

1946-47-48.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 136.

THURSDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1948.

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. PAPER.—The following Paper was presented, pursuant to Statute—

Commonwealth Grants Commission Act—Report of the Commonwealth Grants Commission on applications made by the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania for further financial assistance in 1947-48 from the Commonwealth under section 96 of the Constitution.

3. ACTING LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.—Mr. Harrison informed the House that he had been appointed Acting Leader of the Opposition during the absence overseas of Mr. Menzies.

4. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—WAR PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL 1948.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

W. J. McKELL,

*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 75.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General 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 a sum for War Pensions.

Canberra, 1st June, 1948.

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. Chifley (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 a sum for War Pensions.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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. Barnard do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

3rd June, 1948.

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

Mr. Harrison (Acting 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.

5. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 1947-48.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

W. J. McKELL,  
*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 76.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General transmits to the House of Representatives Additional Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, and recommends an appropriation of the Consolidated Revenue Fund accordingly.

Canberra, 1st June, 1948.

Ordered to lie on the Table, and, together with the accompanying Estimates, to be referred to the Committee of Supply forthwith.

6. SUPPLY—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 1947-48.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the following additional sum be granted to His Majesty to defray the charges for the year 1947-48 for the services hereunder specified, viz. :—

PART I.—DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES—OTHER THAN BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS AND TERRITORIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH—

XX.—DEFENCE AND POST-WAR (1939-45) CHARGES—

	£
Division No. 191A.—International Monetary Agreements .. .. .	10,200,000
General Charges .. .. .	29,800,000
	40,000,000

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed : Mr. Clark 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.

7. WAYS AND MEANS—ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 1947-48.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That, towards making good the Additional Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year 1947-48, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £40,000,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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. Dedman do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

8. APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 1947-48.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled "A Bill for an Act to grant and apply an additional sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-eight, and to appropriate that sum", 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.

Mr. Harrison (Acting 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.

3rd June, 1948.

9. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1948-49.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

W. J. McKELL,  
Governor-General.

*Message No. 77.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purpose of a Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine.

Canberra, 1st June, 1948.

Ordered—That the foregoing Message be referred to the Committee of Supply forthwith.

10. SUPPLY—SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1948-49.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That there be granted to His Majesty for or towards defraying the service of the year 1948-49 a sum not exceeding £74,728,000.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark 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.

11. WAYS AND MEANS—SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1948-49.—The House, according to Order, again resolved itself into the Committee of Ways and Means.

*(In the Committee.)*

Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year 1948-49, there be granted out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund a sum not exceeding £74,728,000.

Question—put and passed.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at a later hour this day, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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. Dedman do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

12. SUPPLY BILL (NO. 1) 1948-49.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) then brought up a Bill intituled “ *A Bill for an Act to grant and apply a sum out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the service of the year ending the thirtieth day of June, One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine* ”, 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.

Mr. Harrison (Acting 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.

13. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS BILL 1948.—The following Messages from His Excellency the Governor-General were presented, and were read by Mr. Speaker :—

W. J. McKELL,  
Governor-General.

*Message No. 78.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purpose of a Bill for an Act to provide Retirement Benefits for Members of the Permanent Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.

Canberra, 30th April, 1948.

W. J. McKELL,  
Governor-General.

*Message No. 79.*

In accordance with the requirements of section fifty-six of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Governor-General recommends to the House of Representatives that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of amendments to be moved by the Minister for Defence in a Bill for an Act to provide Retirement Benefits for Members of the Permanent Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.

Canberra, 1st June, 1948.

3rd June, 1948.

Ordered—That the foregoing Messages 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. Dedman (Minister for Defence) moved the following motions—

(1) That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purpose of a Bill for an Act to provide Retirement Benefits for Members of the Permanent Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.

(2) That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of amendments to be moved by the Minister for Defence in a Bill for an Act to provide Retirement Benefits for Members of the Permanent Defence Forces of the Commonwealth, and for other purposes.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the motions be agreed to—put and passed.

Resolutions to be reported.

The House resumed; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

The said Resolutions were read, and, on the motion of Mr. Dedman, by leave, were adopted by the House.

14. DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENT BENEFITS BILL 1948.—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.*)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4—

On the motion of Mr. Dedman (Minister for Defence), the following amendment was made :—

Page 2, lines 15–17, omit “and includes the period of any subsequent engagement which is continuous with the initial engagement”.

Mr. White moved, as a further amendment, That after “rank” (page 2, line 48) the words “, temporary rank or acting rank, whichever is the highest” be inserted.

Debate ensued.

*Point of Order.*—A Point of Order having been raised by Mr. Dedman that the amendment was not in order as it would increase the appropriation.—

*Chairman's Ruling.*—The Chairman (Mr. Clark) upheld the Point of Order.

Mr. White proposing to move, That the clause be postponed—

*Chairman's Ruling.*—The Chairman ruled that, as the clause had been amended, a motion for its postponement would not be in order.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 12 agreed to. [ ]

Clause 13 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 27 agreed to.

Clause 28 debated and agreed to.

Clause 29 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 30 and 31 agreed to.

Clause 32 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 33 to 41 agreed to.

Clause 42—

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

Page 13, line 17, omit “Three hundred and sixty pounds”, insert “a sum calculated at the rate of Thirty pounds for each completed year of service for pension”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 43—

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

Page 13, at the end of the clause add the following proviso :—

“Provided that a member who has completed twenty years' service for pension prior to attaining the retiring age for his rank and retires with the approval of the Service Board shall not be entitled to a refund under this section, but shall be entitled to the same pension as that to which he would have been entitled if the pension had been granted under section forty-one of this Act and if the engagement, which was uncompleted at the date of his retirement, had been an engagement for the completed portion thereof and he had retired on the completion of that engagement.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 44 to 49 agreed to.

Clause 50 debated and agreed to.

Clause 51 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 52 and 53 agreed to.

Clause 54—

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

Page 19, line 4, after “shall” insert “, subject to the regulations.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

3rd June, 1948.

Clause 55 debated—

Dame Enid Lyons moved, That the clause be postponed.

Debate continued.

Question—That the clause be postponed—put.

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

Ayes, 24.

Mr. Abbott	Mr. Howse
Mr. Adermann	Mr. Hutchinson
Mr. Anthony	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Beale	Mr. McBride
Mr. Cameron	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Davidson	Mr. Rankin
Mr. Fadden	Mr. Ryan
Mr. Falkinder	Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Francis	Mr. White
Mr. Gullett	
Mr. Hamilton	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Harrison	Mr. Bowden
Mr. Holt	Mr. McDonald

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Mr. Barnard	Mr. Lang
Mrs. Blackburn	Mr. Langtry
Mr. Brennan	Mr. Lawson
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Chambers	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Daly	Mr. Mulcahy
Mr. Dedman	Mr. O'Connor
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Duthie	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Edmonds	Mr. Russell
Mr. Evatt	Mr. Scully
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Sheehy
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Ward
Mr. Gaha	
Mr. Hadley	<i>Tellers:</i>
Mr. Haylen	Mr. Fuller
Mr. Holloway	Mr. Sheehan
Mr. James	

And so it was negatived.

Clause agreed to.

Clause 56 agreed to.

Clause 57—

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

Page 20, after sub-clause (1.) insert the following sub-clause :—

“(1A.) For the purposes of the last preceding sub-section, the pension payable to the widow of a male pensioner during her life shall, in any case where the male pensioner has commuted any portion of his pension, be calculated upon the rate of pension which would have been payable to the male pensioner at the time of his death if no portion had been commuted.”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 58 to 64 agreed to.

Clause 65 debated and agreed to.

Clauses 66 to 77 agreed to.

Clause 78—

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

Page 27, line 30, after “shall” insert “, subject to the regulations,”.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 79 to 87 agreed to.

Schedules agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Clark reported accordingly.

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

15. INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT BILL 1948.—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.

Mr. McLeod 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.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Scully (Vice-President of the Executive Council) moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at nine 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. Beazley, Mr. Blain, Mr. Burke, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lazzarini, Mr. Menzies, Sir Earle Page, Mr. Scullin, Mr. Spender, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Watkins.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.