

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
[VOLUME 7]

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

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| 15th Sitting | 2 p.m. | Thursday, 29th November, 1973 |
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (49)

The Hon. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C.,
Prime Minister

(Absent – on leave)

Dr. the Hon. P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
National Development and Agriculture

Senior Ministers (7)

The Hon. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,
Minster of Works and Communications

(Absent – on leave)

*The Hon. S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,
Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Justice

*The Hon. H Green,
Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

***Non-elected Ministers**

*The Hon. H.O. Jack,
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

*The Hon. F.E. Hope,
Minister of Finance

*Dr. the Hon. K.F.S. King,
Minister of Economic Development

*The Hon. S.S. Naraine, A.A.,
Minister of Housing

Ministers (6)

The Hon. W.G. Carrington,
Minister of Labour

The Hon. Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,
Minister of Information and Culture

The Hon. B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
and Leader of the House

*The Hon. Miss C.L. Baird,
Minister of Education

(Absent – on leave)

*Dr. the Hon. O. M. R. Harper,
Minister of Health

*The Hon. G. A. King
Minister of Trade

Ministers of State (9)

The Hon. M. Kasim, A.A.,
Minister of State for Agriculture

The Hon. O.E. Clarke,
Minister of State – Regional
(East Berbice/Corentyne)

(Absent – on leave)

The Hon. P. Duncan, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)

***Non-elected Ministers**

The Hon. C. A. Nascimento,
Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
Minister of State – Regional (Essequibo
Coast/West Demerara) **(Absent – on leave)**

*The Hon. C.V. Mingo,
Minister of State for Home Affairs

*The Hon. W. Haynes,
Minister of State – Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) **(Absent)**

*The Hon. A. Salim
Minister of State - Regional
(East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)

*The Hon. F. U. A. Carmichael,
Minister of State – Regional (North West) **(Absent)**

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

Mr. J.R. Thomas
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing

Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works
and Communications

Miss M.M. Ackman,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister,
and Government Whip

Mr. E.L. Ambrose
Parliamentary Secretary (Agriculture),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture

Mr. K. B. Bancroft,
Parliamentary Secretary (Hinterland),
Ministry of National Development and Agriculture

Mr. S. Prashad,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives
And National Mobilisation **(Absent)**

***Non-elected Ministers**

Mr. J. P. Chowritmootoo,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education

Mr. R. H. O. Corbin,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

(Absent – on leave)

Other Members (18)

Mr. J.N. Aaron
Mrs. L. M. Branco
Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
Miss J. Gill
Mr. W. Hussain
Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
Mr. K. M. E. Jonas
Mr. M. Nissar
Dr. L. E. Ramsahoye
Mr. J. G. Ramson
Mrs. P. A. Rayman
Mr. E. M. Stoby, J.P.
Mr. S. H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
Mr. H. A. Taylor
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
Mrs. L.E. Willems

(Absent – on leave)

(Absent – on leave)

(Absent – on leave)

Members of the Opposition

Liberty Party (2)

Mr. M. F. Singh, Deputy Speaker
Mrs. E. DaSilva

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. F.A. Narain

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. M. B. Henry, AMBIM.

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National Assembly

2.05-2.15 p.m.

2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to the hon. Prime Minister up to the 1st of December, to the hon. Minister D. Hoyte, Hon. Minister Clarke, hon. Minister Zaheeruddeen, the hon. Member Mr. Corbin and the hon. Member Mr. Stoby for today's sitting and hon. Member Mr. Hussain for two weeks from today.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS. ETC:

The following papers were laid:

- (a) Twelfth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Guyana Electricity Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1972. [**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture**]
- (b) Audited Accounts of the Guyana State Corporation for the year ended 31st December, 1972. [**The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture on behalf of the Prime Minister.**]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS –FIRST READING

The following Bill was introduced and read the First time.

Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 1973. [**The Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation**]

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2.05-2.15 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker: We will now consider the Schedule to the Financial Paper. The Assembly will now resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Hope): In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution, I signify that the Cabinet has recommended the following Motion for consideration by the National Assembly, a Motion for the approval of Financial Paper No. 5/1973 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st October, 1974, totalling \$15,976,436.

The Chairman: Will hon. Member please indicate the items on which they wish to speak. Page 2. There is just one general comment I should like to make as a Parliament office is situated in the Public Buildings. I do not wear dark shades but I should like to know who painted Our National Assembly in the shortly colours we now see.

The Chairman: Please proceed to item 13.

Mrs. DaSilva: Sir it is just a question we want to ask. Who approved to these colours?

Item 11, under head 4 – Parliament Office, subhead 5- Telephones. The Supplementary provision is over \$44,000, and the provision is almost double the voted amount. Why has the telephone account gone up so high? Is it increase because we have just had elections and the People's National Congress is run in part from the building? Is that the reason why the telephone charges have gone up so high?

Under item 13, Head 6, Ombudsman, subhead 6 – Telephone, we would like to know when the Ombudsman will hand in his report, the long awaited report.

The Chairman: That has no relevance.

Mrs. DaSilva: Under “Ombudsman”, Sir.

The Chairman: Hon. Leader of the House, please answer item 11.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House (Mr. Ramsaroop): Mr. Chairman, this item contemplates the increase for telephone expenditure which could not have been conceived at the time of the compilation of the vote. It is, obviously, for accounts that have been outstanding at the time when the vote was computed which could not reasonably have been taken into account, hence the rather large increase on the voted provision.

The Chairman: Page 3.

Mrs. DaSilva: Mr. Chairman, 18 and 24 please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, 18, 19, 20 and 24, sir.

2.15 p.m.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 18, under Head 9, office of the Prime Minister, Subhead 3-Miscellaneous. We are told to make sacrifices and tighten our belts to save money for the country, but time again we are asked in the Estimates – which appear to be guesstimates from the way the hon. Minister replied about the telephone, for additional sum of money. Under item 18, we are asked for \$5,000 for miscellaneous expenditure in the office of the Prime Minister. Could we have some idea how this money is spent?

Item 24, Head 10, Prime Minister – Guyana Defence Forces, Subhead 2 – Other Expenditure. The Legend States: “Voted provision inadequate.” We have asked to spend \$1,066,844. I wonder if some of this money is going to be spent on the upkeep of the G.D.F. vehicles or for maintenance. Or is it spent to purchase new vehicles? I am particularly referring to the G.D.F. vehicles which are allowed to operate on the roads. Every citizen is astonished at the high rate of road deaths. Everybody is doing what he or she can to try and keep down the rate. The police are doing an excellent job of trying to keep and help citizens keep death off the

roads, but we have G.D.F. trucks going around, sir, in manner in which an ordinary truck belonging to a small man, trucking and from Timehri to West Coast Berbice would not be allowed to run on the road. I have seen many, but I wish refer to truck No. GZ 6015 which I saw during the third week in August on the East Coast road. It is not the only truck that is in this condition. These big heavy truck have six wheels and all six wheels suppose to have tyres on them, and all six wheels running on the road. I have often seen only the two rear with rubber tyres on them. This must naturally affect the balance of the truck. I have brought it to the attention of the House and I should like to have an explanation.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 18 I wish to supplement my hon. Colleague's question. No reason has been given to the increase of the votes by \$5,000. There is just a mere bald statement stating "provision inadequate." In 1972 this expenditure was only \$6,500 now it has gone to \$17,000. Can we have details of this expenditure instead of this bald statement?

Item 19, under the same Head, Subhead 4- Telegrams. Here again it is obvious that \$700 was thought adequate when the 1973 Estimates were brought before the House, because that was the provision ask for. Now the astronomical figure of \$2,030 is sought has supplementary provision. What has caused this increase? We should like to know. Again the Legend states: "To provide for the unanticipated additional Expenditure." What was anticipated? Surely one would be inclined to suspect, a lot of this money was used towards election expenditure, expenditure that should properly have been borne by the People National Congress but was borne by this particular office. Mr. Chairman, why \$2,030? If it is for election purposes then they must admit to us if this is so. [**Mr. Green:** "What is wrong with that?"] You have no right to spend it.

Item 20, Subhead 5 - Telephones under the same head. I should like to ask a question for clarification. I have here before me Financial papers Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4. I have searched Financial Papers 1 to 4 and this is 5 and I cannot find any reference in these papers to this sum described as Provision Supplement and Provision was passed. I am sorry I was late, unavoidably so, but the same applies for the previous Provision of \$32,912 in item 11. I should like the hon. Minister to do me the favour of telling me when this was passed.

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2.15-2.25 p.m.

If one looks at the figures here one should be very alarmed at the state of affairs. In fact, I have been making a note of these figures and it seem as though throughout these Estimates there are figures reflected for telephone bills for 1972 which have gone unpaid until this time. Now the Guyana Telecommunication Corporation is supposed to operate as a commercial enterprise, making money, and it is wrong to deny this corporation the benefit of money that is justly owing to it. I am not talking for the sake of talking (*Interruption*). Ask the hon. Minister Dr. King, he will tell you if I am talking nonsense. If you cannot understand shut up and be quiet. **[Interruption]** Mr. Chairman, Head 2, Supreme Court.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh, would you please speak into the microphone, and do not let the hon. Member disturb you unduly; you are making your contribution.

Mr. Singh: The requests for supplementary Provision for Telephones show Head 2, Supreme court - \$4,300, Head 9, office of the Prime Minister - \$33,500, Head 14, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - \$75,000, Head 15, Attorney General, Telephones, \$20,348; Head 19, Minister of Home Affairs, \$500,000, Head 27 – Minister of National Development and Agriculture - \$52,000, Head 32, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources - \$29,470, Head 40, Minister of Education - \$23,000 and so it goes on. There are fantastic sum of money owing for expenditure in 1972. Something is wrong somewhere.

2.25 p.m.

If these people are owed they must be paid and they must be paid in time to prevent them from having to borrow money from the Bank because they are suppose to work as a commercial organization and pay interest on the money they borrowed. The Electricity Corporation is operating in such a way that it has embarked on an expansion programme. If they borrowed money they have to pay interest so let the Corporation have its money. Why is it that the Corporation has not been paid? We are at the end of November, 1973 and we are still talking about accounts for 1972. I should like an explanation of this really very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Pay them what is due to them and let them reflect a decent profit rather than let them have to put extra telephone calls on our bills.

Something again is unrealistic here. The Legend for item 20, subhead 5 – Telephone, under Head 9 – Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, reads: “To provide for the payment of 1972 accounts.” In 1972 the sum of \$20,800 was provided. Therefore the 1972 total is now \$20,800 plus the supplementary provision asked for here which made a total of \$54,300 for 1972. We still have reflected the sum of \$35,000 to meet the expenditure for 1973. Are we going to keep this Corporation waiting again for payment of the 1973 bill? If the 1973 bill is in the vicinity of \$54,000, how can \$35,000 be enough for 1973? Something is wrong. Let us have the supplementary provision now instead of repeating what happen early this year when we had a Schedule of Supplementary Provision, No. 1 of 1973 – to cover advances from the contingencies Fund so that in January, 1973 we had an application for supplementary provision for 1972. Do not let us wait until January 1974 to meet 1973 accounts. Let us have it now as you get the idea of what it will cost. Year after year we have been coming to this House with back accounts for the Telecommunications Corporation. This is unfair, so let us pay them once and for all. Pay them all their back accounts and put a realistic figure every year in the estimates to meet the amount that we can reasonably foresee will be due to them.

Item 24, Head 10, Prime Minister – Guyana Defence Force, subhead 2 – other Expenditure. This really worries the United Force. What will the supplementary provision for \$1,066,112 be spent on? More and more of our valuable and scarce Guyana fund are being spent on the Army. In 1972 the amount provided and presumably spent was \$2,783,400. Now it is \$4,459,012, an increase of nearly 2 million and the Guyanese people are suffering.

Why do we have such fancy elaborate Army with such elaborate expenditure? People cannot get oil, they cannot get foodstuffs, they cannot get jobs, they are no job opportunities and yet we, a poor nation with not even a million people, are indulging in the luxury of an Army that is taking \$4,460,000. Is this fair to the inhabitants of Guyana? Is it really fair that this level of expenditure should be spent on an Army whose capacity seems to be to wreck the vehicles they drive up and down the road and to kill themselves? Mr. Chairman, I would like the Government to re-think its position in respect of expenditure on the Guyana Defence Force.

The Chairman: Hon. Deputy Prime Minister.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture

(Dr. Reid): Mr. Chairman, I note telegrams and telephones and one would have thought that for these two items, at least, additionally expenditure would have been understood because I do not think there is any way of really anticipating what the final allocation would be for these items.

