

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956).

Wednesday, 26th April, 1961

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :

Speaker, His Honour, Sir Donald Jackson

Chief Secretary, Hon. Major I. O. Smith, O.B.E. (acting)

Attorney-General, Hon. A. M. I. Austin, Q.C. *ex officio*

Financial Secretary, Hon. W. P. D'Andrade.

The Honourable Dr. C. B. Jagan	—Member for Eastern Berbice (Minister of Trade and Industry)
„ „ B. H. Bean	—Member for Essequibo River (Minister of Natural Resources)
„ „ Janet Jagan	—Member for Western Essequibo (Minister of Labour, Health and Housing)
„ „ Ram Karran	—Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Minister of Communications and Works)
„ „ B. S. Rai	—Member for Central Demerara (Minister of Community Development and Education).
Mr. R. B. Gajraj	—Nominated Member
„ W. O. R. Kendall	—Member for New Amsterdam
„ R. C. Tello	—Nominated Member
„ F. Bowman	—Member for Demerara River
„ L. F. S. Burnham, Q.C.	—Member for Georgetown Central
„ A. L. Jackson	—Member for Georgetown North
„ E. B. Beharry	—Member for Eastern Demerara
„ S. M. Saffee	—Member for Western Berbice
„ Ajodha Singh	—Member for Berbice River
„ R. E. Davis	—Nominated Member
„ A. M. Fredericks	—Nominated Member
„ H. J. M. Hubbard	—Nominated Member
„ A. G. Tasker, O.B.E.	—Nominated Member.

Mr. E. V. Viapree—Clerk of the Legislature (acting)

Mr. V. S. Charan—Assistant Clerk of the Legislature (acting).

ABSENT:

Mr. S. Campbell—Member for North Western District.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh—Member for Georgetown South—on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Major I. O. Smith, O.B.E., Chief Secretary (acting), took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance and was welcomed as an *ex officio* Member of the Council.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Friday, 17th February, 1961, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I beg to announce that the hon. Member for Georgetown South, Mr. Jai Narine Singh, has asked leave to be absent today and during the rest of the week. He is, at present, out of the Colony.

I should mention also that he has asked that the Question standing in his name on the Order Paper be deferred. I believe that when the order Paper was published he had already made arrangements to go away, and had no time to arrange for his Question to be asked by another Member. We will have to allow his Question to stand down.

PAPERS LAID

The Chief Secretary (Major Smith, acting): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

Order No. 5 of 1961 made under subsection (1) of section 2 of the British Guiana (Electoral Provisions) Order in Council, 1960, on the 8th day of February, 1961.

The Financial Secretary (Mr. D'Andrade): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (i) Order in Council No. 102 of 1960 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 21st day of December, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of February, 1961.

- (ii) Order in Council No. 13 of 1961 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 14th day of February, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of March, 1961.
- (iii) Order in Council No. 15 of 1961 made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 15th day of March, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 18th of March, 1961.
- (iv) Statement of Loans from Voted Expenditure written-off during the period ended 31st December, 1960.
- (v) Report of the Meeting of Finance Committee held on 21st February, 1961.

Mr. Speaker: The question is, "That the Report of the Meeting of Finance Committee held on 21st February, 1961, be adopted".

Question put, and agreed to.

Report adopted.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

Seventieth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

Report of the Commissioners of the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (i) The Telephone Service — Sessional Paper No. 1/1961.
- (ii) Memorandum on the Report of the Deputy Director, West Indies Meteorological Service, on his visit to British Guiana — 4th to 8th April, 1960. Sessional Paper No. 2/1961.

Dr. Jagan: On behalf of the Minister of Community Development and Education, I beg to lay on the Table:

Annual Report on the Treatment of Offenders for the year 1959.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES MOTIONS

The Financial Secretary (Mr. D'Andrade): Sir, I beg to give notice of the three Motions standing in my name on the Order Paper:

- (i) Be it resolved: That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 102 of 1960, which was made on the 21st day of December, 1960, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of February, 1961.
- (ii) Be it resolved: That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 13 of 1961 which was made on the 14th day of February, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 4th of March, 1961.
- (iii) Be it resolved: That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 15 of 1961, which was made on the 15th day of March, 1961, and published in the Gazette on the 18th day of March, 1961.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): Sir, I beg to give notice of the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper:

Whereas by virtue of section 59 of the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1956, the said Ordinance will expire on the last day of April, 1961;

And whereas it is provided in the said section 59 that the Legislative Council may, prior to the expiration of the Ordinance, by resolution declare that the Ordinance shall continue in force for such period as may be specified in the resolution:

And whereas it is expedient that the aforesaid Ordinance should continue in force for a further period of five years:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Ordinance, 1956, shall continue in force for a further period of five years up to and including the 30th April, 1966.

