

1940-41-42-43.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 135.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH 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. ALLEGED MISUSE OF OFFICIAL MOTOR CARS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister representing the Minister for the Interior), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to alleged misuse of official motor cars.
3. RATIONALIZATION OF BANKING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Dedman (Minister for War Organization of Industry), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with respect to the progress made with plans for the rationalization of banking.
Mr. McEwen and Mr. Perkins, by leave, also made Statements with reference to the matter.
4. PAPERS.—The following Paper was presented, by command of His Excellency the Governor-General—
Agreements between the Commonwealth Government and—
 Amalgamated Engineering Union and Employers' Association ;
 Australasian Society of Engineers, and Employers' Association ;
 regarding temporary relaxation of existing customs to overcome difficulties due to shortage of engineering tradesmen for war requirements.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—
 National Security Act—
 National Security (Economic Organization) Regulations—Order—Exemption.
 National Security (Man Power) Regulations—Orders—Protected undertakings (5).
 Navigation Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1943, No. 53.
5. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 70.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That Standing Order No. 70 (eleven o'clock rule) be suspended for the remainder of this week.
Question—put and passed.
6. PRECEDENCE TO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.—Mr. Curtin (Prime Minister) moved, pursuant to notice, That Government Business shall take precedence over General Business to-morrow.
Question—put and passed.
7. SUPERANNUATION BILL 1943.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, pursuant to notice, That he have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Superannuation Act 1922-1942*.
Question—put and passed.
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, by leave, 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.)

Clause 1—

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

8. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—SUPERANNUATION BILL 1943.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

*Governor-General.**Message No. 103.*

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 amend the *Superannuation Act 1922-1942*.

Canberra, 24th March, 1943.

24th March, 1943.

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 amend the *Superannuation Act 1922-1942*.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Chifley, by leave, was adopted by the House.

9. SUPERANNUATION 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.*)

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 debated and agreed to.

Clause 5 debated and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

10. WIDOWS' PENSIONS BILL 1943.—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.*)

Clause 1—

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

11. MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.—WIDOWS' PENSIONS BILL 1943.—The following Message from His Excellency the Governor-General was presented, and was read by Mr. Speaker :—

GOWRIE,

Governor-General.

Message No. 104.

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 amend the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942*.

Canberra, 11th March, 1943.

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. Holloway (Minister for Social Services) moved, That it is expedient that an appropriation of revenue be made for the purposes of a Bill for an Act to amend the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942*.

Question—put and passed.

Resolution to be reported.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

The said Resolution was read, and, on the motion of Mr. Holloway, by leave, was adopted by the House.

12. WIDOWS' PENSIONS 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.

24th March, 1943.

(In the Committee.)

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 debated and agreed to.

New clauses—

On the motion of Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services), the following new clauses were inserted in the Bill, after debate :—

“ 2A. Section four of the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942* is amended—

Definition.

(a) by omitting paragraph (a) of the definition of ‘ child ’ and inserting in its stead the following paragraphs :—

‘ (a) a child of a woman and her husband ;

‘ (aa) a child of a dependent female and of the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ; or ’ ;

(b) by omitting the definition of ‘ *de facto* widow ’ and inserting in its stead the following definition :—“ dependent female ” means a woman who, for not less than the three years immediately prior to the death of a man (in this Act referred to as “ the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ”), was wholly or mainly maintained by him and, although not legally married to him, lived with him as his wife on a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis ; ’ ; and

(c) by omitting paragraph (a) of the definition of ‘ widow ’ and inserting in its stead the following paragraph :—

‘ (a) a dependent female ; ’.

“ 2B. Section eighteen of the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942* is amended by omitting from paragraph (a) of sub-section (3.) the words ‘ *de facto* husband ’ and inserting in their stead the words ‘, where the claimant is a dependent female, within three months after the date of the death of the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ’.

Provisions as to payment of pension.

“ 2C. Section twenty-six of the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942* is amended—

Allowances to certain widows..

(a) by omitting the words ‘ *de facto* husband ’ (first occurring) and inserting in their stead the words ‘, in the case of a dependent female, at the time of the death of the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ’ ; and(b) by omitting the words ‘ *de facto* husband ’ (second occurring) and inserting in their stead the words ‘, in the case of a dependent female, of the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ’.“ 2D. Section thirty of the *Widows' Pensions Act 1942* is amended by omitting from sub-section (3.) the words ‘ *de facto* husband ’ and inserting in their stead the words ‘, where the claimant is a dependent female, within three months after the date of the death of the man in respect of whom she was a dependent female ’.”.

Provisions as to payment of allowances..

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments.

The House resumed ; Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.

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

13. MATERNITY ALLOWANCE BILL 1943.—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. Prowse reported accordingly.

On the motion of Mr. Holloway (Minister for Social Services), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

14. PRIMARY PRODUCERS RELIEF (SUPERPHOSPHATE) BILL 1943.—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 8 agreed to.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr. Francis, the following new clause was inserted in the Bill :—

“ 7A. The Minister shall, in the months of January and July in each year, or, if the Parliament is not sitting in any such month, within seven days after the next meeting of the Parliament, furnish to each House of the Parliament a report showing the amount expended under this Act and the manner in which the amount has been expended—

Half-yearly reports.

(a) in the case of the first report—since the commencement of this Act ; and

(b) in the case of each subsequent report—since the expiration of the period to which the previous report relates.”.

24th and 25th March, 1943.

Preamble agreed to.
Title agreed to.
Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed : Mr. Prowse reported accordingly.
On the motion of Mr. Beasley (Minister for Supply and Shipping) (the Standing Orders having previously been suspended, *see* page 529), the House adopted the Report, and the Bill was read a third time.
The House continuing to sit until after midnight—

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1943.

15. COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYEES' FURLOUGH BILL 1943.—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. Prowse 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.

16. ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. Chifley (Treasurer) moved, That the House do now adjourn.
Debate ensued.
Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty minutes to one 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. Badman, Sir George Bell, Mr. Blain*, Mr. Corser, Mr. Falstein, Mr. Guy, Mr. James, Mr. Jolly, Mr. Scullin*, Mr. Scully, Mr. Watkins, Mr. White*, and Mr. Wilson.

* On leave.

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