There were arrears from 1972 due to a change in charges and things of that kind and the corporation must have sent out these bills. Hope that when this bill is paid, there will be no arrears. To illustrate the absurdity of trying to say exactly what would be spent in these two items. For instance, the Prime Minister gets a telegram or a telephone call from overseas, how could one anticipate that correctly when preparing the Estimates? It is not practical. Would it mean that the Prime Minister must say, "I cannot reply by telephone" or "I cannot reply by telegram, I will have to wait and write a letter?" I do not want to labour on this but I hope my friend on the other side have seen the point.

The Miscellaneous item at the Prime Minister's Office is normal. Many small items come under it and that is why they put 'Miscellaneous'. I would not be the one to dream of spelling out all of the time items, but a functioning Prime Minister's Office must have these type of expenses and it is ridiculous for one to list them whether it is a pen or a pencil bring them before this House. I think it is a more serious business than this.

We come now to the Guyana Defence Force. Our friends say the men are killing people in motor vehicle accident. Everything the Guyana Defence Force does is open to public view. People see them better than they see other people and so whatever happen with them is really public business and so the things that happen are exaggerated out of proportion. When it come to the expenditure under the Prime Minister's Office for Guyana Defence Force, I do not think the members of the Opposition wish us to itemize this because if we are to have a Guyana Defence Force that is to function in this country we cannot come in this House and shout out how many guns, how many men we have and all sorts of things. It would be better that we had nothing at all. Sometimes the expenditure on these items is increased because of the behaviour of some of our comrades. We do not anticipate that people would not know how to behave themselves as

civilized people, but if they want to destroy other people's building's and crops the Guyana Defence Force must act. Because of the behaviour of some of them the expenditure goes up.

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We wish that they would behave normally in the developing country so that the finances could spent on development *per se* and not on the preventing people from destroying other people. I think this people's Army is doing a wonderful task in helping with the development of this country ant in preventing some people from destroying other people. I am certain my good friend, the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh, would not wish at any time for this country to have a defence force that is not ready to move when the occasion demands.

Mr. Singh: I wonder whether the hon. Minister of Finance could clarify that point which I raise about the previous supplementary provision under item 20, Telephones - \$10,064. I would really like to know. I can find no trace of it in these Financial Papers, previous year.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Finance. (Mr. Hope) : The hon. Member was quite right. At least, there some items, item 20 is one of them, where a figure would be appearing for previous supplementary provision, and it would be appearing here for the first time. This is largely because during the period when Parliament was dissolved, we had to use the powers accorded us under the Constitution to issue special warrants where the circumstances require. Those special warrants were issued and Parliament is being informed at this point in time.

The Chairman: Page 4.

Mr. Singh: Items 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30. Item 26, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Travelling. The legend states "To meet additional expenditure consequent on the establishment of new Overseas Mission", and the amount of money which is now being sought additionally is \$164,700. Let us look at what was original provided. The sum originally provided is \$236,800, and we are asking for \$164,700 additionally. This is really a 5 per cent increase, and the reason given in the legend is ". . . consequent on the establishment of new overseas Missions." Something seems to be wrong somewhere because I do not think that we have established half as many more new overseas missions.

In the 1973 Estimates, there are listed the missions that were provided for in the Estimate for that year. I read from page 48: "London Office, Caracas Office, Kingston Office, Toronto Office, Washington Office, Ottawa Office, Brasilia Office, Lusaka Office, New York Mission, Paramaribo Office, Consul-General, New York, New Delhi Office." Twelve in all. Will the hon. Minister tell us what the new offices in addition to these twelve are? What are these new offices that would account for over 50 per cent increase in the expenditure? Are there as many as six new offices with additional expenditure that would warrant this huge sum of \$164,000? I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister where the new offices are situated.

I turn to the next item, 27, Head 14 Minister of Foreign Affairs, Subhead 3-Miscellaneous. The sum provided was \$53,200. The supplementary provision now sought is \$50,000 nearly as much as what was originally provided, and again the legend says: "To meet additional expenditure consequent on the establishment of new Overseas Mission." Again the reason given is the cost of these new Overseas Missions. My information does not permit me to believe that we have double the numbers of Missions to warrant an increase of over 100 per cent.

This applies to item 28, Head 14 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Subhead 4 – Postage, Cables and Telegrams. The sum provided was \$116, 800. The supplementary provision sought is \$78,300. This again is an increase of over 50 per cent on the amount originally provided. Again the legend states: "To meet additional expenditure consequent on the establishment of new Overseas Missions." I do not think the number of missions has increased more than it was 50 per cent and we look at item 29 and 30 under the same Head, we would see that the additional expenditure are sometimes less than 50 per cent. Item 29, Telephone. The original amount is \$175,200. The additional amount asked for is only \$75,000. Item 30, Books and Publication, the original amount is \$15,000, supplementary \$5,000. One wonders. This year was election year. One wonders whether this is not another case of Government funds being used for P. N. C. election purpose.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Mr. Hope: Mr. Chairman, I would attempt to answer in the absence of the substantive Minister. The advice that we have got is that there is a new Mission in Peking, for one.

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There was, I think, in Lusaka. Even though a mission might be established late in the year, the movement of personnel and supporting persons would take some time after to be concluded. In fact, this item, I am advised, cover not only the tickets of the people concerned, but the transportation of the furniture and the travel ticket of the families. All this represents the conditions of service of the people who serve overseas and whenever this happens, it is bound to reflect itself in very high expenditure. This is what is reflected in this vote.

In addition to that, the vote also looks ahead. It does not represent expenditure that has already taken place. It looks ahead to the rest of the year. These are certain other changes which are expected in diplomatic Missions quite apart from the fact that a number of officer, having served their tour abroad, have had to be move back home, with new officer, taking their places with consequential expenses. All of this is reflected here.

2.45 p.m.

Mr. M. F. Singh: I enumerated the mission that was in existence at the beginning of 1973 and I asked for the new missions. The legend specifically states, "Consequent on the establishment of new overseas missions." Will the hon. Minister tell us what new missions were established over and above the 12?

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Hope: The statement did not say that these missions were established in 1973. They were new in comparison with the established mission and I wish to say that the mission might have been established or the high Commissioner may have been in place late in one year, but the additional expenditure, consequent on giving him an office, consequent of ensuring that the supporting staff take their positions, very often follow in the next year and this is the case in point.

New mission must not be interrupted to mean mission established in 1972. I think that is where the hon. Minister is misleading himself. In any case, I mentioned that Peking and Lusaka are new.

The Chairman: Is not Brussels also new? Page 5. Hon. Member Mr. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Mr. Chairman, item 35 please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 31, 32, 35 and 36.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 31, under Head 14, Minister of Foreign Affairs, subhead 7 – “Maintenances and Operation of vehicles.” Again, making the same point which --
[Interruption]

The Chairman: Are you not going to get the same answer?

Mr. M. F. Singh: Do you want me to proceed or not?

The Chairman: I am not preventing you from proceeding but I am just trying to prevent you from wasting time.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Do you want me to proceed or not?

The Chairman: It is a matter complete for you.

Mr. M. F. Singh: if you don't want me to proceed I will take my seat. Item 31, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maintenance and Operation of vehicles. The voted Provision is \$35,000. Supplementary provision now sought is \$25,000 that is, an increase of over 70 per cent. “To meet additional maintenance and operation expenses consequent on the establishment of new overseas mission.” This is a fantastic increase in relation to the amount originally provided.

One would presume that the sum of \$35,000 it would provided after due thought and consideration with the competent officers aware that with a mission about to be established that expenditure would be involved. One would have expected that at the beginning of the year when they prepared these figures they would have been far-sighted enough to know that they needed money for the already established missions which were listed in the Estimates. Why then is the supplementary figure \$25,000, a high figure in relation to the original provision o nearly

\$35,000? It was \$35,000 for 12 missions listed but there is an increase of \$25,000 for new overseas missions.

Item 32, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uniforms. Again, the increase appears to be rather astronomical. The figure provided for all 12 missions listed in the estimate was \$35,000. The supplementary provision now sought is \$2,000. That was two-third more than what was originally sought. What are we dealing with, a set of “guesstimates”? When we are supplied with figures at the beginning of the year one would expect these figures to be accurate, to reflect the thinking, the policy, the plans and, indeed, the ambitions of the Government, the ambition of setting up new embassies, of having them in operation, of knowing what is involved. We should not be having before us Estimates which, as this paper very aptly proclaims is \$15,000,000, over and above the amount provided in the Estimates. \$15,000,000 is fantastic sum of money.

If we are to debate knowledgeably, if, indeed, we are to debate forcefully, any Estimates in this House, I warn the hon. Minister that we should have some explanation from him. Why is it that it has been necessary to bring forward supplementary Estimates for such great sums of money? If the pattern of 1973 should continue in 1974, if the pattern of having these huge sums of money coming before us as supplementary provision should continue, then it would be an absolute waste of time to bother to debate the 1973 Estimates when they come before this House. What is the point, if you had provided facts and figures, if you have given an analysis, had balance your budget and had put forward what your deficit was likely to be then at the end of the year you should come and say: we have overspent or we are asking for provision to extent of the total provision to the extent of the total provision in all of the five papers that comes this year? The total provision sought is \$24,000,000: the five Financial Papers amounted to \$24,741,014. This is what we are talking about, this habit of merely putting down a figure and the coming and reflecting 70 per cent and 66 per cent increase which bears no relationship to the sum that was originally provided as against the Legend which says, in this case, “due to the establishment of new overseas missions.”

I turn now to item 35, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subhead 12 – Contribution to Overseas National and Medical Schemes. This bears out what I am saying. The original amount

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provided was \$35,200. Supplementary provision for to meet overseas National and Medical Insurance Schemes is only \$5,000. So, whereas the other increases were 50, 60, 70 per cent, the increase for your overseas national medical insurance scheme for staff is only \$5,000, a mere 14 per cent increase. If you had a mere 14 per cent increase for staff why do you have these fantastic increases for other ancillary services like uniform and travelling? Obviously, this does not make sense, 14 per cent increase for overseas National and Medical Insurance Schemes and 70 and 80 per cent increases for other services.

2.55 p.m.

Item 36, in the same Ministry, subhead 13 – Expenses for Printing and Distribution of Information Material. The sum originally provided was \$21,600. We are asking for a supplementary provision of \$5,000. The Legend states: “To meet increased expenditure resulting from an unanticipated demands in information material.” What is this? Is it P. N. C propaganda documents that were being distributed around the place? While the Guyanese people are starving we are spending these large sums of money all over the place to the detriment of the Guyanese people.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: It might be interesting to note the amount that this Ministry will receive after this meeting is finished, \$2 million or more to set up one new Mission in Peking, China. One mission has caused us that amount of money?

I asked to be permitted to speak on item 35, Contribution to Overseas National and Medical Insurance Schemes. We heard about a month ago from the hon. Minister of Labour and Social Security about the reciprocal Scheme that is going exist between Guyana and other countries. Does it mean when this scheme is started our people in the Foreign Mission would also come in for these benefits and therefore we would not have to be asked to pass money under this head?

Mr. Hope: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member could not have been serious when she said that \$2 million will be setting up of one Mission. As I have explained the setting up of a Mission

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involves re-posting of officers. It involves provision for warm clothing for people like Chauffeurs. Vehicles have to be secured, they have to be maintained and as far as we know there has been a substantial inflation in developed countries.

Despite the tremendous members of complaints of price moving up in this country and in the African countries where these missions are established – and they have to be serviced – this is not appreciated by hon. Member. This is where the price escalate. These things are not entirely under the control of those of us here who are planning. We are in November, 1973, and we cannot predict the way prices are going to move from January to December in some of these countries. We have, in fact, placed some amount of inflation on these expenditures.

It would be entirely wrong to say that this money will be spent on one Mission. All of the expenditures sought will not be necessarily to that one. I mentioned one case would be the case of postings. We know that when the Mission was established at Peking, it involved the posting of one officer who was in another country. We had to set up a house and an office for him. These are the problems which we cannot, in fact, predict. As a matter of fact, we know that in a number of African state house are just impossible to get and officers who have been posted have had to live in hotels. We had the same problem in India. We are living here and have no idea of what is happening in other countries so that when we see money is spent we make noises as the hon. Member did.

The hon. Member tried to make a point on item 36. When Guyanese abroad wants information of their country, when students abroad want information of this country when prospective investors want information of this country they naturally go to the Embassies and the Mission.

The Chairman: Page 6.

3.05 p.m.

Mr. Singh: Items 37, 38 and 42, under Head 14, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Item 37, subhead 14 – Stationery and Office Supplies. The sum originally provided was \$32,800 and it worries me that the sum asked for as supplementary provision is \$25,000. Again this is a

fantastic increase and we bear in mind that all these increase seems to be coming conveniently at a time of elections. In 1972 the figure provided and spent was \$31,000, but in 1973 the figure is \$57,800. That is \$25,000 plus the original the amount of \$32,800. It is far too much money to be justified merely by a statement in the legend “voted provision inadequate to meet the cost of additional stationery etc” is this an apology? If you spend \$31,000 in 1972 and you are spending \$57,800 in 1973 are you going to explain it to the honourable House by merely saying it is due to cost of additional stationery? Is this not a nice way of telling us that this fantastic increase is mere due to stationery? We cannot accept this.