PETITIONS PRIVATE BILL

GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Tasker: Sir, I beg, in terms of Standing Order 53 (3), to give notice of a private Bill to amend the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce Ordinance. A petition in relation to the Bill has been submitted to the Clerk of the Council.

The Clerk read the following Petition:

"To His Honour The Speaker
And Honourable Members
Of The Council:

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE
GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

1. Your Petitioners are the President and Secretary respectively of the Organization known as the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

2. The Office of the above Chamber is located at Lot 10, America Street, Georgetown.

3. The Chamber was incorporated on 5th February, 1890 by Ordinance No. 3 of 1890—now Chapter 200, and its objects are as set out in Section 6 of the Ordinance.

4. The Membership of the Chamber consists of 147 subscribers and eight honorary members.

5. The Chamber desires to increase the number of members constituting the Council from fifteen to twenty-one, and for this purpose seeks permission to amend the Ordinance.

Your Petitioners respectfully request permission to have introduced by ANTHONY TASKER, Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ORDINANCE CHAPTER 200.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS AS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY.

(sgd) H. L. Steele, President

(sgd) Kenneth Wishart, Secretary

10 America Street,
Georgetown,
BRITISH GUIANA."

Mr. Speaker: The question is, "That the promoters be allowed to proceed".

Question put, and agreed to.

PRIVATE BILL

BIBLE PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BRITISH GUIANA BILL

Mr. Davis: Sir, I beg, in terms of Standing Order 53 (3) to give notice of a private Bill to incorporate the Bible Protestant Congregational Church of British Guiana and for purposes connected therewith. A petition relating to the Bill has been submitted to the Clerk of the Council.

The Clerk read the following Petition:

"BRITISH GUIANA.

COUNTY OF DEMERARA.

HIS HONOUR THE SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The humble Petition of:

REVEREND DOCTOR ALLAN CARLYLE MILLER,
and

OSCAR MILLER, in their capacity as the Director and Secretary and the accredited representatives of the BIBLE PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of British Guiana,

RESPECTIVELY SHEWETH.

1. That the Bible Protestant Congregational Church of British Guiana has been working among the people of this Colony continuously since 1955 as a christian body under the direction of the Reverend Doctor Allan Carlyle Miller.

2. That at date there are 4 (four) organised churches located in the colony of British Guiana viz: (1) Beterverwagting, East Coast, Demerara, (2) Plaisance, East Coast, Demerara, (3) Campbelville, East Coast, Demerara, and (4) Kawkwani, Berbice River.

3. That the enrolled membership at date exceeds 1000 (one thousand) and a Sunday School enrolment of nearly 500 (five hundred) children.

4. That on or about the year 1949, the Reverend Doctor Allan Carlyle Miller, was appointed a Marriage Officer of the colony of British Guiana and is still performing the duties in the several churches as such.

5. That the Mission has one property herein mentioned in the Schedule and is now building churches at Campbellville and Plaisance, East Coast, Demerara, and desires to be incorporated in order to be able to acquire, retain and dispose of immovable properties and to sue and be sued within the colony for the benefit of its members.

Your Petitioners respectfully request permission to have introduced by Mr. Robin E. Davis, a Nominated Member of the Legislative Council, "A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE THE BIBLE PROTESTANT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of British Guiana and for purposes connected therewith.

AND AS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY.

(Sgd) A. Carlyle Miller,
Director

(Sgd) O. M. Miller
Secretary

PETITIONERS.

Georgetown, Demerara,
6th March, 1961."

Mr. Speaker: The question is, "That the promoters be allowed to proceed."

Question put, and agreed to.

