

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 128.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH 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. BISMARCK SEA BATTLE—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CONGRATULATIONS.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, informed the House that he had received the following letter from General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief, South-west Pacific Area :—

“The grateful thanks of all ranks go to you Mr. Prime Minister, to the Leader of the Opposition, and to the honorable Members of the Parliament, for the generous tribute you have accorded us in the name of the people of Australia. It strengthened our invincible determination to fulfil in complete degree our sacred duty to this great country and to its Allies in the furtherance of the immortal principles for which we fight. I shall take great pride in publishing your letter to the Command.”

3. ADJOURNMENT-MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Anthony 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 action of the Government in licensing the production of a new weekly newspaper in Sydney, to wit, the *Standard*, the official organ of the Labor Party, and enabling such newspaper to secure the necessary newsprint, at a time when newsprint is severely rationed and other applications have been refused”.

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. Anthony moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

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

Debate continued.

Ordered—That Mr. Morgan 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.

4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

National Security Act—National Security (General) Regulations—Orders—

Prohibiting work on land (2).

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

Use of land (15).

5. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Ordered—That the intervening business be postponed until after Notices of Motion Nos. 1 to 5, Government Business.

6. WAR-TIME (COMPANY) TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1943.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *War-time (Company) Tax Assessment Act 1940-1942*.

Question—put and passed.

7. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' FURLOUGH BILL 1943.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister assisting the Treasurer) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to make provision for the granting of Long Service Leave to Commonwealth Employees.

Question—put and passed.

8. INVALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS BILL 1943.—Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908-1942*.

Question—put and passed.

Mr. Holloway 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. Holloway moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Sir Frederick Stewart 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.

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9. WIDOWS' PENSIONS BILL 1943.—Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942*.
 Question—put and passed.
 Mr. Holloway 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. Holloway moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Sir Frederick Stewart 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. MATERNITY ALLOWANCE BILL 1943.—Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Maternity Allowance Act 1912-1942*.
 Question—put and passed.
 Mr. Holloway 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. Holloway moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Sir Frederick Stewart 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.

11. COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL 1943.—The Order of the Day having been read for the further consideration of this Bill in Committee of the whole House—
 Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 7—

Debate resumed on the amendment moved by Sir Earle Page, viz.:—That proposed new section 60ABU be omitted and the following new sections inserted in place thereof:—

“60ABU.—(1.) For the purposes of this Part, the Bank may issue debentures or ^{Issue of} inscribed stock secured upon the general assets of the Bank. ^{debentures.}

“(2.) The existence under this section of any security upon the general assets of the Bank shall not in any way prejudice or affect the rights or powers of the Bank—

(a) to reconvey, release or discharge any security, or the property comprised in any security, given to the Bank under any provision of this Act;

(b) to sell or convey any such property;

(c) to foreclose any such security or property; or

(d) to deal with any such security or property under this Act.

“(3.) The amount of debentures and inscribed stock issued under this section and not repaid shall not at any time exceed six times the amount of the capital of the Mortgage Bank Department.

“60ABUA. Debentures issued for the purposes of this Part shall be in such form as is prescribed and debentures and inscribed stock so issued shall be subject to such ^{Conditions of} conditions as are prescribed. ^{debentures and} ^{inscribed} ^{stock.}

“60ABUB. Subject to this Part, the provisions of Part VI. of this Act relating to debentures and inscribed stock issued by the Bank shall apply in relation to debentures ^{Application of} and inscribed stock issued for the purposes of this Part.” ^{Part VI.}

Question—That the proposed section proposed to be omitted stand part of the clause—put.
 The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 38.

Noes, 17.

Mr. Baker	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Lawson
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Beck	Mr. Makin
Mr. Blackburn	Mr. Martens
Mr. Breen	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Morgan
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Coles	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Spender
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Spooner
Mr. Forde	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Frost	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Ward
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Wilson
Mr. Holt	
Mr. Hughes	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Conelan
Mr. Jolly	Mr. Sheehan

Mr. Anthony
Mr. Badman
Mr. Cameron
Mr. Duncan-Hughes
Mr. Francis
Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. McCall
Mr. McDonald
Mr. Menzies
Mr. Nairn
Sir Earle Page
Mr. Paterson
Mr. Price
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Ryan

Tellers:

Mr. Guy
Mr. Marwick

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

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Mr. Wilson moved, as an amendment, That after "determines" (page 4, line 40) the following words be added "but the rate of interest on any such loan shall not exceed Three pounds per centum per annum, or in the case of a member of the Forces, Two pounds per centum per annum. In this section the expression 'member of the Forces' has the same meaning as the same expression has in the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1941*".

Debate continued.

Question—That the words proposed to be added be so added—put.

The Committee divided (The Chairman, Mr. Prowse, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 7.

Mr. Badman
Mr. Blackburn
Sir Earle Page
Mr. Rankin
Mr. Wilson

Tellers:

Mr. Guy
Mr. Marwick

Noes, 44.

Mr. Baker	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Barnard	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. Beasley	Mr. Makin
Mr. Beck	Mr. McCall
Sir George Bell	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Breen	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Morgan
Mr. Cameron	Mr. Muleahy
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Paterson
Mr. Coles	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Dedman	Mr. Price
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Duncan-Hughes	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Forde	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. Francis	Mr. Spooner
Mr. Frost	Mr. Stacey
Mr. Harrison	Sir Frederick Stewart
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Ward
Mr. Holt	
Mr. Hutchinson	Tellers:
Mr. Johnson	Mr. Conelan
Mr. Jolly	Mr. Martens

And so it was negatived.

Mr. Wilson moved, as an amendment, That after proposed new section 60ABW the following new section be inserted:—

"60ABWA.—(1.) Notwithstanding anything in this Act the rate of interest payable on a loan made under this Part to a member of the Forces shall be not less than one per centum per annum lower than the rate of interest payable on other loans upon a security of substantially the same nature and value. Interest rate to members of Forces.

(2.) In this section the expression 'member of the Forces' has the same meaning as the same expression has in the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920-1941*".

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Debate continued.

On the motion of Mr. Chifley (Treasurer), the following amendments were made, after debate:—

Page 4, line 45, omit "two-thirds", insert "seventy per centum".

Page 6, line 29, after "State" insert "or with any Savings Bank".

Page 6, line 30, after "authority" insert "or Savings Bank".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9—

On the motion of Mr. Chifley, the following amendment was made:—

Page 6, line 43, after "Act" insert "(other than the provisions of the last preceding section)".

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

Title agreed to

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Chifley, by leave, the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

12. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at ten minutes to eleven o'clock p.m., 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. Abbott, Mr. Blain*, Mr. Clark, Mr. Collins, Mr. Corser, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Falstein, Mr. James, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Perkins, Mr. Scullin*, Mr. Scully, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. White*.

* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.