

1944.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 19.

WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

1. The House met, at half-past two o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. SALT FOR SHEEP—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for War Organization of Industry), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement on the subject of making salt available for the use of sheep.
3. COMMONWEALTH GRANTS COMMISSION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing the decision of the Government in respect of the members of the Commonwealth Grants Commission.
4. SURPLUS PRIMARY PRODUCTS—SALE TO UNITED KINGDOM—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION FOR PRINTING PAPER.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the long-term arrangements being made for the sale to the Government of the United Kingdom of Australia's exportable surplus of meat and dairy products. Mr. Curtin then, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, laid upon the Table the following Paper :—

Surplus Primary Products—Sale to United Kingdom—Ministerial Statement—
and moved, That the Paper be printed.
Mr. Fadden 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.
5. PURCHASE OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Drakeford (Minister for Civil Aviation), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement regarding the importation by a private company of aircraft from the United States of America.
6. ADJOURNMENT—MOTION FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.—Mr. Corser 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 urgent necessity of formulating plans to assure maximum assistance by scientific research into the land and stock industries with a view to increasing production and developing Australia".
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. Corser moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Ordered—That Mr. Corser be granted extensions of time (2).
Debate ensued.
Ordered—That Mr. Dedman (Minister in charge of Scientific and Industrial Research) be granted an extension of time.
Ordered—That Mr. Abbott be granted an extension of time.
Debate continued.

Distinguished Visitor.—Mr. Speaker informed the House that Admiral of the Fleet Lord Keyes was within the precincts. The distinguished visitor thereupon, with the concurrence of honorable Members, was provided with a seat on the floor of the House.

Debate continued.

Question—put and negatived.

F.4654.

27th and 28th September, 1944.

7. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Administrator—
 Tariff Board—Reports—Bounty on—
 Sulphur.
 Tractors.
 Wire Netting.

Severally ordered to lie on the Table.

The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—

- Air Force Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 134.
 Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Eleventh Report, 1944–45.
 Commonwealth Public Service Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 138.
 Defence Act and Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 141.
 National Security Act—
 National Security (General) Regulations—Orders—
 Taking possession of land, &c. (17).
 Use of land (2).
 Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, No. 137.
 Naval Defence Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1944, Nos. 142, 144.

8. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army) for Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
 Question—put and passed.
9. UNITED NATIONS FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION BILL 1944.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Evatt (Minister for External Affairs) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.
 Mr. Hutchinson 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. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 2) 1944.—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—
 Debate resumed.
 Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.
 Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4—

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

Page 2, lines 14 and 15, omit “ (not being less than One hundred pounds) ”.

Mr. Fadden moved, as a further amendment, That paragraph (c) of proposed sub-section (2.) (page 2, lines 26–28) be omitted.

Debate continued.

The Committee continuing to sit until after midnight—

THURSDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) moved, as a further amendment, That sub-section (8.) of proposed section 53A be omitted with a view to inserting the following sub-section in place thereof :—

“(8.) In this section “ deferred maintenance ” means the maintenance of property, whether real or personal, in a normal state of repair or upkeep, including any improvement of the kind specified in section seventy-five or seventy-six of this Act, where—

- (a) the need for the maintenance or the improvement first arose in the year of income and prior to the termination of the present war ;
- (b) the taxpayer was unable to undertake the maintenance or improvement by reason of circumstances attributable to the present war ; and
- (c) the expenditure upon that maintenance or improvement would have been an allowable deduction under section fifty-one, fifty-three, seventy-five or seventy-six of this Act if it had been actually incurred by the taxpayer.’ ”.

Amendment negatived.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

27th and 28th September, 1944.

Clause 6—

Mr. Anthony moved, as an amendment, That sub-paragraph (ii) (page 8, lines 1-8) be omitted with a view to inserting the following sub-paragraph in place thereof :—

“(ii) if the total sum of all the payments made after deducting therefrom the amount (if any) required to be excluded by the last preceding sub-paragraph, exceeds One hundred and fifty pounds in the case of one, two or three persons, or, where there are more than three persons, Fifty pounds in relation to each of such persons, the amount of the excess shall not be included for the purposes of this paragraph ;”.

Debate ensued.

Amendment negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 12 agreed to.

Proposed new clause—

Mr. Menzies moved, That the following new clause be inserted in the Bill :—

“ 3A. Section thirty-six of the Principal Act is amended by omitting sub-section (2.) and inserting in its stead the following sub-section :—

‘ (2.) Where a taxpayer, after the beginning of the year of income ending on the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-five, in consequence of the acquisition or resumption (under the provisions of any Act or State Act which contains provisions for the compulsory acquisition or resumption of land) of any land sells any live-stock, one-fifth of the amount (if any) by which the proceeds of the sale—

(a) in respect of live-stock which was on hand at the beginning of that year—exceeds the value of that stock at the beginning of that year ; and

(b) in respect of live-stock acquired during that year—exceeds the price of that stock, shall be included in his assessable income of that year and in the assessable income of each of the next four succeeding years of income.’ ”.

Debate ensued.

Proposed new clause negatived.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan 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.

11. SALES TAX (EXEMPTIONS AND CLASSIFICATIONS) BILL 1944.—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—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3—

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

Page 2, at the end of sub-items (2) and (3) of item 83 of proposed Division XII., add “, but not including linoleum, rubber, cork or other similar floor coverings”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan 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. WAR-TIME (COMPANY) TAX ASSESSMENT BILL 1944.—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—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

13. POSTPONEMENT OF ORDER OF THE DAY.—Ordered—That Order of the Day No. 5 be postponed until after Order of the Day No. 6, Government Business.

14. INCOME TAX (WAR-TIME ARRANGEMENTS) BILL 1944.—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—

Debate resumed.

27th and 28th September, 1944.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

15. **WAYS AND MEANS—INCOME TAX.**—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

(*In the Committee.*)

Consideration resumed of the motion moved by Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) on the 7th September, 1944 (*see* pages 28–31).

Motion agreed to.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee. Mr. Chifley moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Chifley and Mr. Lazzarini do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

16. **INCOME TAX BILL 1944.**—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled “*A Bill for an Act to impose a Tax upon Incomes*”, and moved, That it be now read a first time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a first time.

Mr. Chifley moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(*In the Committee.*)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

17. **MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR.**—STATES GRANTS BILL 1944.—The following Message from His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

WINSTON DUGAN,
Administrator.

Message No. 4.

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund sums for the purposes of Financial Assistance to the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Canberra, 7th September, 1944.

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.*)

Mr. Lazzarini (Minister assisting the Treasurer) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund sums for the purposes of Financial Assistance to the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

Mr. Lazzarini moved, pursuant to contingent notice, That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the remaining stages being passed without delay.

Question—put and passed.

The Resolution reported from the Committee was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Lazzarini, was adopted by the House.

Ordered—That Mr. Lazzarini and Mr. Chifley do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

27th and 28th September, 1944.

Mr. Lazzarini 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. Lazzarini moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

18. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' FURLOUGH BILL 1944.—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—

Debate resumed.

Question—put and passed.—Bill read a second time.

Mr. Speaker left the Chair, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

(In the Committee.)

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole, and agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Lazzarini (Minister assisting the Treasurer), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

19. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-seven minutes past two o'clock in the morning, adjourned until this day at half-past two o'clock p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Blain*, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Coles, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Francis, Mr. Scully, and Mr. White.

* On leave.

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