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONS

NON-CHRISTIAN HEAD TEACHERS

Mr. Tello: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Community Development and Education Question No. 9 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

(a) How many qualified non-Christians are there available for appointment as Head Teachers?

- (b) How many fully qualified non-Christian Teachers have applied for appointment as Head Teachers or Deputy Head Teachers in—

- (i) denominational schools;
(ii) Government schools;

how many were appointed in either category; and if not appointed, why?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): On behalf of the Minister of Community Development and Education, I wish to say that the answer to the hon. Member's Question is as follows: The Education Department keeps no record of the religious persuasion of teachers. I am therefore in no position to say how many qualified non-Christians are available for appointment as Headteachers, or how many qualified non-Christian teachers have applied for appointment as Headteachers or Deputy Headteachers.

TENDERS FOR ABARY BRIDGE AND MON REPOS LABORATORY

Mr. Beharry: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Communications and Works Question No. 10 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

- (a) (i) Were tenders invited by way of advertisement for the construction of the Abary Bridge, and if not, why not?
(ii) Has a contract been entered into for its construction, and if so, with whom and at what figure?
(b) (i) Were tenders invited by way of advertisement for the construction of the Mon Repos Laboratory, and if not, why not?
(ii) Has a contract been entered into for its construction, and if so, with whom and at what figure?

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): The replies to the hon. Member's Questions are:

Abary Bridge

Tenders were not invited by way of newspaper advertisement for the erection of the Abary Bridge, as it is considered to be beyond the ability of the majority of local contractors. Seven contractors who were considered capable of successfully erecting the Bridge under the supervision of a qualified Bridge Engineer, registered, under the selective tender arrangement, with the Public Works Department, but progress in this direction was halted as the Crown Agents were unable to recruit in time a suitable Bridge Engineer.

As a result of rapid deterioration of the existing river bridge, it is felt that even if a Bridge Engineer becomes available now, the normal selective tender procedure would be too lengthy to allow for the completion of the new bridge before the existing one fails, skill and equipment not being generally available. It is imperative that the new structure should be completed as quickly as possible.

Having regard to the foregoing, an approach was made to Messrs. Demerara Bauxite Company Limited who very kindly agreed to help, and their associate company—Messrs. Sprostons Limited — after full examination with the acting Director of Public Works of the detailed drawings, specifications and quantities, undertook to erect the bridge and to complete such ancillary works as are required, viz. — the road deviation and the temporary buildings for housing, etc. The total value of the contract is \$529,000, which is considered reasonable, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed in 10 months' time.

The Company has very experienced engineers on its staff (as well as equipment for the construction) and a qualified Bridge Engineer is no longer required. A Senior Public Works Department Engineer will pay weekly visits to inspect and supervise, and arrangements have been made in the contract for an Assistant Engineer from the Department to work under the direction of the Company's Engineer. It is hoped that the experience gained on this project will help to train him in bridge construction work.

Mon Repos Laboratory

Tenders for the construction of the Mon Repos Laboratory were not invited by way of advertisement for the following reasons:—

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A high standard of workmanship was essential in a job of this nature, coupled with the ability to complete the job. From experience with the work of local contractors the Director of Public Works was in a position to know which of them would produce the required standard of workmanship. Five local contracting firms who, in the opinion of the Director of Public Works, fulfilled the above-mentioned requirements, were invited to tender.

2. The contract was awarded to the Wilson-Ricketts Construction Company in the sum of \$334,667.71.

Mr. Beharry: As a supplementary question, is the Minister aware of the fact that this is a departure from the Tender Regulations which has precluded local contractors from tendering for both (a) and (b)?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I am not aware that it is a departure from the Tender Regulations.

Mr. Beharry: The Minister stated that we do not have qualified contractors with the necessary engineering skill, and that is why the tenders were not advertised in the newspapers. Is the Minister aware of the fact that local contractors are in a position to include in their staff the necessary qualified engineers if they were given an opportunity to tender for the construction of the Abary bridge?

The Minister of Communications and Works: If the hon. Member can put his speech in the form of a question I may be able to answer it.