Item 38 - Transport Expenses for officers posted Overseas. This is what the hon. Minister was referring to but this is where it appears. I deliberately left it in order to deal with it here. He was talking about it to justify all the other increases. The cost of posting all these officers to Lusaka, to Peking and other places did not have any relevance to what the Minister was talking about. The voted provision in the 1973 estimate was \$50,000 but because of the things the hon. Ministers was talking about, transfer of officers and so on, that item needed a supplementary of \$100,000, that is 200 per cent increase. Not the 50, 60, 70, or 80 per cent but an increase of 200 per cent. If the Minister wants to justify an increase in this head he can do so by talking about his officers because the legend says “voted provision inadequate due to the expansion of the Foreign Service.”

I do not think the hon. Minister wants me to go back to item 26 where \$164,000 is being for and where he said that it was for officers. I think the hon. Minister understands the position but even 200 per cent itself is too high. I know that the hon. Minister is a competent person and I would presume that when he and his predecessor – on the relevant Minister – prepared these Estimate, they had in mind that there were need for officers to travel around and officers to be transferred and to go from one posting to another. We would like to know the exact figure. Something is wrong somewhere. Maybe the Minister of Foreign Affairs did not tell the Minister of Finance what is intended to do. If that is the case we understand.

Item 42, Head 14, - Minister of Foreign Affairs, subhead 24 – Mission and Residences – Up-Keep of Grounds, Lawns etc. The provision was \$18,200, which was a relatively small

amount. However, we are asking for \$8,000 which represents a 44 per cent increase. These new mission have not increase by 44 per cent. The new missions have increase in numbers by one so how are we providing an increase of 44 per cent? The legend did not say additional cost of upkeep, the legend says “to meet additional expenditure on upkeep of grounds etc.” so it directly relates to the increase in the establishment of new missions. If one new mission is established and the Minister knew that there were these twelve others when he prepared the Estimate, why then are we putting up the amount by 44 per cent. As I said, all these small figures add up and the Guyanese people are still suffering.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Finance.

Mr. Hope: Before the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs speaks, sir, in my knowledge the posting occur in two different circumstances. First, in the circumstances where a new mission has been established and has to be officered. Secondly there is the re-posting which takes place despite the fact that there will be no new established. These represent cases where officers have to come back home and be succeeded by others. Much of my reference earlier covered re-posting which were consequential upon the establishment of new mission and this item would, I expect, cover those re-postings which occur normally. There is no reference in this item to new missions.

In addition to that, there is one element which the hon. Member, perhaps, did not see or conveniently and this is that it was not only re-posting but the expansion of the Foreign Service which is explanatory. It is not a new mission. A distinction is made so I hope the hon. Member recognizes that there will be no conflict or oversight in what I said before. I hope I have clarified the point to him that these are two distinct items and what I said before did not cover the increases on this head.

The Chairman: Page 7.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 47.

Mr. Singh: Item 43, 45, 46, 47 and 48.

The Chairman: Hon. Member, Mr. Singh

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3.05-3.15 p.m.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, I do not want to go into all of that has been said before on subhead 26, item 43 – Contribution to African Liberation Movements, merely wish to reiterate that I have always thought and still think that charity should begin at home among our own people, our people who want jobs, food and a lowering of the cost of living. What are we given them? We are giving a contribution to the African Liberation Movement. What are we giving our people? We are giving our people Obeah for them to forget their problems. Let us give them money, let us give them job opportunities, let us give them cash, let give them things to feed, house and clothe themselves. That is what I would like.

Item 45, Upkeep of Residences, under Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The vote provision was \$4,000, supplementary provision now sought is \$6,000.

3.15 p.m.

This is another example of the costly propaganda foreign service. In 1972 it was \$3,000. Now it is \$4,000 plus \$6,000, an increase of over 300 per cent. The legend merely states: “To meet the additional cost of maintenance works on overseas residences.” These are thing that we have to watch and these are things that demand explanation.

Item 46, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, subhead 33 – National Insurance, voted provision \$12,000: supplementary provision now sought \$5,000. This increase is less than 50 per cent so that all the others show over 50 per cent increase. Surly, this proves that something is wrong. If National Insurance can be so much less, why is it the other Heads are so great in their demand for supplementary provision?

Item 47, subhead 34, which is new, Republic and Independence Day Celebrations Overseas, and the fancy figure of \$60,000 is sought to be provided. The legend states: “To provide for functions at overseas Mission. This amount has been advanced from the Contingencies Funds.”

I have attended function at Overseas Mission before. We use to have functions before. From what votes were the expenses met? Let the hon. Minister tell us what Head met these expenses and why it is now necessary to provide the sum of \$60,000 to meet expenses. I cannot

be reminded of all the various pre-election functions that were held, as I was reliably informed, at all the various diplomatic centres throughout the world where Guyanese Diplomats were stationed. Is this the money to meet the expenses for these P. N. C. fetes, and do we see this as a recurrent head of expenditure? Let us hope that this item will not appear next year in the Estimates.

Item 48, subhead 35, a new subhead, Conference of Foreign Minister of Non-Aligned Countries. This shows that \$99,000 of hard-earned Guyanese money, taxpayers' money was spent - Non-Aligned cars rushing to and fro with sirens blaring. Guyana, a small country, indulging in the prestige of entertaining Foreign Minister! This was good for foreign relations. It will put Guyana on the map, what at what cost? Is this the entire cost? Does this include the cost of Non-Aligned cars, some of which were sold to A. H. & L. Kissoon? Does this reflect the expenditure in respect to those cars? Lovely motor cycles with sirens blaring all hours of the day and night! This Government is putting Guyana on the map, but what of our people who are still looking for jobs? Our children are still leaving school by the thousands. Name one new job opportunity which has been created in recent times. I would like to know whether this is the total cost of Non-Aligned Conference, or whether this is only an initial cost and the rest of the story will unfold itself later when there is a further application of supplementary provision. Particularly I wish to know if this includes cost of the cars and/ or motor cycles.

Mrs. DaSilva: My leader dealt with one aspect of item 47, the new item for Republic and Independence Day Celebration Overseas. About half an hour ago, the hon. Minister of Finance told us that a large part of the additional expenditure that has made the huge total of \$2,961,100, which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have when this amount is passed is due to inflation. We did a large dissertation about not being familiar with the concept of life abroad and how it is expensive for these foreign Mission.

I think it is time we stop playing games. Birthday parties are for little children. We are growing up now and we cannot afford the luxury of every year having a birthday party. Sixty thousand dollars may not seem a large sum when we go into millions, but \$60,000 is \$60,000 in these hard guava days. It is time we stop having birthday parties every year. Let us follow our

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neighbour in Trinidad. I believe they celebrate their birthday parties of Independence once every five years. The Head of Mission can well afford out of their duty allowances and so on and so forth, to have a small drink, maybe with the Diplomatic Corps, as the hon. Prime Minister does in Guyana, but we must stop giving big birthday parties. We cannot afford it.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Mr. Ramphal): I believe the first observations were directed to item 43, and I am surprise at this stage in the day members of the Opposition should be questioning the concept of contribution to the African Liberation Movement. We are in the company of most of mankind in giving our unequivocal, and to the extent that we can possibly do so, our practical support to the African Liberation Movement. We are in the company of the world Council of Churches, who have pledged their own practical commitment in terms of funds towards the cause of the International Liberation Movement.

It is a cause that transcends Africa. It is a cause that transcends the people of the countries for whose liberation the struggle is being waged. It is a cause that concern human dignity. It is a cause that concern each and every man in each and every part of the world, and my hon. Friends opposite should have opted out of this consensus of mankind, is a matter of great regret. We shall continue to play our part. We should want to do more. Hon members opposite should be questioning how little we are contributing, and we must find more and ways, and perhaps better ways, in which we can make our support more effective.

The other comments, Mr. Chairman, for they were only comments, related to a variety, almost miscellany, of expenditure on such items as the maintenance of our Embassies and our residence abroad.

3.25 p.m.

The small amount that we make available to our Ambassadors is not for the purpose of entertaining members of the Diplomatic Corps, but for making contact with Guyanese Nationals in the Capitals in which they serve, so that we might, at least once or twice a year, have an opportunity of meeting together in these distant parts, the Guyanese community as a token of

their involvement in the whole process of nation building. These are what these amounts are for. They are not “birthday parties” as the hon. Member described them. They are very important events in the annual calendar of events for Guyanese overseas and, the hon. Member have travelled enough and have met often enough with the member of these communities to know how much these occasion mean to the in terms of a small token-link with Guyana once or twice, in February and in May.

The expenditure that was questioned in relation to Non-Aligned Conference were expenditure which formed part of the total bill that fell to Guyana on the occasion. Hon. Member when they question the validity of this expenditure demonstrates the minority opinion they hold in the community. It was an event which vast majority of the people of this country were proud of and these occasions involve expenditure. No international conference of this magnitude has have ever been held in any part of the world n a budget as small as it was contrived in Guyana. We are proud of that. That is how it should be. We built not a single building for that conference except Umana Yana, a monument of the work and the imagination of our Amerindian community. That is the way in which a international conference not only help to put Guyana on the map but can help Guyana to make a contribution to the important events that are going to move the history of the times in which we live and we should be happy to pay these small amounts towards an achievement of such greatness.

Mr. M. F. Singh: I would like to ask if this was the total cost and if there would be any further amounts which will have to be approved. Does this include the Non-Aligned Conference? For the time being, is the cost of the Umana Yana inside here too?

The Chairman: Page 8

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 57, please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Item 52 and 57, please.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, against item 52, Head “15 – Attorney General, subhead 5 – Telephone”. The legend states: “To provide for the payment of 1972 accounts.” The sum provided in the 1972 Estimates was \$10,500. If we had that to the supplementary provision now sought, \$20,348, we will get the total of \$30,848. If \$30,848 is the amount needed is for 1972 then it is obvious that the voted provision for 1973, \$22,000, will be enough. I repeat, let us provide a realistic figure. When we are preparing estimates let us look at them realistically. If the sum of \$30,848 is needed for 1972 then \$22,000, will not be enough for 1973. Let us provide enough provision and pay the Telecommunication Corporation. We should not keep the corporation waiting for nearly a year.

Item 57. This is Head 18, Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth, subhead 4 – Telegram. The voted provision is \$500. I would think that when the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth put forward this request of \$500, it felt at the time that this sum was quite adequate to meet all ordinary contingencies and to deal with the normal run of things in the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth. But there are a fantastic sum asked for supplementary provision - \$3,561. The legend states, “To provide for anticipated additional expenditure.” I suppose the hon. Minister would say as one hon. Member said, “If the Prime Minister receive a telegram he has to reply,” so if the Minister of Information, Culture and Youth receive a telegram she has reply by telegram. If that is the answer that will be given to us what can we do?

But, I make the point again. If we are not going to provided with realistic estimates at the time the Estimates are brought before this House then it will be an absolute waste of time debating the Estimates. How can you move from a figure of \$500 plus \$3,561 without some special explanation? If there is a special explanation, namely, election propaganda for the P.N.C., well then tell us so. These things are small but they add up. I think it has reached the stage where it is crying out loud for an explanation.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: I just wish to add, sir, to what the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh has said about the question of telegram. When these Estimates were prepared they were really

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“guesstimates” In the 1973 Estimates, we see that telegrams for the Ministry of Information and Culture cost \$600 in 1972. That was reasonable, but to have an estimate of \$500 and ask for additional \$3,561 surely warrants some type of explanation to this House.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice.

Mr. Ramphal: Mr. Chairman, I should like to endorse and support the only possible conclusion to which my hon. and learned Friend’s observation on item 52 could possibly have been directed, namely, that he is in a position to add.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Information and Culture.

The Minister of Information, Culture and Youth (Miss Field-Ridley): Mr. Chairman, in keeping with the observation made by the last speaker on the other side, I would like to agree with her, that in the context of what the information service and the services of the cultural section of the ministry were spending, \$500 was not, in fact, a reasonable anticipation of what was to be spent. But, you will remember, that during this present year also had added to the Ministry responsibility for the section division to deal with sports and these two additions were added to the Ministry of Information and Culture but their votes on this Head were not earned one to the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth to make it perform in the totality of services that was expected before.

The Chairman: Page 9.

Mrs. DaSilva: Sir, 58, 59, 60, and 61.

Mr. M. F. Singh: 58, 59, 60, 61 and 62.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

3.35 p.m.

Mrs. DaSilva: Sir, these items, 58 and 60, both deal with publications and publicizing. The Government is asking in item 58 for an additional \$10,000. Having first received \$18,000. In 1960 an additional \$138,000 for publishing and publicizing after having voted previously for.

