

1937-38.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 19.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH MAY, 1938.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS.—Mr. Lyons (Prime Minister) moved, by leave, That leave of absence for two months be given to the Minister for Commerce (Sir Earle Page), the Attorney-General (Mr. Menzies) and the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. White), on the ground of urgent public business. Question—put and passed.
3. CZECHOSLOVAKIA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Hughes (Minister for External Affairs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the situation in regard to the German minority in Czechoslovakia.
4. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired at Huonville, Tasmania—For Defence purposes.
5. DEFENCE (VISITING FORCES) BILL 1938.—Mr. Thorby (Minister for Defence), pursuant to leave given on the 24th instant, brought up a Bill intituled "*A Bill for an Act to make provision, in relation to the Commonwealth or the Defence Force, with respect to the Naval, Military and Air Forces of other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and of Territories administered by His Majesty, and with respect to Members of those Forces, and for other purposes*", 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.
6. NATIONAL HEALTH AND PENSIONS INSURANCE BILL 1938.—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—*And on the Amendment moved thereto by Mr. Curtin, viz. :—That all the words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting in lieu thereof the following words :—"this House is of opinion that in its present form the Bill is unacceptable because :—*
 - (a) it seeks to place upon a contributory basis the payment of pensions for old-age, invalidity and widowhood, which should be provided as a matter of right without the exaction of individual contributions ;
 - (b) it provides unequal benefits for men and women ;
 - (c) it fails to provide medical benefit for the wives and children of contributors ;
 - (d) by partially overlapping the field of Friendly Society activity it tends to discourage young men and women from joining these associations of self-help, thus threatening the continued strength of Friendly Societies without providing in full the services which they now render ;

and therefore the Bill should be withdrawn and re-drafted and a more liberal Bill, freed from the defects now enumerated, should be introduced without delay"—

Debate resumed.
Mr. James addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.
Debate continued.
Sir Frederick Stewart addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.
Debate continued.
Mr. Ward addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—
Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.
Debate continued.

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Mr. Lazzarini addressing the House and not having concluded his speech at the termination of the time allowed by Standing Order No. 257B—

Ordered—That the honorable Member have leave to continue his speech.

Debate continued.

Mr. Nairn 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.

7. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Casey (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at fifteen minutes to twelve o'clock midnight, 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. Menzies*, Sir Earle Page*, and Mr. White*.

* On leave.

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