Mr. Beharry: Let me try to explain so that the Minister may be able to understand. I am asking the Minister whether he is aware of the fact that local contractors would have been able to execute the job of erecting the bridge, if they were given a chance to tender—that if it were necessary to employ a particular type of engineers the local contractors could have employed those engineers?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I stated in my reply that it was very difficult for Government to recruit qualified bridge engineers; that Government has been waiting on the Secretary of State for practically one year to have a qualified bridge engineer recruited to supervise the construction of the bridge. He is one of the several persons who have been recommended as capable of carrying out such a job. I went on to say that in view of the necessity to complete the job in a certain time, Government had to go ahead and make arrangements for a reputable firm, who had qualified engineers on their staff, to do the job, and that did not necessitate the employment of a qualified British engineer. It is quite clear that Government is satisfied that, if it had resorted to newspaper advertisement inviting tenders for the job, it could not have got more than four or five persons to submit tenders for the construction of the bridge.

Mr. Beharry: Is the Minister aware that local contractors had gone to the extent of negotiating for the employment of qualified bridge engineers in order to tender for the construction of the bridge?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Bowman: As a further supplementary question, I would like the Minister to tell this Council whether the construction of the Montrose bridge on the East Coast was started by a certain firm of contractors? If the answer is in the affirmative, I would like to ask him, further, whether it is a fact that that firm did not complete the construction, and that the job was given to a local contractor to complete it?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The question is irrelevant.

Mr. Speaker: I am the only person who can rule whether the question is irrelevant—not you. Whether you care to answer the question or not is a

matter for you, but the decision as to whether the question is relevant or not is for me.

The Minister of Communications and Works: I am only suggesting that the question of the Montrose bridge is irrelevant. I beg your pardon, Sir.

Mr. Bowman: I ask the question because the Minister told this Council that there are no qualified local contractors, and I know that the Montrose bridge was constructed by a local contractor.

Mr. Tasker: Would the Minister not agree that—while applauding Government's intention to ensure that public funds are safeguarded and spent as wisely as possible—at a time like this, particularly when so many new businesses are attempting to develop and improve their technical staffs, that there is considerable advantage in advertising for tenders for jobs of this sort—in fact in erring on the side of advertising rather than of not advertising?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I fully appreciate that. In fact Government pursues the policy of encouraging the competitive spirit in Government contracts, but an important factor which one must recognize in this particular instance is that the Abary bridge was in a very poor condition, and Government was endeavouring to have it constructed in time for the coming rice crop which is expected to be greatly increased, thus involving considerable weight being carried over the bridge. I think the hon. Member will agree that in a case like this Government could not pursue the long-drawn-out procedure of inviting tenders by newspaper advertisement for the construction of the bridge. Apart from that it does not necessarily mean that Government would have saved money by advertising for tenders, because detailed drawings, specifications and quantities have to be worked out for

each tender, which involve a great deal of money.

It is Government's intention to use the selective tender procedure in many instances, but this is a case in which Government's technical officers and the Ministry are satisfied that there are not many people in British Guiana, firms, contractors and engineers, capable of constructing the Abary bridge satisfactorily. This bridge was designed by a firm of consultants in the United Kingdom who informed Government that unless there was a qualified and experienced bridge engineer to supervise the work the construction of the bridge could not be carried out satisfactorily. Government acted on the advice of its technical officers and offered the contract for the construction of the bridge to a reputable local firm with the most qualified and experienced engineers in the territory.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask when was Government first aware of the condition of the Abary bridge?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I have to do some research to answer that Question; but the Abary bridge was designed and repaired by Scott, Wilson, Kirkpatrick and Partners sometime ago. The delay in the reconstruction of the bridge was caused by Government's inability to obtain the service of a qualified bridge engineer.

Mr. Beharry: Is the Minister aware of the fact that one local contractor was prepared to hire the local engineer who designed the bridge for the Government? And is it not true that it is a decision of this Government to discriminate against local contractors, using the excuse that a local contractor cannot do the job, without giving him the chance to do it?

The Minister of Communications and Works: It is not true that the Government was prepared to employ a

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qualified local engineer to do the Abary bridge. I do not know from where the hon. Member got his information. This Government has obtained the service of a company registered in this country. It is not a foreign company. And Government does not discriminate against anyone in offering jobs on contract.

Mr. Beharry: Is the Government aware that Sprostons Contracting Company and the Demerara Bauxite Company are both foreign companies?

[No reply was offered.]