\$200,000. Is the hon. Minister going to tell us again that the Ministry has expanded in sports and youth? Or is some explanation is not due to us? This vote is continually is going up and up and it must look very peculiar. All we see here is: "To meet unanticipated expenditure due to increased activity." I am sure that the hon. Minister should be able to give us some explanation.

We were told that our people and students abroad go to the embassies for information about Guyana and it must be available for them. Fair enough. But are we giving enough publicity to our Amerindian Affairs in the publications? I should particularly like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the handicraft done by the Amerindians of this country. There is one Co-op Handicraft Centre across the road which I can see. But the main Handicraft Centre, the one at Cornhill Street. People from abroad who come who coming to Guyana looking for the artifacts of our country not know where to find it. Is it not possible now to remove that building and re-site it somewhere else, could the hon. Minister not get a show-room in a more central spot, a building somewhere in the Avenue of the Republic or in Main Street in one of our buildings? I wonder if the Guyana Airway Corporation might be able to assist in this matter, so that we can display our Amerindian Handicraft in the building and if persons cannot buy them there they would at least where they can get them.

The publicizing, publicity has to be up to date; it has to keep abreast of what is happening. I should like to suggest that in view of the seriousness of the World fuel crisis right now the Ministry of Information make use of the printing facilities and impress upon our people the need for the conservation of fuel. I think the Ministry in its publication can do a lot in that way. Publication will not cost too much as long as we keep them in proportion to what we can afford... the money can be well spent, but let us know on what projects they are spent.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 58, 59, 60 and 61 under Head 18 – Ministry of Information, Culture and Youths till a very significant story and they need looking at very carefully. To me they lead to one inescapable conclusion. Compared the 1972 figure with the 1973 figures. Subhead 7, 1972, \$14,000: 1973 - \$28,000; subhead 13, 1972 - \$42,000: 1973 - \$92,000. All of these are subheads which deal with propaganda and propaganda material. And a comparison with 1972 estimates and 1972 expenditure can lead one to no other conclusion but

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that the ruling Party took the greatest advantage of their control of hard-earned taxpayers' to finance their propaganda programme for the 1973 Election.

Subhead 21, History and Customs: the legend states: "To provide for increased activities of National History and Arts Council." In 1972 the sum of \$60,000 was spent; now provision sought is \$216,000. What was done with the differences between \$60,000 and \$216,000? Tell us exactly accounts for \$216,000 to be spent by the National History and Arts Council? That is a point that can validly be made with regard to a great number of these heads. We will see in some of these applications for supplementary provision that money has been advanced from the Contingencies Fund. This does not say here that any amount of money has been advanced from the Contingencies Fund. So technically it means that you still have others unpaid bills or you are going to spend, now and the end of the year, \$136,000. Has there been any amount of money advanced from the Contingencies Fund? If there was, why was it not reflected here as had been done with so many items on this paper? If nothing has been advanced from the Contingencies Fund and the legend is in fact correct, then let us know what makes up this \$216,000 that is being requested.

Item 62, in the Ministry. I merely want to ask whether the hon. Minister has any knowledge as to what would be total cost in respect to this ne head, subhead 50 – Registration fee for second world Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. The money asks for now is \$20,410. I am not asking for this merits or demerits at all. I am merely asking whether this will be the total of money or whether further application for money will be forthcoming. I suspect that there will be further application for more money. Does the Minister have any idea of the magnitude of these requests?

3.45 p.m.

Miss Field-Ridley: Thank you very much hon. Member. First of all I would like say how refreshing it was to hear the intervention by hon. Member, Mrs. DaSilva, on the other side. I think after a long break, we have at last heard a Member of Opposition who really appreciates the great need we have for publicizing and propaganda within the government machinery. She has identified, to her knowledge, two areas which she feels the Ministry could do very much

more and in both areas I agree with her and certainly I would try and undertake, as she has suggested, some more publicity for the work of our Amerindians and try, in whatever way I can, to encourage people to visit that particular display area they have.

Perhaps, she is aware too that in publicizing one does not only have to use written word, and you will find that particular Department of Government has been very active whenever there is a fair. For example, they run booth. At the moment, there is an exhibition at the National Corporative Bank which does help to advertise the thing they do and bring sales for them. The hon. Member also identified the great need there is for a promotion campaign to encourage people to try to cut down on their of petrol and petroleum products. I confess that this is a very great need and appeals have been to the public.

We, in the Ministry, have devised a more intensive programme but we are coordinating it with the Ministry of Trade in terms of what are the possibilities for the near future and very soon, within twenty-four hours, there will be additional input into the programme we have devised. But I think that underlining her contribution has been the recognition of the need for the work within this section and if at the same time join with her remarks those made by the hon. Member Mr. Singh, perhaps I can give one answer which cover most of the heads.

During this year, the Ministry has been able to revive two publications that use to be published and printed a long time ago but which had fallen into desuetude. These are a monthly publication called "Guy News" which is circulated both internally and overseas and a weekly publication called "News from Guyana" which is also circulated internally and overseas. In addition to these two new publications, we have also introduced a fortnightly newspaper called "Forward" which I am sure the hon. Members have seen. These three new publications – new in the sense that they were not on the Estimates for 1972 – have accounted for a great deal of the expenditure here for publishing and publicizing and for distribution because if you publish them then you will have to distribute them and in that context, too, you will see the increased need for maintenance of the vehicles that we use for distribution internally.

In term of the work of the History and Arte Council, I remember that it was a Member of the Opposition – I think it was the hon. Member, Mrs. DaSilva herself – who in the last Budget

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Debate had made the point that the work of the National History and Arts Council needed to be organized in such a way that there was more emphasis in the rural areas as it tended to be too much of an Urban activity. During 1973, we were able to do this because we had the services of many performing artistes in Guyana and we were very fortunate in that Carifesta stimulated a lot of activity by our artistes. Because of these two things coming at the same time, we were able to mount what I think turned out to be a very impressive programme within the rural areas for the whole of this year and this is an on-going programme. We have been able to send artistes from Georgetown into many rural areas and to move artistes from one rural area into other rural areas and look forward to the cross fertilization of our culture strains as a result of this. This kind of increased activity involves a great deal of expenditure which is reflected in the Estimates here and, as I said this is an on-going programme. We hope that with the help of the Finance Minister we will be able to keep that kind of programme during the coming year. We have been able to build upon our experience to diverse five areas within the rural areas which we shall treat as focal point for experiences such as these but you will hear more about this when we debate the estimates for the coming year.

The hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh raised a query under subhead 50, Registration fee for the second Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture. This sum represents the total registration fee for that festival. This festival has been schedule to take place in November of 1975, very soon after the second Carifesta experience which is being held in Jamaica. I cannot tell you what the cost will be but what I can say that we will use our contribution to the Carifesta experience and pick from that contribution a representative group for this second Festival of Black and African Arts and Culture. Therefore, the head for the expenditure which will be relevant at that time will be mainly for transportation. Here I cannot give you an accurate estimate because we have been exploring the possibility of chartered flight which are beginning to look very reasonable but when these discussion have been concluded I will be in a far better position to tell you a rough estimate of the kind of expenditure that will be necessary to enable us to participate in this Festival.

The Chairman: Page 10.

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Mrs. DaSilva: Items 67 and 68.

Mr. Singh: Item 65.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva, I think we will deal with the Amendment standing in your name.

Mrs. DaSilva: sir, I wish to move the amendment that stands in my name for Item 67, under Head 19 – Ministry of Home Affairs, subhead 9 – Expenses – Election Commission. The supplementary provision sought is, \$2,000. The Amendment, as has been circulated to Members, seeking to have this item left out. Our Constitution in Article 69 states:

“The Election Commission shall have such functions connected with or relating to the registration of electors or the conduct of elections as are conferred upon it by or under the constitution or, subject there to, any Act of Parliament; and, subject to the provision of this Constitution, the Commission - ...”

Sir, I shall not read the whole thing, but suffice it to say that they are certain instructions and guidelines contain in our Constitution for the functioning of our Election Commission. This past election in July has been our second experience of the absolute farce of our Election Commission. They have not got the authority as is conferred on them by the Constitution. They are there mainly as a rubber stamps to carry out orders from above. This hon. Member Feilden Singh and myself together with Mrs. Janet Jagan, Dr. Jagan, Reepu Daman Persaud, to mention but a few, present at many talks with the chairman and members of the Election Commission prior to the Last General Elections and time and time again we are told by one of the members, Sir Lionel Luckhoo, and indeed by the chairman himself, Sir Donald Jackson, that they have not got the authority and the power; they only administer. So what is the point of wasting taxpayers' money in keeping this Election Commission going, in paying fantastic salaries, staffing an office and the rest of it? I, therefore, wish to move the Amendment that stands in my name.

3.55 p.m.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister.

The Minister of State of Home Affairs (Mr. Mingo): Mr. Chairman, this is a very simple provision. Under the Constitution, provision is made for the establishment of an Election Commission. This Commission did function for the conduct of the election concluded in July this year. Now these expenses are really to provide office assistance, to provide a typist, to provide a messenger, and officers of this sport. It has nothing to do with the whole question of the functioning of the Commission as such. I cannot therefore, the request that it be deleted.

The Chairman: I will now put the question.

Amendment –

“That the supplementary provision of \$2,000 for subhead 9 – Expenses, Election Commission of Head 19 – Ministry of Home Affairs, be left out”,

put.

Mr. Singh: Division.

Assembly divided: Ayes 2, Noes 26 as follows:

Ayes

Mrs. DaSilva

Mr. Singh - 2

Noes

Mrs. Williams

Mr. Van Sluytman

Mr. Taylor

Mr. Sukul

Mr. Sukhu

Mrs. Rayman

Mr. Nassir

Mr. Jonas

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Miss Jaiserrisingh

Miss Gill

Mr. Fowler

Mr. Corrica

Mrs. Branco

Mr. Aaron

Mr. Chowritmootoo

Mr. Bancroft

Mr. Ambross

Miss Ackman

Mr. Wrights

Mr. Thomas

Mr. Nascimento

Mr. Duncan

Mr. Kasim

Mr. Ramsaroop

Miss Field-Ridley

Mr. Carrington - 26

Amendment negatived.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva, please proceed with the other item.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 68, Head 19 – Ministry of Home Affairs, subheads 14 – National Honours. The sum of \$2,000 is sought to provide for the payment of freight and other charges on the insignia. I am not decrying our National Honours. I am very proud of our National Honours but I just want to know how the ordering of National Honours take place. When one sits on this side of the House, one gets very suspicious of all the little padding's that go in the making up of the Estimates, supplementary and otherwise. As my leader has said over and over this afternoon, every little adds up.

In 1971 when we started, the actual cost was \$13,934. Every year since we have had a request for \$5,000. We are now asked for \$2,000 to pay for increase freight charges and so on. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us on what basis the National Honours are ordered. Is it necessary that we purchase every year? I thought we had bought a sufficient amount in 1971 to last us quite a long while. This is only 1973 and National Honours are not easily distributed by and large to any Tom, Dick and Harry but must be rightly deserved. Would the hon. Minister please explain?

Mr. Singh: Item 65, Head 19 – Ministry of Home Affairs, subhead 5 – Telephones. I merely want to point out very forcibly to the hon. Minister that he needs to demand an increase in that voted provision of \$220,000 for 1973 in relation to what was spent in 1972. The legend says: "To meet increased expenditure for this year and also outstanding accounts for 1972." The sum asked for is \$500,000. The sum provided in 1972 was \$190,000.

Mr. Chairman, if we add \$500,000, \$220,000 the sum provided for this year and \$190,000 for 1972, we will get the fantastic figure of \$910,000, nearly \$1 million for telephone for two years for Ministry of Home Affairs. Is the Minister satisfied that this is indeed a realistic figure, and if this is so, then I suggest that the hon. Minister Dr. King should see that this money finds its way into the Telecommunication Corporation as fast as possible, because to have the sum of \$1 million in the Government coffers sum which should rightly go to the Telecommunication Corporation is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I have not received an explanation as to why to why these telephone accounts have not been paid. We all know that telephone account will overlap, but to overlap for a year, 1972

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account being dealt with in November 1973, and shows that something is wrong. Is it that the Telecommunication Corporation is not presenting its accounts, or is it that the Government is sitting down and not dealing with the accounts and paying them? Surely, if private industry operated this way, somebody would be fired and very fast too.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister.

Mr. Mingo: Mr. Chairman, to answer item 65, Telephone; the various section of Ministry of Home Affairs are scattered throughout this country. There has been increase activity in the Police Department, during 1973 and so it was necessary to use the telephone much oftener. The bill consequentially went up.

Also included in this account here is the sum of over \$100,000 which is partly arrears for 1972. Mr. Chairman, you will recall that the telephone rates were increased towards the end of 1972 and no provision was made for this in 1972, so we have to make provision in 1973. The police had increase activity which means that more sum must go towards paying telephone bill for that particular department.

