

1937-38-39.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,  
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 106.

FRIDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1939.

1. The House met, at half-past ten o'clock a.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable G. J. Bell) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. CIVIL AIR RESERVE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Fairbairn (Minister for Civil Aviation), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the Civil Air Reserve.
3. CONSULTANTS TO COMMONWEALTH PRICES COMMISSIONER.—Mr. John Lawson (Minister for Trade and Customs), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing that Sir R. Marcus Clark, of Sydney, and Mr. A. McK. Hislop, Public Accountant, of Melbourne, had agreed to act as consultants to the Commonwealth Prices Commissioner.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
  - Tariff Board—Reports and Recommendations—
    - Cotton condenser yarns and Coconada cotton yarns for the manufacture of towels.
    - Cotton cordage yarns.
    - Cotton yarns n.e.i.
    - Devices for catching or fastening doors of motor vehicles.
    - Gears for motor vehicles.
    - Internal combustion engines (other than marine engines and engines for motor vehicles) up to and including 100 horse-power.
    - Mosquito spirals or coils.
    - Petrol pumps and pumping units.
    - Pneumatic rubber tyres and tubes for tractors.
    - Refrigerators and refrigerator parts.
    - Sound films and negative films and lavender prints.
    - Staple or other synthetic textile fibres; tops, yarns and piece goods wholly or partly composed of synthetic staple fibre.
    - Towels and towelling n.e.i. and bath mats.
    - Tractor wheels and tractor wheel centres for use with pneumatic rubber tyres.
    - Water bore casings.
    - Wool tops; woollen yarns; woollen piece goods; and blankets, &c.
  - Severally ordered to lie on the Table, and to be printed.
  - The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
    - Commonwealth Public Service Act—Appointments—Department—
      - Commerce—R. A. Potts.
      - Treasury—K. M. Fraser.
    - Land Tax Assessment Act—Applications for relief from taxation dealt with during the year 1938-39.
    - Post and Telegraph Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1939, No. 84.
    - Science and Industry Research Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1939, No. 83.
5. SUPPLY—BUDGET DEBATE.—The House, according to Order, resolved itself into the Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

General debate resumed on the question, That the first item in the Estimates, under Division No. 1.—  
The Senate—namely—

Salaries and allowances .. .. . £8,040

be agreed to. . . . .

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

The House resumed; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

15th September, 1939.

6. SALES TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 5) 1939.—The Order of the Day having been read for the second reading—Mr. Spender (Minister assisting the Treasurer) moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Forde 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. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—STATES GRANTS BILL, 1939.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE.

*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 85.*

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 sums for the purposes of Financial Assistance to the States of South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Canberra, 14th September, 1939.

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. Spender (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. Proyse reported accordingly.

Mr. Spender 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. Spender, was adopted by the House.

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

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

Mr. Forde 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. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
 Arbitration (Public Service) Act—Determinations by the Arbitrator, &c.—1939—  
 No. 23—Professional Officers' Association, Commonwealth Public Service.  
 No. 24—Amalgamated Postal Workers' Union of Australia.

9. ADDITIONAL TAXATION PROPOSALS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Spender (Minister assisting the Treasurer), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement announcing proposals for increasing the tax payable by companies and imposing a tax upon gold.

10. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—ASSENT TO BILLS.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was received, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

*Governor-General.*

*Message No. 86.*

Proposed Laws intitled :—

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 1) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 2) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 3) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 4) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 5) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 6) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 7) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 8) 1939 ”

“ Sales Tax Act (No. 9) 1939 ”

as finally passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, having been presented to the Governor-General for the Royal Assent, His Excellency has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty, assented to the said Laws.

Government House,

Canberra, 15th September, 1939.

15th September, 1939.

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

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Spender (Minister assisting the Treasurer) moved—

1. That a tax be imposed upon gold (other than gold imported into Australia and gold coin and wrought gold) delivered, either in Australia or in a Territory under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia, to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, or to an agent of that Bank, on or after the fifteenth day of September, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine.

2. That the amount of tax so imposed be three-fourths of the amount by which the amount payable by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in respect of gold so delivered exceeds an amount calculated at the rate of Nine pounds for each ounce of fine gold contained in the gold so delivered.

3. That the Treasurer be empowered, by notice published in the *Gazette*, to direct that, for the purposes of the tax imposed by the Act passed to give effect to these resolutions, gold include gold coin and wrought gold delivered to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, or to an agent of that Bank, and thereupon tax be imposed, in accordance with these resolutions, upon gold coin and wrought gold so delivered.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

Resolved—That the House will, at the next sitting, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-nine minutes past four o'clock p.m., adjourned until Tuesday next at three o'clock p.m.

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MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except—Mr. Clark, Mr. Curtin, Mr. Hunter, Mr. McCall, Mr. McEwen, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Scholfield, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Thorby.

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