Mr. Davis: Can the hon. Minister state how long the construction materials for the Abary bridge had been in the Colony?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I cannot say, specifically, how long the materials arrived in the Colony. I know they had been in the Colony for sometime.

Mr. Davis: Can the hon. Minister state what year? And further: Is the hon. Minister aware that stone is being conveyed from Georgetown to the Abary by lorry? And I would like to ask the question -

Mr. Speaker: How many questions?

Mr. Bowman: I did not hear you rule on the question I asked, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: What question?

Mr. Bowman: I asked whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the Montrose bridge was erected by a local contractor.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry you did not hear what I said. I said you can

ask the question. The Minister did not answer the question but said that it was irrelevant. Then I said quite plainly and loudly that it was not for the Minister to say whether or not it is irrelevant. Now you say I did not rule. Why did you say that?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I do not know the details of the Montrose bridge, but I welcome the question from the hon. Member. I will do the necessary research and give him the answer.

Mr. Bowman: I asked whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the Montrose bridge was built by Mr. Poole, a local contractor, who is capable of building the Abary bridge; and why had not this gentleman been given a chance to tender?

[No reply was offered.]

Mr. Burnham: May I inquire if Messrs. Sprostons Contracting Company are experienced bridge builders and, if so, what bridges have they built?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The Director of Public Works and I are fully satisfied that with the engineering skill available to the Demerara Bauxite Company and Messrs. Sprostons Contracting Company, they are capable of building the bridge.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask what provision is Government making for having Guianese trained as bridge engineers?

The Minister of Communications and Works: A junior engineer attached to the Public Works Department would be working under the engineer in charge of this project, and the experience he has already got as his basic qualification with the experience he will get from training under this engineer will help us to undertake bridge building projects in the future.

**METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE AT
ATKINSON FIELD**

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Communications and Works the following Question standing in my name on the Order Paper: Is the Government satisfied there is adequate meteorological data and organisation at Atkinson Field for the safe landing of aircraft arriving in the Colony? If the answer to this question is in the negative, will the Government indicate what steps are contemplated to rectify this situation?

The Minister of Communications and Works: Following the fire and the occupation of the terminal building at Atkinson Airport, Mr. K. V. W. Nicholls, then Deputy Director of The West Indies Meteorological Service visited British Guiana in April, 1960, with the main object of checking the meteorological facilities at the Airport.

Mr. Nicholls' report which disclosed certain deficiencies in the meteorological facilities contained a number of recommendations for improving the situation. The most important feature of the deficiencies revealed was the absence of a distant reading anemometer and cloud searchlight alidades. There was also a shortage of meteorological observers with the result that the information from meteorological observations transmitted to the Forecasting Centre at Piarco, Trinidad, was not as comprehensive as was desired.

The following action has been taken to remedy the deficiencies revealed by Mr. Nicholls' Report. The anemometer has been installed and is working satisfactorily. The alidades have been received and the cloud searchlight has been repaired and resited and is awaiting only bulbs, which are on order. Five meteorological assistants are being recruited by the Public Service Commission and approval has now been given

for the recruitment of a suitably qualified Guianese for training as a meteorological forecaster.

The instrumental deficiencies may therefore be regarded as having been remedied. The deficiencies on the staff side are disappearing.

The answer to the question is therefore in the affirmative.

Mr. Jackson: As a supplementary question: In view of the fact that the question which has just been asked has produced a memorandum which has sprung from the Report of Mr. Nicholls, will the hon. Minister not agree that Members of this Council ought to have the complete Report which has been submitted to Government?

The Minister of Communications and Works: Further information would be made available to the Council in the form of a White Paper, including the Report of the Deputy Director of The West Indies Meteorological Service.

Mr. Jackson: I asked whether we will have the Report? It is either "yes" or "no". The answer given is not the answer to the question which I asked.

The Minister of Communications and Works: The answer is "Yes".

Mr. Jackson: In view of the fact that Government is now taking steps, through additional staff, will the hon. Minister say what is the period the training will cover and how soon the training will start?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The Public Service Commission is now recruiting the necessary meteorological officers — that is, the people who will obtain the data for transmission to Piarco Airport. At the moment, our meteorological service is being run by the Federal Meteorological Department, but one of the recommen-

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dations of Mr. Nicholls, who has succeeded Dr. Grinstead, is that British Guiana should, in view of its size and in view of its activities of aircraft all over the Colony, at some time in the future, run its own meteorological service, and the recommendation in this respect will be gradually dealt with toward the stage where British Guiana will be carrying out its own meteorological service.