Now to the question of National Honours, and the point raised by the hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva, about the general order for these medal. What is happening this year is that we will have to meet freight on all charges and insignia expected to arrive during this year and we also find that some material we have in stock is tarnished and will have to return to the United Kingdom to be reconditioned. This accounts for the fact that we have to have this additional amount for 1973.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, this is perhaps a convenient to take a suspension. The sitting is suspended for 30 minutes.

Sitting suspended at 4 p.m.

On resumption –

Assembly in Committee of Supply

The Chairman: Hon. Members, when the suspension was taken we had finished page 10. We will proceed to page 11. Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 72, 74 and 75, please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Item 73 and 77, sir.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 72, Head 20 – Ministry of Home Affairs – Police, subhead 6 – Ammunition, Arms and Equipment. The sum of \$28,745 is sought to meet additional expenditure as a result of an increase in the establishment. I would like to ask if this equipment bears relation only to ammunition and arms or if the equipment includes consideration for the Police Force to use breathalyzers. If they are not considering the use of breathalyzers, could the hon. Minister say when are they going to consider this?

Item 74, under the same head, subhead 11 – Prisoners Ration. We have asked to vote an additional \$3,500, “to meet additional unanticipated expenditure.” I am quite willing for us to pass this money because the cost of living is going up and the prisoner have to eat as well as everybody else, but I want the Government to realize that whilst we would pass the request for an increase in the subhead for prisoners’ rations and, further on, an increase for the nurses’ meals, it is time for the Government to consider that the cost of living does not only affect the prisoners’ rations and for nurses also but affect old age pensioners, which I will come on to later on.

We have been asked for additional money but that is not for old age pensioners. We are not being asked for money to increase allowance given to the old age pensioners. I should like to draw this matter of an increase on the rations for prisoners to the attention of the hon. Minister of Social Security later on

What are the prisoners doing? They have a farm that should help to supply and support them. Again I go back to the old people. They do not have a lovely farm has the prisoner have at

Mazaruni. I went to Mazaruni many years ago. I have not been there recently but I would assume that the farm is progressing should be even better than when I saw it. Therefore, the prisoners should be able to be practically self-supporting.

I come now to item 75, subhead 12 – Funeral expenses, in the same ministry. This is questioned in an Estimate for death is something that comes to everyone and death is not something that you quiver over. The legend states: “to provide for unanticipated additional expenses.” The sum is \$1,000. Maybe it refers to the funeral expenses for the late Commissioner of Police, in which case I withdraw, my question. I am asking because the legend states: “To provide for unanticipated additional expenditure.” I am speaking about this because on page 68 of the Estimates for this year, 1973, under the item “Funeral expenses” we see that the sum of \$2,100 was approved in 1972 but we actually spent only \$375. This year we are asked to vote \$2,100. Are we going to go on padding like this? The pattern of expenditure is between \$400 to \$500. So, what is the reason for the sudden increase to \$1,000? I would like an explanation.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 73, “Ministry of Home Affairs, Police, subhead 8 – Uniforms.” The revised estimate for 1972 was \$240,000. If you add the provision for 1973, which is \$300,000 and the amount now sought, \$101, 500, you will get a total of \$401,500. This is rather alarming. If we spent \$ 240,000, in 1972 how is it that the increase for 1973 is 401,500, which is an increase of over 60 per cent? Have we really increase the establishment by over 60 per cent? Because the legend states: “To provide additional expenditure on uniform consequent on the increase of the establishment.” It does not say “consequent on the increase in the cost of uniforms.” It says nothing about the increase in the cost of uniforms. If the expenditure has increased 60 per cent, am I to presume that the Police Force establishment has also increased 60 per cent to warrant an increase from \$240,000 to \$401,500? I shall be grateful for an answer.

Item 77, subhead 15, “furniture and bedding.” Here again the same point can be made. The original sought was \$80,000. The supplementary sought was \$45,000. This \$45,000 is as you can see, rightly over 50 per cent of what was originally sought. And the legend state: “provision inadequate due to the increase in the establishment.” Again, it is due not to an

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increase in cost, but to an increase in the establishment. Have we really increased the Police Force by 50 per cent?

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs (Mr. Mingo): Mr. Chairman, we have not increase the Police Force by 50 per cent but we have already increase the Force by about 400 in 1973 and later on we intend to increase it further.

The question of item 72, that is, ammunition, arms and equipment. We do not intend to obtain breathalyzers but the equipment refer to are things like webs, haversacks and normal things that Police are expected to use.

One question of uniforms: as I said earlier, we have already increased the police Force substantially and we still intend to increase further later on. Therefore the cost of uniforms will be greater. I notice the hon. Member Mr. Singh seems to be very adept in mathematics today. I am not a mathematician but I do not intend to go the whole way with him.

The question of prisoner' rations. The hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva must have made a mistake. The rations here are not rations for prisoner in the prison. These ration are for people on remand for whom the police would have to provided meals. This vote is not really for people in prison. It is for people on remand to whom the police have to give rations.

The question of the funeral expenses: During 1973 there were more deaths than usual in the police Force. Actually the number of death has increased. It does not include provision for funeral of the late Commissioner Austin. This vote is for funeral of policemen. There were a few decedents among policemen during this year so the number of deaths has increased.

The question of furniture and bedding: Again, the hon. Member Mr. Singh applied his mathematics. All I can say is that we have an increased establishment and we shall need more money to provide more money to provide more furniture and bedding for the Force.

The Chairman: Page 12.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 78, 79 and 80, please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Items 78, 79, if the points are not made by my hon. Colleague, and 83.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Mr. Chairman, item 78, under Head 20 – Ministry of Home Affairs – Police, subhead 20 – Prevention and Detection of crime. Additional sum of \$8,000 has been sought, “To meet additional expenditure to intensify campaign against crime.” Anybody in this House who voted against this money would be mad because we all know of the big problem of crime in Guyana and the big need for every possible avenue that can be met to detect crime. But what I want to know is: why is it then you look at page 67 of the Estimates for this year they did not spend the money that was passed for these things? This is why we talk about the bad planning, about padding.

In 1972, the approved Estimates were 39,000. Why was the money not spent? Why was only 30,000 spent? Are you going to note this now and then come back for more? In 1973 they asked for \$34,000. Now they are coming back for an additional \$8,000. Why did they not spend money at the time? Maybe we would have been better off now. We would have had the additional training that the people needed, the additional equipment and things like that. Why has it been done this way? The Estimates are passed, the money must be spent. It must be use and in a thing like the detection and prevention of crime it is not something you defer and put forward to the next year.

We now come to item 79, subhead 24 – Passports. An additional sum of \$5,000 is “To meet unanticipated additional expenditure due to greater demands for passports.” We look again at the estimate for this year on page 69, Passports, and we see the sum of \$10,000 for passports. The same point can be made as on the item, detection of crimes. In 1972 we approved \$15,000 for passports, but only \$10,000 was spent, so we come back for \$10,000 this year. Why? For the longest while, since break-up of the Coalition, people have been demanding passports, people have been rushing out of the country because life is so miserable. They want to get away and they cannot get passports. Yet in 1972 we did not use the amount voted. As a matter of fact, the

little legend states: "It was overprovided in 1971." How could it be overprovided? Spend the money so that so that the people can get their passports whether they need it to run away from Guyana or merely for going on business or on holiday. Don't have it juggling backward and forward coming to us for additional expenditure.

Item 80, Revenue Protection. The legend states: "To meet increase expenditure to intensify Police Activity for suppression and prevention of the manufacture of bush rum." Fair enough, that is all right. But what are we doing about the prevention and suppression of the illegal traffic on the border, particularly with Surinam where all the banned things that we long for and dream about come across, things like sardine and apples. They still come across through the border. What is being done? [**Hon. Members:** "Shame."] It is not a matter of shame. It is a question of fact.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh: Item 78, subhead 20, Prevention and Detection of Crime. The sum voted was \$34,000, the sum asked for is \$8,000 but I note particularly that there is no note which state that any sum has been advanced from the Contingencies Funds. If there is no note to that effect then I presume that the Police are going to embark upon some special intensified campaign to spend \$8,000 just for the month of December alone. I am heartened. I do hope the money will be spent well.

But I want to give the hon. Minister a bit of advice as to what I personally know is going on and maybe this is not known to some of your officers in the hierarchy. Mr. Chairman, I want to alert the attention to the hon. Minister to the fact that Saturday mornings I have personally seen and spoken to policemen who are involved in stopping hire-cars and selling the *New Nation* newspapers. That should not happen at all. The P. N C. claims it is well organized; leave that to the party activists to do. The police must be involved in solving crimes, there are a lot of unsolved crimes. What about the Ramsammy shooting? What about Vranny? What about the man that attacked Kenneth Percival? These are crimes that need to be solved. [*Interruption*] I am not saying that the hon. Minister knows anything about it. I have the greatest respect for that particular Minister. I would feel that if he knows that, put a stop to it. I have spoken to people in

the Police Force about it, but I don't want to give details. But let it suffice that there are policeman who, perhaps misguidedly, have been indulging in stopping hire-cars on the busy roads. Just further down the road in front of the Cosmopolitan Bookshop and by the Banks DIH, I have seen them in uniforms stopping hire-cars. The hire car driver believes the police would charge him. The police stop them and tell them, "Buy a *New Nation*", and the buy it. [Mr. Green: "Do you buy the new Nation?"] Yes, I always buy the *New Nation* because I want to know the propaganda that is being distributed by the P. N. C. But this must be a voluntary thing. [Mr. Green: "Give us the number of the policeman."] You really want it? I will give it to you. You may be very embarrassed. [Interruption] this is a serious matter. [Mr. Green: "Give us his number; he may be promoted."]

I am alarmed by the mentality of that particular speaker when he says things like that. What are we running here? I know one former Minister of Information said that there is no difference between the ruling Party and the P. N. C., but I thought that the hon. Prime Minister had put a stop to the mentality. I think, possibly, we should draw it to the attention of the hon. Prime Minister that there are people in his Cabinet who still have that kind of mentality. This is something I deprecate.

Let the people of this country see justice done. Policeman must do their duties as such instead of working like party hacks. Heaven knows we have a lot of crime and unemployment. Look at this item 79. The sum of \$5,000 supplementary is now sought and the legend states: "To meet unanticipated expenditure due to a greater demand for passports." Anybody knows what is happening in this country today will know that there is nothing unanticipated, because there are large queues at the passport office every day. It is anticipated. Where can they get employment opportunities? Where can they get food and bread? There is unemployment all over the place. Thousands of people are leaving every year. Where are the jobs for these people? What else can they do but apply for a passport and try and get out of here? They are running away from obeh legislation we are about to pass. They are running away from proposed legislation where 14-year-old will be taken and put at service of the State. That is what they are running away from. What are we becoming now? You are taking a child from a parent and putting him to work at the

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service of the state. That is why it is not an unanticipated rush for Passport. It right to be anticipated.

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The Chairman: Hon. Member, Mr. Feilden Singh that is very unbecoming of you. You do not know what provision is going to be made in respect of the National Service and you are making these statements believing them to be true and giving a wrong impression to all and sundry, how can you do that, a responsible Member of Parliament like yourself?

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman in case you do not know it is for the Members on the opposite side to categorically deny that this will be so. I say that I have heard the rumours; let them say no. you do not tell me not to say it. Let them give their answers. Your function here is to preside and their function is to answer. Let them answer the question, you must not answer it. You preside over your Parliament.

Item 83, Head 20, Ministry of Home Affairs – Police, subhead 34 – Special Constabulary. The sum of \$100,000 was voted. We are now noting that the additional supplementary provision being sought is greater than the amount originally asked for. They are asking us to approve of \$120,000 which is more than 100 per cent increase. Is it that we have increased the constabulary by over 100 per cent? The legend states; “To meet increased requirements due to revision in wages and salaries and an increase in the establishment.” It goes on to say that “An amount of \$80,600 has been advanced from the contingencies Fund.” I should like the hon. Minister to tell us whether we can expect this same level of expenditure in the New Year’s Estimates or whether this is a special amount because of the 1973 elections. In other words, will the Government seek provision of \$220,000 or more taking into consideration increases in salaries? Will that be the amount of money which will be asked for in the 1974 Estimates?

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of State.

Mr. Mingo: Mr. Chairman I will answer the last question asked by the hon. Member first. The expenditure during 1973 has been occasioned by the fact that there were Elections. I am certain that next year there will not need for all this expenditure under this subhead.

In respect to the prevention and detection of crime and expenditures on the passports and Revenue Collection, these increase have come about because of the fact that we are really intensifying our effort to try prevent and detect crime and also to increase the amount of revenue we will collect. It means, therefore, that expenditure in those areas is quit necessary. The hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva, made a point that in 1972 provision were entirely used up. This year there is a need for increase and so we seek to have increased provision in those three items.

