

1945.

## THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 87.

TUESDAY, 2ND OCTOBER, 1945.

1. The House met, at three o'clock p.m., pursuant to adjournment.—Mr. Speaker (the Honorable J. S. Rosevear) took the Chair, and read Prayers.
2. ALTERATION OF HOUR OF NEXT MEETING.—Mr. Chifley (Prime Minister) moved, That the House, at its rising, adjourn until to-morrow at half-past ten o'clock a.m.  
Question—put and passed.
3. EMPLOYMENT OF JAPANESE IN TIMOR—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Forde (Minister for the Army), by leave, made a Ministerial Statement with reference to the conditions under which Japanese troops in Timor are being employed.
4. PAPERS.—The following Papers were presented, pursuant to Statute—  
Customs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1945, No. 149.  
Designs Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1945, No. 143.  
Norfolk Island Act—Regulations—1945—No. 2 (Public Service Ordinance).  
Wool Use Promotion Act—Regulations—Statutory Rules 1945, No. 150.
5. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 70.—Mr. Chifley (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. INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT BILL (No. 2) 1945.—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 by Mr. Fadden who moved, as an amendment, That all words after "That" be omitted with a view to inserting the following words in place thereof:—"the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted as an instruction to the Government to provide—
  - (a) a complete, simplified and consolidated Income Tax Assessment Act;
  - (b) for the abolition of the 'rebate' system and its replacement by the 'deduction' system;
  - (c) more equitable treatment for the man with family responsibilities, irrespective of child endowment;
  - (d) for the revision of the pay-as-you-go plan to correct anomalies which have become apparent, especially with regard to ex-servicemen; and
  - (e) for the reduction of taxation commensurate with national financial and economic capacity, with particular relation to—
    - (i) the effect of high taxation on the recuperative power of Australian primary and secondary industries; and
    - (ii) the obvious underestimate in revenue and overestimate in expenditure as disclosed by a critical analysis of the Budget".

Debate continued.

F.611.

2nd October, 1945.

Question—That the words proposed to be omitted stand part of the question—put.  
The House divided (The Speaker, Mr. Rosevear, in the Chair)—

Ayes, 38.

Mr. J. A. Beasley	Mr. Lazzarini
Mr. K. E. Beazley	Mr. Lemmon
Mr. Bryson	Mr. Makin
Mr. Birke	Mr. McLeod
Mr. Calwell	Mr. Morgan
Mr. Chambers	Mr. Mountjoy
Mr. Chifley	Mr. Pollard
Mr. Clark	Mr. Riordan
Mr. Conelan	Mr. Russell
Mr. Dily	Mr. Scullin
Mr. Dohman	Mr. Scully
Mr. Drakeford	Mr. Sheehy
Mr. Falstein	Mr. Smith
Mr. Forde	Mr. Ward
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Watkins
Mr. Frost	Mr. Williams
Mr. Fuller	
Mr. Gaha	
Mr. Hadley	
Mr. Holloway	

Tellers:

Mr. Martens  
Mr. Sheehan

Noes, 15.

Mr. Abbott	Dame Enid Lyons
Mr. Adermann	Mr. McEwen
Mr. Bowden	Mr. Menzies
Mr. Cameron	Sir Earle Page
Mr. Fadden	
Mr. Francis	
Mr. Harrison	
Mr. Holt	
Mr. Hutchinson	

Tellers:

Mr. Corser  
Mr. McDonald

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—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 for Works and Housing), the House adopted the Report, and, by leave, the Bill was read a third time.

7. 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 12th September, 1945 (see pages 238-40).

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. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing) 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. Frost do prepare and bring in a Bill to carry out the foregoing Resolution.

8. INCOME TAX BILL (No. 2) 1945.—Mr. Lazzarini (Minister for Works and Housing) then brought up a Bill intituled "A Bill for an Act to amend the 'Income Tax Act 1945'", 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.

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.

2nd October, 1945.

9. COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE BILL (No. 2) 1945.—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 15 agreed to.

