson

Noes, 32.

Mr. Badman	Mr. Lyons
Mr. Cameron	Sir Charles Marr
Mr. Casey	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Collins	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Corser	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Price
Mr. Francis	Mr. Scholfield
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Spender
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Hawker	Mr. Street
Mr. Holt	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Hughes	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Jennings	
Mr. Jolly	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lane	Mr. Gardner
Mr. John Lawson	Mr. Nock

And so it was negatived.

On the motion of Mr. Casey (Treasurer), the following amendments were made:—

Page 8, line 42, omit “five”, insert “four”.

Page 8, line 44, omit “two hundred and eight”, insert “one hundred and fifty-six”.

Page 9, line 5, omit “accordance with”, insert “pursuance of”.

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Mr. Baker moved, as a further amendment, That the following sub-clause be added :—

“(3.) A married woman who is not entitled to elect as provided by sub-section (1.) of this section shall be paid the sum of the contributions payable by her and already paid.”

*Chairman's Ruling.*—The Chairman ruled that the amendment was not in order, as it would mean additional payments from the Consolidated Revenue.

Debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. Casey, the following further amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 9, lines 5-7, omit all words after “section”, insert “a married woman shall not be insured under this Act—

(a) unless she is engaged in insurable employment ; or

(b) except during a period of free insurance to which she is entitled under this Act by virtue of insurance during such employment.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 26—

Mr. Gregory moved, as an amendment, That the following words be added to the clause :—“and refunds of contributions may be made in accordance with conditions declared by the Parliament”.

*Chairman's Ruling.*—The Chairman ruled that the amendment was out of order, for the reason that refunds would cause a deficiency in the funds available and would require a further appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue.

Mr. Gregory moved, That the clause be postponed.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the clause be postponed—put and passed.

Clause 27 debated—

Mr. Ward moved, That the clause be postponed.

Debate continued.

Question—That the clause be postponed—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 23.

Mr. Baker	Mr. Martens
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Clark	Mr. Rosevear
Mr. Curtin	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Ward
Mr. Forde	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Frost	
Mr. Green	
Mr. Holloway	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lazzarini	Mr. Gander
Mr. Mahoney	Mr. George Lawson

Noes, 34.

Mr. Badman	Mr. Lyons
Mr. Cameron	Sir Charles Marr
Mr. Casey	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Collins	Mr. Nairn
Mr. Corser	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Perkins
Mr. Fairbairn	Mr. Price
Mr. Francis	Mr. Scholfield
Mr. Gregory	Mr. Spender
Sir Henry Gullett	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Street
Mr. Hawker	Mr. Thompson
Mr. Holt	Mr. Thorby
Mr. Hutchinson	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Jennings	
Mr. Jolly	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Lane	Mr. Gardner
Mr. John Lawson	Mr. Nock

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 28 agreed to.

Clause 29 postponed.

Clause 30 debated—

Mr. Curtin moved, That the clause be postponed.

Debate continued.

Motion for postponement withdrawn, by leave.

Clause agreed to.

Progress to be reported, and leave asked to sit again.

The House resumed ; Mr. Collins reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

3. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at eighteen 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. Barnard, Mr. Hunter, Mr. James, Mr. Makin, Mr. Maloney, Mr. McCall, Mr. Menzies\*, Sir Earle Page\*, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Scully, Sir Frederick Stewart, and Mr. White\*.

\* On leave.

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