

1945.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 65.

THURSDAY, 26TH JULY, 1945.

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. WAR EXPENDITURE—JOINT COMMITTEE.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, by leave—
 - (1) That Mr. Johnson be discharged from attendance on the Joint Committee on War Expenditure.
 - (2) That Mr. Russell be appointed to serve on such Committee.
 - (3) That the foregoing resolutions be communicated to the Senate by Message.
 Question—put and passed.
3. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—
Land Tax Assessment Act—Applications for relief dealt with during the year 1944–45.
4. ORDER OF PRECEDENCE—PLACE OF MR. SPEAKER.—Mr. Cameron moved, pursuant to notice, That this House requests the Government to re-examine the Order of Precedence with a view to placing Mr. Speaker in a rank not less favorable than that occupied by the Speaker of the House of Commons in the United Kingdom.
Debate ensued.
Sir Earle Page 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. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM—PROPOSED REFORM.—Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) moved, pursuant to notice—
 - (1) That in the opinion of this House—
 - (a) A revised and extended educational system is of prime importance in post-war reconstruction ;
 - (b) In particular, attention needs to be directed to increased facilities for secondary, rural, technical and university training, special adult education, and the problem of the qualifications, status and remuneration of teachers ;
 - (c) Effective reform may involve substantial Commonwealth financial aid and if this should prove necessary such aid should be granted ;
 - (d) In order to provide a basis for such reform the Commonwealth should set up in co-operation with the States a qualified Commission, including some expert or experts from overseas, to report upon the existing educational facilities in Australia, to make recommendations for their extension and/or amendment, and to recommend how, to what extent, on what terms, and for what purposes, Commonwealth aid should be given.
 - (2) That this House assures the Government of its support in the carrying out of the above recommendations.

It being two hours after the time fixed for the meeting of the House—

Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, by leave, That so much of Standing Order No. 119 be suspended as would prevent the debate being continued.

Question—put and passed.

Debate ensued.

Ordered—That Mr. Dedman be granted extensions of time (2).

Debate continued.

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Mr. Lemmon was granted leave to continue his speech when the debate is resumed.

Ordered—That the debate be now adjourned, and that the resumption of the debate be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting.

The time allotted for precedence to General Business having expired, Government Business was called on.

6. POSTPONEMENT OF BUSINESS.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for Post-war Reconstruction) moved, That the intervening business be postponed until after Notice No. 1, Government Business.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.
7. COMMONWEALTH ELECTORAL (WAR-TIME) BILL 1945.—Mr. Johnson (Minister for the Interior) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Commonwealth Electoral (War-time) Act 1940-1944*.
Question—put and passed.
Mr. Johnson 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. Johnson moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a second time.
Mr. Menzies (Leader of the Opposition) 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.
8. SUPPLY [“GRIEVANCE DAY”].—Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order No. 241, the Order of the Day having been read for going into the Committee of Supply—
Question proposed—That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair.
Debate ensued.
Mr. Sheehan moved, That the debate be now adjourned.
Question—That the debate be now adjourned—put and passed.
Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, resolve itself into the said Committee.
9. BANKING BILL 1945.—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendments made by the Senate in this Bill—
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 Amendments, which are as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

No. 1.—Page 2, clause 8, lines 37-45, leave out sub-clauses (1.) and (2.), insert the following sub-clauses :—

“(1.) The Governor-General shall, within seven days after the commencement of this Part, grant to each body corporate specified in the First Schedule an authority to carry on banking business in Australia.

“(2.) A body corporate (not being a body corporate specified in the First Schedule) which desires authority under this Part to carry on banking business in Australia may apply in writing to the Treasurer for authority accordingly.

“(2A.) Where any such application is made, the Governor-General may grant to that body corporate an authority to carry on banking business in Australia.”

No. 2.—Page 5, clause 13, line 30, leave out “shall remain in control of, and shall”, insert “shall, subject to the next succeeding sub-section, remain in control of and”.