The hon. Member, Mr. Singh, gave some information about the activities of our progressive police for which we are very thankful. I myself would try and investigate and see really if these men are doing their work in the best interest of our country. Anyway, what ever increase they are, I would like to give the assurance to the hon. Members that everything will be done to ensure that we can prevent and detect crime and also to ensure that everything is done to keep crime at a certain level in our country.

The Chairman: Page 13.

Mrs. DaSilva: I should like to ask two short questions under item 84 and 88. I wish to commend the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as a Minister. Other Ministers should follow his example. He always tries to give a straight and honest answer to questions and does not try to evade and play politics. When I was asking under item 72 about the breathalyzer he very kindly give explanation of what the additional expenditure was needed for and it was obvious that he is not the place where the breathalyzer expenditure would be sought but this is for training equipments and, obviously the police, if they are going to use the breathalyzers, would have to be trained to use them. I am particularly interested in this because I feel that many of our road accidents are caused by drunken drivers and I feel it is high time that we really went down seriously into the matter of considering the use of breathalyzers. I ask here if the Minister has any idea whether there are plans, either for now or in the near foreseeable future, for breathalyzers would be used.

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Item 88, Head 21, Ministry of Home Affairs – Prisons, subhead 5 – Fuel, Light and Sanitation. I should like to get some information about the Remand Centre at Timehri. This is fairly new, I believe and I would like to know how it functions, the work of it and how things are going on there.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of State.

Mr. Mingo: Again I am advised that we do not intend to use breathalyzers in Guyana. The training equipment is projectors and such type of equipment to assist in training generally.

On the question on the Remand Centre at Timehri, work is going on apace and we expect very shortly that the centre will be put back in operation. More security measures had to be constructed so it meant that the prisoners had to be withdrawn from that Centre. Repairs are being effected, greater protection is being provided and very shortly we expect the centre will be opened once more.

Mrs. DaSilva: Mr. Chairman, please may I just make a remark to the Minister. I understood the Minister to say that they are not considering the use of breathalyzers in Guyana. I am, indeed, sorry to hear this because I think it is most necessary. Our rising road deaths are cause for great concern and we have got to do everything possible to try to put a stop to it and, as I said, I feel many of the road deaths – I am not singular in this belief – are caused by drunken drivers. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to re-consider it and take it to Cabinet because it is time the use of breathalyzers in Guyana was thought about and put into effect.

The Chairman: Page 14.

5.05 p.m.

Mr. Singh: just a short question on item 92, Head 27, Ministry of Home Affairs – Prisons, subhead 18 – Maintenance and Operation of Land and water Transport. The sum originally voted was \$15,000 and the supplementary provision now being sought is very high, \$10,500. The legend states: “To meet increased expenditure resulting from the establishment of

the Remand Centre at Timehri”, which we talk about, “and also heavy repairs to a Launch.” I would like the hon. Minister, for our information, to tell us the name of the Launch, where it operates, and what the cost of these repairs were, because it is a high sum being asked for now is \$15,000.

Mr. Mingo: This launch is the one which operates at Mazaruni transporting prisoners and officers across from Mazaruni to Bartica. The name is “*Edgar K.*” I am not in a position to give the cost of the repairs.

The Chairman: Page 15.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 99, 100, 101, and 102.

Mr. Singh: Item 97, and item 100, if my colleague does not deal with the point.

Mrs. DaSilva: this is a sorry matter, to come back to the national registration and election again. I do not wish to belabour the question but until our whole electoral reform is gone into and is done properly and fairly, any money that we vote in this House, whether it be for the Election Commission or for the running of the general Elections, is a waste of taxpayers’ money.

In respect to various items, we are going to have revision of the National Register under item 100, subhead 4 – National Registration, Head 23, Ministry of Home Affairs – Registration and Election. Again, when the eighteen-year olds were being registered, numbers of the united Force during the last Session voted against it, as they had to, not because they were against the eighteen-year olds having a vote, but because of the way in which the registration was done, the unfair manner in which only a certain section of the community of eighteen years of age was registered. We had to vote against it but this time, but this time, elections are over and the National Register is being revised.

Unless this can be done in a proper manner and not have padded electoral lists, not have dead people on the lists, unless we can have a fairer manner of handling the whole process of our elections, there is no point in voting this money. It is a absolute waste of taxpayers’ money, and until the Government can give us this assurance there is no need for us to spend \$14,726 in

addition to the \$15,000 under item 102 for the maintenance and rental of data processing machine, because the whole thing is a farce. Unless the Minister can give us an assurance that this will be done in a fair and proper manner, to the satisfactory of everyone, to make sure that those who have to be registered, are registered, and those who should not be on the list are not on the list, we cannot support and vote for this money.

Mr. Singh: Item 97, Head 22, Ministry of Home Affairs – the Protection Services, subhead 7 – Maintenance and Operation of Land and Water Transport. The voted provision is \$71,000. The supplementary provision was being sought is \$15,000 and the legend states: “To meet the cost of maintaining and operating additional equipment received during the year.” It is not a very large sum of money being asked for, \$15,000, but it is \$15,000, and, as I said before, all these amounts add up.

I took a look at the Capital Estimates on page 77 and noted that the Capital Estimates in 1973 provided for two foam crash tenders and three water fire tenders. Could the Minister say whether this additional equipment has been received? If it has been received, then it is new as presumably it was received not so very long ago, and if it is new equipment, then perhaps a explanation is necessary in relation as to what should be the cost of maintenance of the two new foam crash tenders, in addition to three water fire tenders. If it is \$15,000 for those pieces of new equipment, then it would seem that the maintenance is very high. Could the Minister shed some light on this matter?

Item 100, subhead 4 – National Registration, under Head 83. I merely reiterates that it is a well-known fact that the revision of the National Register was carried out in a very partisan manner, and now the P. N. C. succeeded in taking its two-thirds majority, I want to ask the Minister a special question, and that is, when will we hear of concrete genuine plans to really put all eighteen-year old people on the Register without favouritism, completely impartially? Let us have genuine and impartial registration where all eighteen-year olds are put on the Register. We have heard all the allegations. Let us put our house right

Mr. Mingo: with respect to item 97, Maintenance and Operation of land and Water Transport, the equipment referred to by Mr. Singh has actually been received. Apart from this, six pumps which should have been here in 1972 came in 1973.

As far as the question asked by the hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva is concerned, I wish to state that all these things have been done already. This will also answer the query of the hon. Member Mr. Singh. Thank you very much, sir.

The Chairman: Page 16.

Mr. Singh: Item 106.

Mrs. DaSilva: the item 106, sir. This is to meet the additional expenditure due to revision of wages of charwoman. The ministry of Home Affairs – Registration, Immigration, Births. I am very pleased that the wages of charwoman are being revised because I think this is one section of the community that is very badly underpaid. It is time for their scale of wages is gone into, which reminds me to ask for the umpteenth time in this House, when are we going to get the reports of the Campbell Commission, which was to investigate the condition of work of domestic servants. I wonder if it is so far away that somebody has forgotten about it, not knowing where to look for it. I would appreciate if it can be brought to light and let us know what is happening to it.

I see something else is going to share the fate of that same Campbell Commission which has been put on the back of the shelf and does not see the light of day. It is, the report of the National Working Hours Committee. There is the situation where you have one set of our shops opening and closing during one set of hours and another set of shop doing something else. Could that also be brought off the shelf, dusted off, and brought to this House? Maybe some of the Members of this house do not know what I am talking about, especially the Campbell Commission, but I am very glad to see that the Government is expressing concern for the Charwoman under item 7, 99 and 106 all of which refer to the revision of salaries for charwoman. This gives me some hope that we will hear something of the Campbell Commission.

Mr. Chairman, for item 106, under head 25, Ministry of Home Affairs – Registration, Immigration, Births etc. ,subhead3 – miscellaneous, the voted provision is \$1,000; the

supplementary provision being sought is \$2,125. I heartily endorse the sentiment of my hon. Colleague that it is very commendable that charwoman have already shared in the increase. I make the remark without fear of contradiction that is sometime radically wrong here.

Let us examine the situation. The legend states: "To meet additional expenditure due to revision of wages of charwoman." That is all the additional expenditure is for. It is due to the revision of wages of charwoman. Let us look at the Estimates. In the Estimates, page 76, it gives the breakdown for subhead 3 – Miscellaneous-(a) cleaning expenses \$475. (b) Sundries \$525, making a total of \$1'000. If the charwoman were being allocated initially \$475, initially how is it that we are giving them, as increase due to revision of wages, \$2,125 on top of \$475? Obviously if their salary was \$475 the revision of their wages could not possibly amount to \$2,125. Somebody has made a terrible mistake. Something is wrong. If this were a general amount asked for under the miscellaneous head, as I suspect it is, not only to meet revision of wages of charwoman but also to meet additional expenses under the general miscellaneous head, under sundries, this is perhaps understandable – some more money for sundries and also some more money to meet revision of wages of charwoman. I venture that the hon. Minister will not possibly tell me that the \$2,125 being asked for is revision of wages for these \$475 a year charwoman.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of state for Home Affairs.

Mr. Mingo: The hon. Member Mr. Singh, would notice that the item is called miscellaneous. He make the point about charwoman and I wish to say that some of these charwoman used to receive as little as \$13 per month before the revision and now they are receiving \$65 per month. Apart from this, also included under that head is some amount which was spent for uniforms for messengers. These as been a great differential in the wages of charwoman and, there is also provision for the messengers.

The Chairman: Page 17.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 108 and 110, please.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Item 109 and 112, sir.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, before you proceed I have been asked that if you would be kind enough to differ consideration to items 109 to 120 until later on in the afternoon. So could we deal merely with item 108 now and then we will proceed to page 19 and go on from item 121 onwards? Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: On item 108, Head 26, Ministry of Local Government, subhead 15 – Contribution towards Maintenance of Road and Streets in Georgetown, I have just a small comment. We have been asked for \$50,000 in addition to the \$137,500 for the increase of subvention for the contribution towards maintenance of the roads and streets in Georgetown. The streets and roads in Georgetown have to be maintained, but do we have to wait until the holes get so enormous that if you fall in them you will surly break your leg if not your neck? Could we not have a system whereby it is done regularly? The Municipality has the little charts that do not cost much to use. There are three wheeled carts that go around with pipes around. I do not know the correct name but these little carts could go around with maintenance gang on them, on or two men, keeping a check on one roads and as the holes come they can be filled immediately. It is like a cavity in your tooth. If you wait until the cavity become a big hole, the dentist have to pull it out but you cannot pull out a hole in the road. A great big hole cost the country much more to upkeep. I would suggest that we do something about the maintaining of the wads when the holes are small. We have put down all these new highways, the east coast highway, the Linden highway, the Corentyne highway. We should have someone traversing the highway once a week, keeping a check on them and then we should have running repair done as they come up rather than wait until the hole get large and cause a great deal of money to be spent.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Local Government.

The hon. Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilization (Mr. Green): Mr. Chairman, the additional cost is to take care of the materials and the fact that Georgetown now is a much larger than it was some few months ago. The hon. Member referred to “large holes”. I am not aware of the “large hole” that the hon. Member referred to except that the Municipality is attempting to improve its maintenance methods and the fact that we now faster and heavier in Georgetown has contributed somewhat to the increased cost.

The Chairman: Page 19, from item 121.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 23, sir.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Item 121, 122 and 123.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Item 121, Head 32, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource, subhead 3 – Miscellaneous. The voted provision was \$14,000, and, the supplementary provision being sought is \$2,000. This is not a lot of money but it is money and the legend states, “Voted provision inadequate.” This is not enough. Could we have some sort of details, some sort of justification rather than merely the bald statement that the voted provision was inadequate? We are suppose to know these things are about and to be given some sort of explanation rather than merely being told that this was not enough.

Item 122, subhead 5 – Telephone, under the same Head. Mr. Chairman, it seem that a lot of money \$29,470 is being requested as supplementary provision here, to meet the payment of 1972 accounts and cost of additional telephone service. Well, it does suggest that \$15,000 voted for 1973 would not be enough. I wonder what the 1972 unpaid accounts are like. If the 1972 accounts were significant, if they were a significant portion of the \$29,470 being asked for, then very shortly the hon. Minister to take steps about getting some more money to pay his telephone bills because, obviously, the voted provision of \$15,000 will not be enough. I keep thinking that the Telecommunication Corporation is being done a great injustice with his bill not being paid promptly too.

Item 123, subhead 6 – Library and Publications, under the same Head. The voted provision was \$6,000 and, the sum of \$2,270 is being requested, “to provide for subscription to Denn and Bradstreet,” it states “this amount has been advanced for the Contingencies Funds.” For my personal edification, will the hon. Minister tell us who “Denn and Bradstreet” are? What service we got for the money we paid them? How much did we pay them? It would be very informative for the hon. Member on the other side also. I think I would be in a very good

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position win a bet if I did bet that 90 per cent of the Members on the Government Benches do not know what this expenditure is really for.

