

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 124.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1943.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable W. M. Nairn) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Speaker:—

GOWRIE,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 99.*

Proposed Laws intituled:—

“*Loan Act 1943*”“*Customs Tariff Validation Act 1943*”“*Customs Tariff (Exchange Adjustment) Validation Act 1943*”“*Customs Tariff (Special War Duty) Validation Act 1943*”“*Customs Tariff (New Zealand Preference) Validation Act 1943*”“*Customs Tariff (Canadian Preference) Validation Act 1943*”“*Excise Tariff Validation Act 1943*”

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Laws.

Government House,

Melbourne, 1st March, 1943.

3. WAR NEWS IN THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Lawson (Minister representing the Minister for Information), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the proportion of space given in Australian newspapers to war news from the South-Western Pacific Area.
  4. AIR-CREW PERSONNEL—PROMOTIONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Air), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement in relation to the eligibility for promotion to commissioned rank of air-crew personnel of the Royal Australian Air Force serving overseas under the Empire Air Training Scheme.
  5. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Sir Earle Page rose in his place, and said that he proposed to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, “The immediate need for a single food control in Australia to stimulate food production, to assure ample supplies to the fighting forces and civilian consumers in Australia and Britain, to stabilize prices, promote industrial peace, raise morale, and prevent duplication and confusion in Australia’s war effort”.
- Mr. Speaker thereupon called upon those Members who approved of the proposed discussion to rise in their places, and more than the necessary number of Members having risen accordingly—
- Sir Earle Page moved, That the House do now adjourn.
- Ordered—That Sir Earle Page be granted an extension of time.
- Ordered—That Mr. Beasley (Minister for Supply and Shipping) be granted an extension of time.
- Debate continued.

The debate having been continued for two hours, it was terminated in accordance with Standing Order No. 257B.

6. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—

Lend-Lease—Report on Administration to the 31st December, 1942.

Ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &amp;c.—1943—

No. 8—Arms, Explosives and Mmunition Workers’ Federation of Australia and Australasian Society of Engineers.

No. 9—Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—

Bathurst, New South Wales.

Meadowvale, Queensland.

National Security Act—

National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations—Orders—

Aliens embarkation.

Aliens landing.

3rd and 4th March, 1943.

National Security (Emergency Control) Regulations—Order—Military powers during emergency.

National Security (Emergency Supplies) Regulations—Rules—Queensland.

National Security (General) Regulations—

Orders—

Prohibiting work on land (3).

Registration of small vessels.

Taking possession of land, &c. (156).

Use of land.

Orders by State Premiers—New South Wales (2), Queensland (3), Victoria (3).

National Security (Mobilization of Electricity Supply) Regulations—Order—Control of electricity.

National Security (Prisoners of War) Regulations—Orders—

Japanese prisoners of war correspondence.

Prisoners of war camp (3).

Prisoners of war (Japanese officers' pay).

National Security (Supplementary) Regulations—Orders by State Premier—Queensland (2).

National Security (War Damage to Property) Regulations—War Damage Commission—Report for period 23rd February, 1942, to 31st December, 1942.

Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, Nos. 30, 31, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40.

Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, Nos. 33, 34.

Women's Employment Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, No. 41.

7. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after Notice of Motion No. 1, Government Business.

8. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), for Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.

Question—put and passed.

9. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1943.—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—

Debate resumed.

Ordered—That Mr. Calwell be granted an extension of time.

Mr. Fadden (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That all words after " Bill " be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—" be withdrawn and re-drafted either by itself or in conjunction with the Income Tax Bill to provide that—

(1) the anomalies and injustices inherent in the Bills be rectified, *inter alia*, the arbitrary and unfair discrimination against the taxpayer with family responsibilities, employees as a class, and individuals comprised in this class ;

(2) as from 1st July, 1943, all instalments and assessments on income from salaries and wages should be based upon current earnings for the year of tax, which in the first year would be 1943-44, with an adjustment at the end of each year of tax, and cash refunds to taxpayers who have paid more by instalments than is legally assessable ;

(3) of the total additional tax payable by taxpayers under the Bill, as from 1st July, 1943, as the result of increased rates of taxation, 50 per cent. should be treated as a post-war credit and refunded to taxpayers on some equitable graduated scale by six equal half-yearly instalments commencing after the termination of the war against Germany, Italy and Japan, and carrying interest at 2 per cent. per annum in the meanwhile ; and

(4) the increased rates of tax proposed by the Income Tax Bill to operate from 1st April, 1943, shall for the three months from 1st April, 1943, to 30th June, 1943, be applied to all individual taxpayers and levied upon the incomes of 1941-42 ; the additional amount so payable for the year of tax 1942-43 shall be fully treated as a post-war credit repayable as in paragraph (3) ; and

that an expert committee be set up to report upon methods whereby incomes other than wages and salaries may be taxed in the year of income ; and also upon a more equitable method of taxing the incomes of private companies".

Debate continued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

**THURSDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1943.**

Debate continued.

Mr. McEwen 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.

10. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at three minutes past one o'clock in the morning, adjourned until this day at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Sir George Bell, Mr. Blain\*, Mr. Clark, Mr. Falstein, Sir Charles Marr, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Scullin\*, and Mr. White\*.

\* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

*Clerk of the House of Representatives.*