Clause 16—

On the motion of Mr. Holt, the following amendment was made, after debate :—

Page 10, lines 1-5, omit all the words from and including “ by omitting ” to the end of sub-clause (1.), insert—

“(a) by omitting from sub-section (2.) the word ‘ Act ’ and inserting in its stead the word ‘ law ’; and

(b) by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section :—

‘ (3.) Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, an officer may, with the approval of the Board (which approval may at any time be withdrawn), act as a director of a co-operative society which is registered under any law in any State or elsewhere and does not enter into contracts for the supply of goods or services to the Commonwealth.’ ”

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

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

Bill to be reported with an amendment.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

10. HOSPITAL BENEFITS BILL 1945.—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 7 agreed to.

New clause—

On the motion of Mr. Holloway (Minister representing the Acting Minister for Health), the following new clause was inserted in the Bill, after debate :—

“ 5A.—(1.) There shall be payable, for each financial year, to such of the States as the Minister determines (being States which have executed agreements with the Commonwealth under this Act), by way of financial assistance, a sum not exceeding in the aggregate Five hundred thousand pounds. Payments in respect of medical attendance, &c., in public wards of hospitals.

“(2.) The amount to be paid to any such State for any financial year shall be such amount (if any) as the Minister determines.

“(3.) An amount payable to a State under this section for any financial year shall be paid upon condition that an amount not less than the first-mentioned amount is used by that State, in that financial year, in such manner and subject to such conditions as the Minister approves, in or towards the payment of salaries to medical practitioners, and to professional persons of such other classes as the Minister approves, attending qualified persons in public wards in public hospitals.

“(4.) In the last preceding sub-section, the expressions ‘ qualified persons ’, ‘ public wards ’ and ‘ public hospitals ’ have, in relation to any State, the same meanings as those expressions have in the agreement executed between the Commonwealth and that State under this Act.”

Schedule—

On the motion of Mr. Holloway, the Schedule was omitted, and the following Schedule inserted in place thereof, after debate :—

“ THE SCHEDULE.

Section 3.

HOSPITAL BENEFITS : HEADS OF AGREEMENT.

1. The agreement shall not have any force or effect unless and until authorized or approved by the Parliament of the State concerned.
2. The agreement shall be in force for a minimum period of five years and thereafter shall be subject to termination after [here specify a period of notice by either party of not less than one year].
3. The Commonwealth shall, subject to compliance by the State with the provisions of the agreement, pay to the State, by way of financial assistance, in respect of beds occupied by qualified persons in public and non-public wards in public hospitals, amounts determined in accordance with the agreement.
4. The amount to be paid by the Commonwealth for any financial year in respect of beds in public wards in public hospitals shall be determined by multiplying the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Rate for Public Wards by the number of daily occupied beds in public wards in that financial year.
5. The amount to be paid by the Commonwealth for any financial year in respect of beds in non-public wards in public hospitals shall be determined by multiplying the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Rate for Non-Public Wards by the number of daily occupied beds in non-public wards in that financial year.

2nd October, 1945.

6.—(1.) The State shall, out of the amount paid to the State for each financial year under paragraph four of this Schedule, set aside the amount (if any) ascertained by subtracting from the amount so paid the aggregate of—

- (a) the amount ascertained by multiplying the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Expenditure Rate for Public Wards by the number of daily occupied beds in public wards in that financial year; and
- (b) the amount by which donations (including voluntary contributions) received by public hospitals during that financial year and used for the maintenance of public hospitals is less than [here insert an amount determined by the Commonwealth and the State based on the average amount received by public hospitals during the financial years 1942-43 and 1943-44 by way of donations (including voluntary contributions) and used for the maintenance of public hospitals].

(2.) The State shall not use the amount so set aside, or interest thereon, otherwise than for capital expenditure on public hospitals as approved by the Commonwealth.

7. If the amount paid to the State for any financial year under paragraph four of this Schedule is less than the aggregate of the amounts referred to in clauses (a) and (b) of sub-paragraph (1.) of the last preceding paragraph, the Commonwealth shall pay to the State the amount of the difference.

8.—(1.) Subject to the next succeeding paragraph, the State shall ensure that no means test is imposed on, and that no fees are charged to or in respect of, qualified persons occupying beds in public wards in public hospitals

(2.) The State may permit a public hospital to charge fees in respect of beds in a public ward which are temporarily used as non-public ward beds.

9.—(1.) The State shall ensure that the charges per day payable by qualified persons in respect of beds in non-public wards in public hospitals shall be reduced by the amount of the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Rate for Non-public Wards.