Mr. Jackson: I did ask how long it will take to train one of the persons who will be going to Piareo — one year, two years or three years?

The Minister of Communications and Works: It all depends on the individual's ability to learn. I do not know exactly how long it will take to train an observer.

Mr. Jackson: Thank you, the latter part of the statement is the answer.

PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE

Mr. Tello: Mr. Speaker, I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry the following Question: Will the Minister of Trade and Industry state whether a Petition urging immediate independence for British Guiana was despatched by his Party as the People's Representatives of British Guiana to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and if so, will the Minister make copies of this Petition available to the other representatives of the people of British Guiana in this Council?

The Minister of Trade and Industry: (i) The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes, Sir". (ii) I would suggest to the hon. Member that he should direct his request to the People's Progressive Party.

Mr. Tello: As a Supplementary Question: I would like to ask the hon.

Minister whether Members of this Council are not entitled to have copies of the petition urging immediate independence in the name of the peoples of British Guiana, despatched by his Party to the General Assembly of the United Nations?

[No reply was offered.]

Mr. Burnham: Was it represented in this Petition that there is child labour in British Guiana?

[No reply was offered.]

ELECTRICITY CORPORATION

Mr. Bowman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Communications and Works Question No. 14 standing in my name on the Order Paper. Will the Minister of Communications and Works say whether the recent appointments of the Chairman and Members of the Electricity Corporation are honorary; if not, are the Chairman and Members in receipt of an honorarium or monthly stipend; and if so, what are the amounts being paid, or proposed to be paid to them?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The appointments of the Chairman and Members of the Electricity Corporation are not honorary. The appointments are made by His Excellency the Governor in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Ordinance, No. 34 of 1957.

The Members of the Corporation receive remuneration for their services at the rate of \$100 per month. The Chairman receives remuneration at the rate of \$250 per month. The amount of such remuneration is fixed by His Excellency the Governor in accordance with his powers under Section 7 of the Ordinance.

Mr. Bowman: As a Supplementary Question: Would the hon. Minister tell us the duration of their term of appointments?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I cannot remember the duration of their term of appointments. I think it is two years. I am not sure.

SURVEY OF EAST COAST ROAD

Mr. Bowman: Sir, I would like to ask the Minister of Communications and Works Question No. 15 standing in my name on the Order Paper: Will the Minister of Communications and Works state the amount of money spent on the recent survey of the East Coast road from Georgetown to Rosignol?

The Minister of Communications and Works: \$1,225,396.82.

Mr. Bowman: As a supplementary question: In view of the fact that the Government has undertaken a new survey on the East Coast railway line for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not it would construct a new road. I would like to know whether Government has abandoned the idea of reconstructing the present East Coast road from Georgetown to Rosignol, or whether it has decided to build a road on the present railway line that is now being surveyed?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The fact that the Government is proceeding on a survey of the railway embankment is an indication that no decision has been taken. After the survey is completed, then it will be possible for Government to give consideration to the question of whether it would be more economical to construct a road on the railway embankment, on the existing public road, or possibly construct two roads.

Mr. Beharry: Is it true that the Government has decided, after completing this survey on the railway embankment, to carry out a survey on the conservancy dam to find out whether or not it should spend the development money?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I do not know which conservancy you have in mind.

Mr. Burnham: Is it correct to say that there has been a previous survey of the East Coast road prior to this one?

The Minister of Communications and Works: No survey is being undertaken at the moment on the East Coast road. That survey has been completed. A survey is now being undertaken on the East Coast railway embankment as well as on the West Coast railway embankment.

Mr. Burnham: Is it true that there has been two surveys of the East Coast road: one by the I.C.A., and one by a set of contractors?

The Minister of Communications and Works: There has been no I.C.A. survey of the East Coast road, as far as I know.

