

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 136.

THURSDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 1943.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable W. M. Nairn) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONTROL—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement informing the House of certain plans made to increase food production and to control distribution and prices.
3. ALLEGED MISUSE OF OFFICIAL MOTOR CARS—STATEMENTS.—Mr. Beasley (Minister for Supply and Shipping), by leave, made a Statement regarding certain newspaper allegations of misuse by him of official motor cars.  
Mr. Stacey, by leave, also made a Statement with reference to the matter.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
  - Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—
    - Brisbane, Queensland.
    - Collingwood, Victoria.
    - Tamworth, New South Wales.
  - National Security Act—
    - National Security (Apple and Pear Acquisition) Regulations—Order—Non-application of certain regulations.
    - National Security (General) Regulations—Orders—
      - Control of canned fruits.
      - Prohibiting work on land (3).
      - Taking possession of land, &c. (27).
      - Use of land (12).
    - National Security (Land Transport) Regulations—Order—Victoria (No. 11).
5. COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE BILL 1943.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Public Service Act 1922-1941*.  
Question—put and passed.  
Mr. Curtin then brought up the Bill accordingly, and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Mr. Curtin moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
Mr. Hughes 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 a later hour this day.
6. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1943.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 175.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the 'Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1941', and for other purposes*", and requests the House to amend the Bill as set out in Schedule A annexed.

The Senate desires to inform the House that the Amendments set out in Schedule B annexed have been made by the Senate in the Bill.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 24th March, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, at a later hour this day.

25th March, 1943.

7. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Invalid and Old-age Pensions Bill 1943*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 176.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1942’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 24th March, 1943.

[*Invalid and Old-age Pensions Appropriation Bill 1943*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 177.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for Invalid and Old-age Pensions* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 24th March, 1943.

[*Widows' Pensions Bill 1943*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 178.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ Widows' Pensions Act 1942’* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 24th March, 1943.

8. SUPPLY [“ GRIEVANCE DAY ”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—  
Question—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair—put and negatived.  
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), That the Paper [*presented on the 11th February*], viz. :—  
Financial Statement by the Honorable J. B. Chifley, M.P., Treasurer—  
be printed—  
Debate resumed.  
Ordered—That Mr. Fadden (Leader of the Opposition) be granted an extension of time.  
Debate continued.  
Ordered—That Mr. Morgan be granted an extension of time.  
Sir Earle Page 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 a later hour this day.
10. AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL 1943—SENATE'S REQUESTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendments requested by the Senate—  
Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

The Committee proceeded to consider the Amendments requested by the Senate, which are as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF REQUESTS BY THE SENATE FOR AMENDMENTS.

No. 1.—Page 12, clause 36, after line 7, insert the following paragraphs :—

“(ab) by inserting in sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (a) of the proviso to that sub-section, before the word ‘ default ’, the word ‘ serious ’ ;

(ac) by inserting in sub-paragraph (iii) of that paragraph, before the word ‘ breach ’, the word ‘ serious ’ ;”.

No. 2.—Page 22, clause 45, insert at the end of the First Schedule the following paragraph :—

“ The rate of pension (if any) which would, apart from this provision, be payable to the widow of a member of the Forces, who dies while serving as such, and her children until the expiration of the period of six months next succeeding the date on which the widow was first notified of the death of the member shall be increased to such extent as will ensure the payment of a pension in respect of herself and her children at an aggregate rate equivalent to the aggregate rate of payments which would have been made to her, by way of allotment and dependants allowance, during that period of six months if the member had not died, but not exceeding the aggregate rate of such payments by way of allotment at the standard rate, applying in respect of the member, and dependants allowance or, if there is no such standard rate, not exceeding such rate as is prescribed.”.

25th March, 1943.

No. 3.—Page 22, clause 45, at the end of the clause add the following sub-clause :—

“(2.) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the second paragraph of the footnote to the First Schedule inserted in the Principal Act by this Act shall come into operation on and from the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent and shall extend to the case of any member of the Forces of whose death the widow was first notified within six months prior to that day but increased pension in accordance with that paragraph shall be payable only in respect of the period subsequent to that day.”

On the motion of Mr. Frost (Minister for Repatriation), the Requested Amendments were made. Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Frost, the House adopted the Report.

Ordered—That the Bill, amended accordingly, be returned to the Senate.

11. FINANCIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—The Order of the Day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the following motion of Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), That the Paper [presented on the 11th February], viz. :—

Financial Statement by the Honorable J. B. Chifley, M.P., Treasurer—  
be printed—

Debate resumed by Sir Earle Page, who moved as an amendment, That the following words be added to the motion :—

“and that it be an instruction to the Government to add to their financial proposals the methods which have proved successful in Britain in preventing further inflation by :—

- (1) stabilizing prices effectively, and wages in accordance with prices ;
- (2) controlling prices of foods and all essential goods so that stabilized wages could always buy a substantially equal amount of these goods ;
- (3) rationing foods and essential goods in short supply after the fullest utilization of all possible means of preserving perishable goods to prevent wastage of seasonal surpluses ; and
- (4) guaranteeing a remunerative return for his product to the producer and thereby assuring maximum supplies of essential commodities at continuously stable and reasonable prices for the consumer.”

Ordered—That Sir Earle Page be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Beasley (Minister for Supply and Shipping) be granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr. Conelan 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.

12. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after Notice of Motion No. 2, General Business.

13. PRIMARY INDUSTRIES.—Mr. Fadden (Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice, That this House is of opinion that—

- (a) the stability and productiveness of the primary industries are essential to the nation's war effort ;
- (b) those who engage in these industries are entitled to just treatment as citizens, including a fair wage, based on Australian standards and comparable with that prevailing in secondary industry, to employees, and a fair price to employers ;
- (c) it is unjust to establish any scheme for the fixation of wages in primary industries which does not provide for impartial and full investigation of the facts, and a due consideration of the economics of the industries concerned ; and
- (d) the time is overdue for the complete consideration by the Government of the position of the primary industries from the point of view of man-power requirements, prices, and costs ; having in mind that ultimate soundness can be achieved only by fair prices, adequate wages, proper living conditions and improvement generally in the amenities of country life.

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

Mr. Baker 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.

14. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[*Superannuation Bill 1943*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 179.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “*An Act to amend the ‘Superannuation Act 1922-1942’*”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,

Canberra, 25th March, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,

President.

25th and 26th March, 1943.

[*Maternity Allowance Bill 1943*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 180.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to amend the Maternity Allowance Act 1912-1942*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 25th March, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

[*Commonwealth Employees' Furlough Bill 1943*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 181.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to make provision for the granting of long-service leave to Commonwealth Employees*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 25th March, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

[*Primary Producers Relief (Superphosphate) Bill 1943*]

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 182.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to provide Relief to Primary Producers by stabilizing the Price of Superphosphate and for other purposes*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 25th March, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

15. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.

The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

**FRIDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1943.**

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-four minutes past twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until this day at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Badman, Sir George Bell, Mr. Blain\*, Mr. Corser, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Guy, Mr. James, Mr. Jolly, Mr. Scullin\*, Mr. Scully, Mr. Watkins, Mr. White\*, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

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