(2.) The State shall ensure that no increase in those charges is made without the concurrence of the Commonwealth and that any such increase made after the first day of September, 1945, and prior to the date of the agreement shall cease to be applied, as from the date of the agreement, unless the Commonwealth concurs in the increase.

(3.) The Commonwealth shall not refuse its concurrence under the last preceding sub-paragraph in respect of any increase of charges necessitated by increased costs.

(4.) The State shall ensure that, except with the concurrence of the Commonwealth, no charge is made to qualified persons for services or comforts in public or non-public wards in public hospitals for which it was not customary to make a charge as at the first day of September, 1945.

10 The Commonwealth and the State, in conjunction with any other State which enters into an agreement with the Commonwealth in terms similar to the terms of the agreement, shall establish a council, to be known as the National Hospital Council to advise the Commonwealth and the States with respect to any matter relating to hospitals which is referred to the Council, by the Commonwealth or a State.

11 The agreement may provide that nothing in the agreement shall be construed so as to affect the State's control of clinical teaching and research in public hospitals.

12 The agreement may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as are necessary to give effect to the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits Scheme.

13 The agreement shall contain definitions substantially to the following effect and such other definitions as are necessary:—

the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Rate for Public Wards' means Six shillings or such other rate as is, from time to time, agreed upon between the Commonwealth and the State;

the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Rate for Non-public Wards' means Six shillings or such other rate as is, from time to time, agreed upon between the Commonwealth and the State;

the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Expenditure Rate for Public Wards' means [here insert an amount determined by the Commonwealth and the State based on the average amount recovered during the financial years 1942-43 and 1943-44 from patients in public wards for each daily occupied bed] or such other amount as is from time to time agreed upon between the Commonwealth and the State;

'public hospital' means a hospital (not being a tuberculosis hospital within the meaning of the *Tuberculosis Act 1945*) which—

(a) is ordinarily recognized as a public hospital; and

(b) is in receipt of a grant for maintenance from the State, and includes a State institution used for hospital purposes and a ward in any other institution maintained or subsidized by the State which is used for hospital purposes and is for the time being approved by the Commonwealth.

'public ward' means a ward which is ordinarily recognized as a public ward;

'non-public ward' means a ward other than a public ward;

'qualified person' means a person who was ordinarily resident in Australia at the time of admission to a public hospital and is occupying a bed for the purposes of hospital treatment, and includes, where two or more children are born at one birth, any child born at that birth in excess of one, and also any newly born child except during the time the mother of that child is occupying a bed, but does not include a member of the staff of a public hospital receiving treatment in his own quarters or a person whose fees are borne by the Commonwealth or who has received, or is entitled to receive those fees under any law in force in the State; and

'daily occupied bed' means a bed occupied by a qualified person for a full day (the day of admission and the day of discharge together being counted as one day)."

2nd and 3rd October, 1945.

Title—

On the motion of Mr. Holloway, the Title was amended, after debate, by adding the words “, and for other purposes”.

Title, as amended, agreed to.

Bill to be reported with amendments, and with an amended Title.

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan 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.

11. COMMONWEALTH AND STATE HOUSING AGREEMENT BILL 1945.—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 debated.

Mr. Anthony moved, as an amendment, That the Schedule be amended by inserting in clause 14 (page 6) the following sub-clause :—

“(1A.) That notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement a tenant, who has satisfactorily fulfilled his conditions of tenancy for three years, may be granted the option of purchasing his home at such price as may be determined by approved valuers, and on such rental purchase terms as are practicable to the ability of the tenant, and as may be agreed and approved between the tenant and the Housing Authority.”.

Debate continued.

The Committee continuing to sit until after midnight—

WEDNESDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 1945.

Debate continued.

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

The House resumed ; Mr. Riordan reported accordingly.

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

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the House, at twenty-six minutes past twelve o'clock midnight, adjourned until this day at half-past ten o'clock a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT.—All Members were present (at some time during the sitting) except Mr. Barnard, Mr. Blain, Mr. Breen, Mr. Brennan, Mr. Evatt\*, Mr. Guy, Mr. Haylen\*, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Langtry, Mr. Lawson\*, Mr. Mulcahy\*, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Spender, Sir Frederick Stewart, Mr. White\*, and Mr. Wilson.

\* On leave.

F. C. GREEN,

Clerk of the House of Representatives.