Mr. Bowman: As a supplementary question: If the survey proves feasible, will Government scrap the railway? If the answer is in the affirmative, is Government contemplating the question of finding employment for the people who are at present employed by the Transport and Harbours Department?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The hon. Member is thinking too far ahead. The indications are that previous Governments and this Government have accepted the view that the railway cannot continue indefinitely, and it will have to be scrapped at some future date. I am informed that the railway embankment runs through about 45 per cent. of sand reef, whereas the East Coast road has about 23 per cent. which would make the construction of a road on the railway embankment far less costly. The railway line is shorter by about five miles, and this will reduce the cost if the road is built on the embankment.

[MR. RAM KARRAN]

The cost of compensation to people who occupy land near the existing road will amount to about \$3 million to \$5 million, because it will be necessary to remove certain houses in order to increase the width of the existing road. Because of these factors Government felt that it was necessary to carry out a survey. The railway cannot continue working indefinitely with this huge deficit, and, if the Government decides that it should be scrapped at some future date, it would be replaced by a decent road transport service in order to provide employment not only for the present employees of the Department, but for others. It must be remembered that several employees will be going on retirement, but those who remain in the Department will be given employment when the road transport service is provided.

I should like to take this opportunity to inform the hon. Member that the information Government has at the moment in respect of the West Coast railway, is that it will be exceedingly costly to run a good road on the existing road alignment because of the number of right angle turns and deep canals adjacent to the road. Government is advised that the railway embankment is a most suitable site for a new road, and it is hoped that it will connect with the Parika/Makouria road which, when completed, will serve as a far better road transport service for goods traffic starting possibly from Georgetown, and for passenger traffic from Vreed-en-hoop to Makouria rather than encouraging transportation partly by train and partly by road. As a result of this advice Government is thinking in this direction.

I wish to assure hon. Members and others, who are at the moment carrying out a campaign against the Government by saying that it is discharging people because they are not members of its party and so on, that such charges are false and unfounded.

Mr. Kendall: As a supplementary question: Can the Minister of Communications and Works say whether the survey that is being carried out has interfered in any way with finding new equipment for maintaining an efficient railway service? Is the money allocated for rolling-stock the same money used for this survey, and is it true that this interferes with the efficient running of the railway?

The Minister of Communications and Works: When the Development Programme was being prepared the sum of \$800,000 was allocated for the rehabilitation of the West Coast Railway and its existing rolling-stock. Government has taken a decision that a part of that money should be spent on the survey now under discussion.

Mr. Kendall: Is the Minister satisfied that Government's decision has not interfered with the efficient running of the railway service?

The Minister of Communications and Works: The money would be inadequate to provide additional new rolling-stock. The Government would have to find additional funds to provide new rolling-stock. It is not envisaged that Government should spend more money on new rolling-stock, particularly for the West Coast Railway, when the life of such equipment and rolling-stock would be practically 25 years. I think it would be better to await Government's final decision. It has been decided to proceed with the survey of the road.

I should like to inform hon. Members that Government is now negotiating with the United Nations Special Fund Department for the release of a Transport Expert who would give us, after a study of our river and road transport, a comprehensive picture as to the decision Government should take. That is why Government is

reluctant to spend money, which would be useless, without careful consideration of the matter.

Mr. Burnham: Can the Minister of Communications and Works tell us when this request for the service of a Transport Expert was made?

The Minister of Communications and Works: It appears that the hon. Member wishes me to give him the day and hour, but I cannot remember everything.

Mr. Burnham: I am asking when in terms of years, not hours.

The Minister of Communications and Works: Government has been talking about it for over a year, but the individual who was earmarked for the job was unable to come to British Guiana. Only recently I had a discussion with the United Nations' representative, Mr. J. Keen, and was informed that a suitable Transport Economist will be made available to British Guiana in a short while. I will be going to Trinidad shortly, and I will take up the matter with Mr. Keen again.

Mr. Burnham: Is it correct to say that the request was made when the discussions started about a year ago?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I said that the request was made about one year ago, but it may be 1½ years ago. I do not remember the details at the moment, but I can give the hon. Member all the information he needs if he submits a question.

Mr. Bowman: The Minister said that the amount that would be required to clear the land over the route that was surveyed would be between \$3 million to \$5 million. Has Government finally decided to build a road on the railway

embankment when the survey is finished? Must hon. Members take it for granted that the \$1 million spent by the Government has been a waste of money?