5.25 p.m.

Mrs. DaSilva: sir, I make the second Opposition Member who does not know what are Denn and Bradstreet.

Mr. Jack: Mr. Chairman, we regard to item 121, this provision asked for is to cover increased payment to charwoman and also other sundry items. I had not anticipated this particular question and I must apologize for not having come armed with the total list. But I can assure you hon. Friends that on the next occasion I will give him the complete list of the number of toilet rolls, cakes of soap, disinfectant and so forth which are purchase with his provision, I am sure that he will be satisfied.

I regard the telephone, there was a payment to be made for 1972 as it appears in the notes, and this was an amount of some \$14,000. It would appear that the comment made by my hon. Friend is to the point with regard to this particular item. But I can assure this House that we have taken measures with regard ensuring provision to see that we adequately covered the amount needed in the telephone in the coming year.

One other thing that we must take into account is that the Ministry have been exhorting member of the staff to keep down the cost of telephone calls, but we all know this is something not easily supervised. Sometimes some calls may be made which are not strictly business calls and it is difficult to monitor this. However, we have instituted a system of as greater supervision as we can, and I am happy to say that we have cut down on the amount of what I may call unnecessary calls that were be made in the past.

Dunn and Bradstreet. My ministry is concerned with the discussion and negotiation with a number of foreign firms which come to Guyana for the purpose of investing in Guyana. Dunn and Bradstreet is an American firm which supplies information which regard to the financial status of the firms which are potential investor. It is a well-known firm that is used by most business houses and by most country in the world who want to get a breakdown of the financial

provision of various firms which come to do business with them. For instance, a company come to tell you that has 100 million to invest and to produce a nice brochure, but you want to be sure that this is, in fact, the case and we think that the money is well spent to make sure that the would-be investor are really checked out. That is really Mr. Denn and Bradstreet.

The Chairman: Page 20.

Mr. Singh: Item 126, 128 and 129. Mr. Chairman, item 126, Head item 126, Head 32, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, subhead 30 – Maintenance and Operation of Mobile Sawmill. The token amount of \$1 was provided and the sum now sought is \$79,179. The legend states:

“To provide for the continuation of the operation of the Mobile Sawmill until its establishment as the Timber Corporation.”

I should ask the hon. Minister if he has really gone into details of the operation of this Mobile Sawmill. I should also like to ask him if he is satisfied that it is a paying proposition, whether he has seen the balanced sheet. My information – it may be wrong – is that this is really a white elephant, that it is losing money, that the cost of maintenance and operation are very high, and it lacks versatility. I wonder if the hon. Minister can enlighten me on this. I would be happy to hear that the information I received is wrong.

Item 128, subhead 5 – Telephone, under Head 33, Ministry of Economic Development. The hon. Minister has explained this and I was going to ask the hon. Minister of Finance how this \$20,000 crept in as previous supplementary provision but he explained that the President okayed this while the House was not in session. So that is answered. But one would think that perhaps the Minister should look at this amount of \$25,000 voted, like the others, and satisfy himself as whether it is really adequate to meet the cost of the 1973 telephone services.

Item 129, subhead 19, Rental and maintenance of Equipment, under the same Head. The voted provision was \$20, 000, the Supplementary Provision being sought is \$18, 000. There must be a reason for this legend states. “To meet the cost of additional data processing.” These estimates presumably were gone into by the hon. Minister and he was satisfied at that time that

this was sufficient. I expect him to give an explanation as to why this \$20, 000 must now be supplemented by a 400 percent increase, that the total amount would be not \$20, 000 but \$100, 000. What is the cost of additional data processing? Why is it unforeseen? What is it all about?

Mr. Chairman, there was a dollar put in the estimate for item 126 because we had intended to create a Corporation in January. As it turned out, we did not create the Corporation until July and for that reason we were forced to spend this amount of money during that time.

The Corporation has been established. It is known as the Forest Industries Corporation and I am told that it has collected approximately \$150, 000 up to the end of June. With regard to the question as to whether this Corporation will be a paying proposition or not I think it is too early to come to a definite conclusion though the indications are that we will make a profit for this year.

The question of the establishment of a Mobile Sawmill has been a vexed one for some time. Experts have differed on this question. Some have felt that we should experiment with a Mobile Sawmill and there have been other experts equally renowned who have held a contrary view. This Mobile Sawmill was established as a result of the advice of the previous Conservator of Forest and we hoped at that time, and we still do, that it would point the way for our saw millers to exploit profitably certain species of our forests. As I said, it would take at least another year before one could tell whether it is going to fulfil the expectations which we have for it.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister, Dr. King

The Minister of Economic Development (Dr. King): I admit that there was an underestimate, sir.

The Chairman: Page 21.

Mr. Singh: Items 130, 132 and 134. Let me commend the hon. Minister. Item 130, Head 33, Ministry of Economic Development with a new subhead, Subhead 27-Contribution to the Commonwealth Caribbean Regional Secretariat for a Manpower Survey. I would really like some information on this and that is why we have a parliament. Government as I understand it,

has already done a survey of the employed. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what would really be the benefit of this survey. What would be undertaken? When would it be undertaken? What are the details of this? Will the hon. Minister tell us something about this? We really do not know anything about it and it would be a good opportunity for the hon. Minister to hold forte and explain it to the whole House.

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry but item 132 under Head 34, Ministry of Works and Communications (Communications subhead 5-Telephones, has been answered by the hon. Minister of Finance. The previous supplementary provision of \$107, 978 was approved in absentia but perhaps the hon. Minister should take a look at the voted provision of \$20, 000 for 1973 because it seems quite apparent that that amount would not be enough. Item 134, under Head 34, subhead 8- Cuyuni Boat Service Subsidy. I am very glad to say that at long last it is recognized that a boat service in the interior area needs a subsidy. The voted provision was \$300 and the supplementary provision is \$2, 100 and the legend says, "to provide for an increase in subsidy from \$300 per annum with effect from January 1, 1967." Whoever these people are, they have waited a long time. I wonder whether the hon. Minister would tell us who operates this boat service and perhaps the reasons which justify the increase, I have no doubt that they are good reasons . Could he also say what really is involved in this Cuyuni Boat Service, where does it ply, from what point to what point, how it operates etc.

The Chairman: Hon. Minister of Economic Development.

Dr. King: Hon. Mr. Feilden Singh has asked why it is necessary to provide a contribution to the Commonwealth Caribbean Region Secretariat to enable a man power survey to be undertaken. In 1972 at a meeting of the Head of Government of the Caribbean held in Trinidad, the Heads of Government were conscious of the fact that we were a developing, expanding economy in the Caribbean. The Heads of Government were Conscious of the fact that in order to develop the economy of this region successfully it would be necessary to survey the manpower resources available in the community; to identify the jobs which were necessary in order to develop the countries and, from the information gained from this manpower survey, to plan the education process so that the gaps which were identified might be filled. This survey is being

undertaken by the Universities in the region; the one at Mona, the one at St. Augustine and the one at Turkeyen.

We got a bill of some \$7,000 odd this year as a part of our contribution to this survey. As it is recognized that this survey is a very important part of our developmental plan, I am sure that the hon. Members on the opposite side would agree that it is a small amount to pay for something so vitally important to our community.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Works and Communication (Mr. Wrights): Mr. Chairman, under item 134 the hon. Member, Mr. Feilden, would like to know about the Cuyuni Boat Service which began about fifteen years ago with a subsidy of \$300. We are now asking for the sum of only \$600. He always want to know who is operating this service is. This service is useful to people in that area and also to the porknockers. As I have mentioned, fifteen years ago only \$300 had to be subsidized and that is why we are asking for this amount.

Mr. Singh: I was not objecting to the money: I was merely asking the details of the service, what point it operated from and that sort of thing. I wanted the details of the service itself.

The Chairman: Hon. Member, Mr. Feilden Singh, I think that is a question which you should ask with notice. Really, it is difficult for him to give all the details. Page 22.

Mr. Singh: Item 137 and 138. Item 137, Head 37, Ministry of works and Communication (Communications) Civil Aviation, subhead 4 – Maintenance of Vehicles. The voted provision was \$6,000 and the supplementary provision and the supplementary provision now sought is \$6,500 greater than the amount originally asked for. The legend states: “Voted provision inadequate on account of an increase in the number of vehicles.”

5.45 p.m.

Since the amount asked for is more than 100 per cent increase, the obvious question is whether the vehicles have increased by over 100 per cent, because it is nit said that this is due to the increase cost of maintenance. I noted that no new vehicles was budgeted for in the Capital

Estimates on page 115, so that the increase in these vehicles came from somewhere else. Will the hon. Member deputizing for the hon. Minister tell us how many vehicles have been added to the fleet because, I repeat, the increase asked for is over 100 per cent, and if they are new vehicles, then the money being asked for is a great sum indeed. It is too much for new vehicles.

Item 138, under the same head, subhead 9 – Search and Rescue Service. The voted provision was \$100, obviously a token provision. Supplementary provision now being asked is \$16,686 and the legend states: “To provide for the payment of expenses incurred during the search and rescue operation earlier in the year.” It presuppose that member of Parliament would know what search and rescue operation is being spoken of here. **[Interruption]** I do know what search and rescue operation they are referring to, and I am very much in sympathy with the people being affected by that particular crash and the search and rescue operations thereafter. That is why I am reminded of a conversation I had with a group of pilots some time before, when about four years ago, there were a similar crash. The pilots told me very forcibly that what was needed in Guyana was legislation whereby a special small inexpensive piece of equipment be fitted compulsorily to each aircraft. I cannot remember the name of it but the experts would know. It is either a homing device or a warning device. When the plane crashes, the device sends out a signal. The signal would register in the receiving equipment that the Director of Civil Aviation has or, for the matter, anyone who has the kind of receiving equipment, and that would make the pin-points very easily area of crash. It may not be done easily but at least it would give a much more reasonable hope that exists at the present moment of locating a crashed aeroplane. I strongly recommend that the Government introduce legislation to make this compulsory. I understand that this is compulsory in other countries.

We have lost very expensive equipment, and the lives of our good citizens, very worthy citizens, and I think that it is a terrible loss to this country. I understand that this equipment cost no more than \$2,000 Guyana. It sends out a signal at the time. I got this information from pilots who have flown aeroplanes where this equipment has been installed. I would commend to hon. Minister or his Deputy that they investigate this, and providing that it is feasible – and I do not see any reason why it would be – put forward legislation to make this a reality.

The Chairman: Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works and Communications.

Mr. Wrights: in reply to the question of the hon. Member Mr. Singh on item 137, last year vehicles were ordered and only arrived this year and due to the increase cost of fuel and spare parts, we had to ask for an increase of \$6,500.

On item 138, I think he should remember than an aircraft was lost at Mahdia. We have now received the expenses for the recent lost of that aircraft at Mahdia. This is why we had only a token vote. The \$16,686 that we are requesting is to pay the expenses of those aircraft which were loaned to us from Brazil and America, and aircraft from Guyana.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, I know that. I said it here. I said I know with the greatest sympathy. I am not talking about the expenditure at all. I am merely saying I recommend that legislation be introduced to install these warning devices. I agree with the expenditure.

The Chairman: Page 23.

Mr. Singh: Item 142, 144 and 145. Here again, Mr. Chairman, the voted provision for item 142, Head 38, Ministry of Works and Communications (Works) – Establishment, subhead 7 – Operation of Vehicles was \$95,000 and the supplementary provision requested is \$38, 630. The legend states: “To meet increased operational and maintenance costs due to an expansion of fleet.” Again, the reason given is an expansion of the fleet, so the obvious question is, by how many has this fleet been expanded. I find no provision in the Capital Estimates for purchase of vehicles to expand the fleet and, therefore, I wonder whether it is the same business where vehicles were ordered in 1972 and receive in 1973. It may well be. Could the hon. Member tell us that?

We note very carefully also that the amount of money represent at least 50 per cent over the provision sought initially in the Estimates. Would the hon. Member tell us how many vehicles will use up this \$38,630?

29.11.73

National Assembly

5.45-5.55 p.m.

Item 144, under Head 38, the Ministry of Works and Communication (Works) – Establishment, subhead 15 – Repairs to Typewriter and Adding Machines. Just a word of warning, Mr. Chairman. Old Typewriter will give trouble and if the voted provision is inadequate on account of more rapid deterioration of equipment because of age, they must provide a little bit more money rather than coming here so often. If the equipment is old, provide more money for maintenance.

Item 145, under the same Head, subhead 16 – Hydrographic Surveys. The sum of \$122,700 was originally provided, and a nice tidy sum of \$50,000 is being sought as a supplementary provision. The legend states: “To provide for the docking and repair to Survey Launch H.N. Critchlow.”

