

1943-44.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 20.

FRIDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1944.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
  2. PRIVILEGE—CENSORSHIP OF MEMBERS' CORRESPONDENCE.—Mr. Cameron raised a question of Privilege with reference to the censoring of letters addressed to honorable Members, and moved, That the opening by censors of letters addressed to Members of this House at Parliament House, Canberra, or at the rooms occupied by Federal Members in a State Capital City, is a breach of the privilege of Parliament.  
Debate ensued.  
Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as an amendment, That after "addressed" the following words be inserted "by other than Service personnel or persons residing in operational areas".  
Debate continued.  
Motion and amendment withdrawn, by leave.
  3. WIDOWS' PENSIONS BILL 1944.—Mr. Evatt (Attorney-General), pursuant to leave given on the 17th February, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Widows' Pensions Act 1942-1943'*", and moved, That it be now read a first time.  
Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.  
Ordered—That the second reading be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.
  4. ALTERATION OF DAY OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.  
Question—put and passed.
  5. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Lands Acquisition Act and National Security (Supplementary) Regulations—Orders—Land acquired for Commonwealth purposes—  
Cloncurry, Queensland.  
Lithgow, New South Wales.  
National Security Act—National Security (Timber Control) Regulations—Order—Control of timber (No. 13).
  6. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Wilson 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 serious financial condition of many wheatgrowers in Victoria and other States of the Commonwealth, due to crop failures and delayed payments on growers' wheat acquired by the Australian Government".  
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—  
Mr. Wilson moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Ordered—That Mr. Wilson be granted an extension of time.  
Ordered—That Mr. Scully (Minister for Commerce and Agriculture) be granted an extension of time.  
Debate continued.  
Ordered—That Mr. Fuller 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.
7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.  
Debate ensued.  
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-two minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Wednesday next at three o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Anthony, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Blain\*, Mr. Guy, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Holloway, Mr. James, Dame Enid Lyons, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. White.

\* On leave.

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

By Authority: L. F. JOHNSTON, Commonwealth Government Printer, Canberra.