

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 139.

THURSDAY, 1ST APRIL, 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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Bankruptcy Act—Fourteenth Annual Report by Attorney-General, for year ended 31st July, 1942.  
National Security Act—National Security (General) Regulations—Orders—  
Taking possession of land, &c. (46).  
Use of land (8).
3. STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE—REPORT.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration of the Report of the Standing Orders Committee—  
Ordered—That the Report be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith. Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

*(In the Committee.)*

Proposed Standing Order No. 1—  
Debate ensued.

*Suspension of Sitting.*—At half-past three o'clock p.m., the Chairman left the Chair.

*Resumption of Sitting.*—At two minutes to four o'clock p.m., the Chairman resumed the Chair.

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

The House reported; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

4. 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. 185.

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 acquaints the House that the Senate has disagreed to the amendment made by the House on Amendment No. 3 of the Senate, for the reason shown in the annexed schedule.

The Senate,  
Canberra, 1st April, 1943.

JAS. CUNNINGHAM,  
President.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be taken into consideration, in Committee of the whole House, forthwith.

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 Amendment of the Senate and the Amendment made by the House thereon, which are as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENT MADE BY THE SENATE TO WHICH THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS AGREED WITH AN AMENDMENT.

No. 3. —Page 18, after clause 42, insert the following new clause :—

"42A. After section fifty-five of the Principal Act the following section is inserted in Part IV. :—

'55A.—(1.) Notwithstanding anything contained in any law of the Commonwealth or of any State or Territory of the Commonwealth or in any award, order or determination of any industrial tribunal or of any industrial agreement, preference shall, in the appointment of persons to the Public Service

Preference in  
employment to  
returned  
members of  
the Forces.

1st April, 1943.

of the Commonwealth or to the service of an authority of the Commonwealth, be given to persons who have been members of the Forces and have served outside Australia or in any area prescribed as a combat area for the purposes of this Act and who are competent for the work required.

(2.) All contracts entered into with the Commonwealth for the performance of works or services shall be deemed to contain a clause whereby the contractor with the Commonwealth binds himself, under a penalty of Fifty pounds in respect of each breach of the clause, to grant, in engaging employees for the purpose of executing the contract, preference to persons specified in sub-section (1.) of this section.

(3.) For the purposes of this section, "authority of the Commonwealth" includes any commission, board or other body created by or under any law of the Commonwealth or Territory of the Commonwealth or which is declared by the Governor-General by Proclamation to be an authority for the purposes of this section."

Amendment amended as follows:—

By adding at the end of sub-section (1.) of proposed new section 55A the words "and to persons who are so competent and who have, during prescribed periods and under prescribed conditions, served, in a ship or as members of the crew of a civil aircraft, in any zone which, in relation to ships or aircraft, as the case may be, is prescribed as a combat zone for the purposes of this section".

*Schedule of Reason of the Senate for disagreeing to Amendment of House of Representatives upon Senate's Amendment No. 3 in the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Bill 1943.*

That the question of preference to those engaged in civil occupations should not be dealt with in a measure purely related to members of the Defence Forces of the Commonwealth.

On the motion of Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), the Committee agreed not to insist on the amendment made by the House, and agreed to Amendment No. 3.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

5. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO ALL MEMBERS.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That leave of absence be given to every Member of the House of Representatives from the determination of this sitting of the House to the date of its next sitting.  
Question—put and passed.
  6. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, which time of meeting shall be notified by Mr. Speaker to each Member by telegram or letter.  
Question—put and passed.
  7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Ordered—That Mr. James be granted an extension of time.  
Debate continued.  
Question—put and passed.
- And then the House, at twelve minutes to six o'clock p.m., adjourned until a date and hour to be fixed by Mr. Speaker, and to be notified by him to each Member by telegram or letter as determined by Resolution of the House at this sitting.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony, Mr. Badman, Mr. Blain\*, Mr. Breen, Mr. Clark, Mr. Corser, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Guy, Mr. Marwick, Mr. Price, Mr. Scullin\*, Mr. Stacey, Mr. Watkins, Mr. White\*, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

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