5.55 p.m.

Everyone knows that boats and launches, should be periodically inspected and it must have been anticipated that the launch would have needed docking and repairs in 1973. Therefore this sum of 50,000 should have been provided originally in the Estimates to pay for the repairs and docking. The significant point I will make is this: no sum has been advanced from the

Contingencies Fund, therefore the presumption is, that the \$50,000 will be spent in December for the docking and the repair for this launch. That is not true. You cannot spend \$50,000 on the “Critchlow” in December. So if you are asking for \$50,000 it means that either money has been spent already without approval; it has not been advanced from the Contingences Fund. From what vote it come, we know not. If money had been spent well, obviously, \$50,000 will not be spent in the month of December alone. Will the hon. Member care to elucidate on this?

The Chairman: The Parliamentary Secretary of Works.

Mr. Wrights: Mr. Chairman, replying to the hon. Member’s question on item 142, there is, indeed, an increase in fleet. That increases the cost of fuel, oil and revision of wages and other supplementary provisions. That is the reason why we have asked for this.

We would agree that new typewriters are needed. We have ordered, they have not arrived and, we have to do something to keep the machine rolling.

Item 145, the job has been done to the launch "Critchlow", by Sproston's. We owe the firm and will have to pay. That is the reason why we asked for this sum.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, there are two points I should like to make. It is not an unreasonable question to ask. What was responsible, under item 142, for the expansion of fleet? The statement: "To meet increased operational and maintenance costs due to an expansion of fleet," merely tell me that it is for me to know how the fleet was expanded. It is not answering my question. I asked how the fleet was expanded, because I have checked in the provision under the capital head in the Capital Estimates, and there were no provisions for buying new vehicles. Obviously the fleet come from somewhere and if you tell me that it is for me to know then, I should not bother to ask any questions because I do not have a magic wand; I cannot find out how the fleet was expanded. The hon. Member behave very well when replying to the previous questions. He did explain to me that the vehicles were ordered last year and came in this year. I am thankful to him for that explanation. I am merely asking him what is responsible for this one now. If he had told me the same thing I would have accepted it. If he tells me that it is for me to know, I would say that I do not have a magic wand neither am I an "obeah man".

The next point I will make, Mr. Chairman, is that obviously the repairs to the Survey Launch "Critchlow" were done without financial approval. We are now giving the approval. What was done was wrong.

The Chairman: Page 24. Hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M. F. Singh: I should like to deal with items 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150.

The Chairman: Please proceed.

Mr. M. F. Singh: item 146, Head 38, subhead 22, Remuneration of Project Co-operations. The legend here informs us that the sum of \$11,500 is sought because the voted

provision was inadequate “on account of salary provision.” My information is that these Project Co-operations are not, in fact, recruited through the regular stream of the Civil Service. They are political appointees. How many of them are there? Where are they deployed? What salaries do they get? I would like the hon. Member to correct me if I am wrong but, my information is – and I remember reading an advertisement in the newspaper recently - that these Project Co-operators are not employed through the Public Service Ministry. They are employed by the politicians and this does not form part of the general stream of the Civil Service. If I am wrong I would be very happy to be corrected, but I would like some more information on these P.N.C. boys who are Project Co-operators.

Item 147, Head 38, “Ministry of Works and Communication (works) – Establishment, subhead 23 – Uniforms.” The voted provision was \$8,000. The supplementary provision now sought is \$2,000. The legend states, “Voted provision inadequate on account of unanticipated expenditure.” Well, if the legend had said that the uniforms were more expensive on account of an increase in the cost of one would understand, but this term “unanticipated expenditure” is something that is a bit of mystery. Is it really that the cost of uniforms has gone up and the sum of \$2,000 is needed because the uniforms are costing more? That, obviously, should be the reason. So let us not put fancy explanations in the legend.

Item 148, Head 38, subhead 24 – Public Printing. The sum of \$600,000 was originally voted and, then supplementary provision of the tune of \$350,000 was passed in Financial Paper 4 of 1973 in May 1973. We are now being asked for a further sum of \$256,295. These are really fantastic sums of money, well over \$1,000,000. The legend states, “Voted Provision inadequate on account of increase price of materials,” and the small sum of \$16,277 have been advanced from the Contingencies Fund. If the Contingencies Fund had advanced only \$16,277 what were we doing with this \$256,295? Subtract \$16,277 from \$256,295 and you will get approximately \$240,000. Are we spending that between now and the end of the year? And if we are, on what we are spending this? For what increased prices of material at the public printer? What are we printing? I do not know, unless we have expended money without Parliamentary approval and without advance from the Contingencies Fund.

6.05 p.m.

Item 149, Head 38, subhead 25 – Advertisements. The sum of \$40,000 was originally provided, \$77,291 is being asked for now, an increase of nearly 200 per cent. All that is said is that the provision was inadequate. Was it inadequate to the tune of nearly 200 per cent? An advance of \$32,000 has been made from the Contingencies Fund. But again, what are these advertisements? Let us know. They must be very significant advertisements to account for 200 per cent increase.

Item 150, Head 38, subhead 26 – Central Stationery Store. The sum of \$270,000 was originally provided and the Supplementary Provision now being sought is \$80,000. The legend states, “To provide for additional supplies for the expansion of public service.” Something seems to be ridiculously wrong here. The Public Service Ministry has been going for some time and it has been having very detailed plan. Surely they knew it was expanding why did not they tell the Central Stationery Store their requirements so that instead of making our estimates unrealistic by coming at the stage to ask for this sum we could have put this amount in the original provision so that we could have had the full picture at the beginning instead of lopsided business of asking for some money first and now speaking of an expansion of the Public Service Ministry.

Mr. Wrights: Mr. Chairman, I will start with item 150, Central Stationery Store. I should like the hon. Member Mr. Singh to understand at this page Guyana has no control over purchasing abroad, secondly, this ministry purchase stationary for all other Ministries.

Advertisement, item 149: The cost of printing advertisements in all newspaper has to pay. Item 148, Public Printing: The amount \$256, 295 being sought here, is to pay for the printing of official Gazettes, forms, Annual Reports, Estimates, etc. these payment have been made to the Guyana Printers.

Item i47, Uniforms. The paltry sum of \$2,000 is being asked for uniforms for our drivers, messengers, security guards and I do not believe that the hon. Member would expect one suit would keep these men tidy enough.

The Chairman: Page 25.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 152.

Mr. Singh: Item 153 and 156.

The Chairman: Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Mrs. DaSilva: Head 39, Ministry of Works and Communications (Works) – Annually Recurrent, subhead 2- Lighting of Seawall, Camp Road, Vlissingen Road and National Park. Mr. Chairman, I am not questioning the amount of money that is needed to pay for the installation of these lights because obviously they have to be paid for. But I am using the opportunity under this Head to point out the terrific waste of materials that cost the citizens of Guyana money; I am referring specifically to the street lighting. I have noticed over and over again that street lights are on in the city, in the new areas, in country areas, particularly on the East Coast with which I am familiar. Only this morning I noticed the one at Haslington has been on for the last two or three days. It is more serious than ever now that we have a fuel crisis. And talking about fuel crisis I forgot to mention, earlier when I was talking about the needs for us to take the fuel crisis seriously, that we should not wait until we are down to our last pint of oil or gallon of gasoline before we do something about it. The hon. Minister has said that we will have an announcement on it shortly, but could we consider starting first and doing away with things that are not absolutely necessary, for instance, decorations, neon signs and so on? Probably we have to do without decorated Christmas trees this year.

6.15 p.m.

It is necessary that we do not have Christmas Trees decorated this year. It is very sad because it is wonderful that we should have one time of the year where the poor and those who are less fortunate could, at least, place their eyes on something to give them a little happiness and pleasure and forget that they are hungry and out of work. But this year it is necessary that we do without decorated Christmas Trees, Christmas lights, the light on trees on company path and so and also that we cut down too on ministerial travelling. Maybe, we can ban Sunday travelling as have been found necessary in other countries.

This is dealing with the fuel crisis, but I want to use this head to talk about the waste that goes on not only, I will admit in the Government Department but in private sectors. There is the waste of materials and the waste of stationery, not forgetting the waste of time in departments. A special effort or special drive should be put on through the Ministry of Information and Culture with publication urging that the people treat the property of the citizen of Guyana with more taught, consideration and respect, and they do not waste public funds as they do. Maybe we would then have more money to help the old age pensioners.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 153 Head 39, subhead 3 – Maintenance of Compounds and Paths. I note that the amount voted originally was \$150,000 and the sum of \$60,000 is now being sought. The legend states: “To carry out additional essential maintenance works.” I may be wrong but I am under the impression that under maintenance of compounds and paths, the money was provided for things like the National Park. This subhead use to meet expenditure for the expenses for the maintenance of the National Park. If that is true, then would like to tie it in with a item on page 26, item 159, subhead 41 – (New) – National Park Commission. If the maintenance of the National Park is being dealt with under the subhead – Maintenance of Compound and Paths – then there should be extra money in this vote used to be for it. If that is not so, I would still like to ask what are the additional and essential maintenance works that are proposed for the month of December in respect to maintenance of compounds and paths.

Item 156, Head 34 – Special Grants to Drainage and Irrigation Areas to Reduce Rate Assessments. This a vexed question indeed. There always have been problem in respect of these drainage and irrigation areas. I am very happy to see that additional consideration is being given to these areas. The voted provision was \$448,000 and the additional amount being asked is \$365,044. I have no quarrel with the amount being asked for. I think these areas are in need of some help but I would like to have an explanation on the legend “to provide for the payment of outstanding accounts.” What are these outstanding accounts? In respect to what area are they outstanding?

The Chairman: The Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Wrights: Item 152. Hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva, spoke of the lighting of the sea wall and Public Roads. The Ministry is responsible for the lighting of the streets. Such questions will be sent or posted to the Mayor of the Town Council. We agree that there is waste of fuel but notices have been sent out to the consumers. Everyone would have to realize that within certain hours the light will be off. When it comes to waste, we agree that there is plenty of waste all over the country.

The hon. Member Mr. Singh has agreed with the provision we have asked for in connection with Drainage and Irrigation.

The Chairman: Page 26.

Mr. Singh: Item 159 and 160.

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 159.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, subhead 41 – National Parks Commission is a new subhead under Head 39. The sum being ask for is \$50,000 to provide the funds required urgently for the maintenance of the National Parks and an amount of \$25,000 has been advanced from the Contingencies Fund. I would like to ask the hon. Member if he could give us details. If they are not available, I will ask in the form of a written question. What are the details of the maintenance of the National Parks that are so urgently required? Presumably \$25,000 has been spent because the Contingencies Fund has been advanced to that but there is an additional \$25,000 to be spent between now and the end of the year. What was the first \$25,000 spent for and what is the second \$25,000 going to be spent for.

Item 160, subhead 42 – (New) Georgetown City Council, under Head 39 again, this is a new subhead and it is \$50,000 to meet the cost of certain road works. Presumably, the Georgetown City Council has made an approach to the Ministry and the Ministry, in its generosity, has seen it fit to request the sum of \$50,000 for the cost of certain road works. I have no doubt that the Ministry would have demanded and would have received from the City Council the information as to exactly what they would do with this 50,000. I would like to have the benefit of that information. What would this \$50,000 be used for?

Mrs. DaSilva: Item 159 dealing with the new subhead, National Park Commission, I want to ask the hon. Member – if he cannot answer now and wishes to have a formal question, I would submit that later – can he tell us which parks comprises the National Parks? When we talk of the National Park, I always think specifically of Queen Elizabeth National Parks also comprises of the Botanical Gardens, Company Path Garden, and the Promenade Garden? That is what I would like to clarified. I would like the hon. Member to tell me what makes the National Parks Commission, where are the National Parks, or how many parks make the national parks?

Referring to the use of the Queen Elizabeth Parks by organizations, what criteria is used to measure whether one qualify us to use that place, of charity or after payment? I would like to know what yardstick is use for organization to use it. I asked this particularly because I remember the very unfortunate incident when earlier we had one of our Indian organizations wanting to use the National Park to celebrate their national holiday, and it was turned down.

The Chairman: Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Wright: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member Mr. Singh was asking about \$50,000. That is the subsidy given by the Government to the City Council.

The hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva was asking about the Queen Elizabeth Park, I think she should visit the National Park: she will see changes [**Interruption**] Mr. Chairman, the hon. Member is satisfied with the National Park. There is a Commission and anyone who wants to use the park will have to write the Commission. The Commission also looks after all the other parks.

The Chairman: perhaps this is a convenient time to take the Adjournment. Could the Assembly resume please.

Assembly resumed.

29.11.73

National Assembly

6.25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, “That this Assembly do now adjourn until Friday, 30th November, 1973, at 2 p.m.” [**Mr. Ramsaroop**]

Adjourned accordingly at 6.30 p.m.