No. 3.—Page 5, clause 13, after sub-clause (5.) insert the following sub-clause :—

“(5A.) Upon the application of a bank of whose business the Commonwealth Bank has assumed control in pursuance of sub-section (2.) of this section, a Full Court of the High Court constituted by not less than three Justices may, if it is satisfied that it is no longer necessary, for the protection of the depositors of that bank, that the Commonwealth Bank should remain in control of the business of that bank, order that the Commonwealth Bank shall cease to control the business of that bank, as from a date specified in the order.”

No. 4.—Page 7, clause 23, after sub-clause (2.) insert the following sub-clause :—

“(2A.) Where, as at the close of business on a date specified in a notice under sub-section (1.) of this section, a bank has not transferred an amount of sterling which it has been required to transfer in pursuance of any previous notice under that sub-section, the excess receipts of foreign currency to which that amount of sterling is equivalent shall not, for the purpose of calculating the amount of sterling required to be transferred in pursuance of the first-mentioned notice, be taken into account as part of the excess receipts of foreign currency of that bank.”

No. 5.—Page 14, clause 49, after sub-clause (2.) insert the following sub-clause :—

“(2A.) Nothing in this section shall authorize the Auditor-General to furnish a report with respect to the affairs of any individual customer of a bank.”

Amendments Nos. 1 to 3 agreed to.

Amendment No. 4 debated and agreed to.

Amendment No. 5 agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing), the House adopted the Report.

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10. SUPERANNUATION BILL 1945.—SENATE'S AMENDMENTS.—The Order of the Day having been read for the consideration in Committee of the whole House of the Amendments made by the Senate in this Bill—

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 Amendments, which are as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

- No. 1.—Page 2, clause 7, line 21, after “ wife ” (first occurring) insert “ or leaves her without means of support ”.
- No. 2.—Page 2, clause 7, line 24, leave out “ of the desertion ”, insert “ that the wife has been deserted or left without means of support ”.
- No. 3.—Page 2, clause 7, line 27, after “ deserts ”, insert “, or leaves without means of support,”.
- No. 4.—Page 2, clause 7, line 31, leave out “ of the desertion ”, insert “ that any child of the pensioner who is dependent on him has been deserted or left without means of support ”.

On the motion of Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing), the Amendments were agreed to. Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

11. MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE.—WAR GRATUITY BILL 1945.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Message from the Senate :—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 17.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act relating to the payment of War Gratuity to members of the Defence Force in respect of War Service* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill with the Amendments indicated by the annexed Schedule, in which Amendments the Senate requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

The Senate,
Canberra, 26th July, 1945.

GORDON BROWN,
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 Amendments, which are as follows :—

SCHEDULE OF THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THE SENATE.

- No. 1.—Page 9, clause 16, line 39, at end of paragraph (a) insert “ and ”.
- No. 2.—Page 9, clause 16, line 46, leave out “ and ”.
- No. 3.—Page 10, clause 16, lines 1 to 7, leave out paragraph (c).

On the motion of Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing), the Amendments were agreed to. Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

12. MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE.—Mr. Speaker announced the receipt of the following Messages from the Senate :—

[Drought Relief Bill 1945]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 18.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to amend the ‘ States Grants (Drought Relief) Act 1944 ’, and for other purposes* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 26th July, 1945.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

[War Pensions Appropriation Bill 1945]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 19.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for “ *An Act to grant and apply out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum for War Pensions* ”, and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 26th July, 1945.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

26th July, 1945.

[*Loan Bill 1945*]—

MR. SPEAKER,

Message No. 20.

The Senate returns to the House of Representatives the Bill for "*An Act to authorize the Raising and Expending of a certain Sum of Money*", and acquaints the House that the Senate has agreed to the Bill without amendment.

The Senate,
Canberra, 26th July, 1945.

GORDON BROWN,
President.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at three minutes past eleven o'clock p.m., adjourned until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Blain*, Mr. Breen, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Coles, Mr. Fadden, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Makin, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Mulcahy, Mr. Pollard, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Scully, Sir Frederick Stewart, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. White.

* On leave.

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