The Minister of Communications and Works: I do not think it is a waste of money. Government has not been obtaining adequate information with respect to many of its projects. Had Government been as thorough as the people who constructed the railway some years ago, it would have had certain information about the road similar to the information the people had obtained about the railway. The information obtained from the survey is available for use by anybody. Even if a road is not built on the railway embankment when the survey is completed, it does not necessarily follow that the expenditure involved was a waste of money.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

"Aliens (Immigration And Registration) (Amendment Bill), 1961."

The Attorney-General (Mr. Austin): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

Deputy Crown Solicitor (Powers) Bill, 1961.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

Drainage and Irrigation (Declaration of Areas) (No. 2) Bill, 1961.

Park to Abary Drainage and Irrigation (Extension of Area) Bill, 1961.

Drainage and Irrigation (Declaration of Area) (No. 3) Bill, 1961.

PRIVATE BILL

Mr. Saffee: I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

British Guiana United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman (Incorporation of Trustees) Bill, 1961.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS—FIRST READING

The following Bills were read the First time:

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Aliens (Immigration and Registration) Ordinance."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to confer powers upon and assign duties to the Deputy Crown Solicitor."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the declaration of the Black Bush Drainage and Irrigation area, the validation of the construction of certain works, the vesting of certain lands in the Drainage and Irrigation Board, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the extension of the Park to Abary Drainage and Irrigation Area, and for purposes connected therewith."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the declaration of the Tapakuma Drainage and Irrigation Area and the construction of certain works therein."

Mr. Speaker: The Question is, that a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to incorporate certain persons as Trustees of the body known as the United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman, to vest in such persons certain property and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid" be read the First time.

Agreed to.

Bill read the First time.

MOTIONS

STATUE TO THE LATE MR. H. N. CRITCHLOW

Mr. Speaker: Council will now resume the debate on the following Motion by the hon. Member for Georgetown Central (Mr. Burnham):

"Be it resolved: That this Council recommends that Government should erect a statue to the great pioneer of labour, the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, and that the statue be placed at Bourda Green."

During the debate on the Motion the hon. Member for Georgetown South

(Mr. Jai Narine Singh) moved an amendment, as a result of which the Motion would read:

Be it resolved: That this Council recommends that Government should erect statues to the great pioneers of labour, the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow and Ayube Mohammed Edun, and that the statues be placed at Bourda Green."

As far as I can see from the record, the only Members who spoke to the Motion spoke before the Amendment was moved. Therefore they are eligible to speak again.

Mr. Jackson: No one will deny that the late Mr. Ayube Edun has done a very good job for those workers for whom the organization which he led was founded. No one who knows the movement will deny that he made many a sacrifice. No one will deny that in the sacrifice which he made he may have lost money, he may have lost time and he may have lost many years of his life. Perhaps it may be true to say that he would have been alive today but for those years of sacrifice on behalf of the people whom he led. One would wish to have it recorded that anyone who has done service to humanity should always find a place in the historical records of the country in which that person has served and made sacrifices.

Like the hon. Member for Georgetown South (Mr. Jai Narine Singh), and perhaps greater than he, I know a great deal of what the late Mr. Edun did. As a matter of fact the hon. Member for Georgetown South could not speak with experience, because he has never been in any way connected with the Trade Union Movement. He has knowledge by reading and by hearsay while some of us have actually worked side by side with the two men to whom reference was made during the debate on the Motion. But in spite of all I would say in regard to the sacrifices made by the late Mr. Edun who founded the Man Power Citizens' Association, there can be no one with any balance of mentality

who could seek to put the late Mr. Edun on the same platform with the late Mr. Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. A pioneer is someone who starts something in a field where that something never existed. The late Mr. Edun came into the field of the Labour Movement in 1937 when he founded the Man Power Citizens' Association.

If we regard the Amendment by the hon. Member for Georgetown South as being worthy of consideration, we will have to include not only the late Mr. Edun as a pioneer of Labour, but other persons—perhaps your humble servant—because if the M.P.C.A. was founded in 1937 there were other labour organizations founded in the same year. I know that the Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran) will agree that the Transport Workers' Union was formed in 1937, and so was the Post Office Workers' Union. Therefore, if it is suggested that we should include the late Mr. Edun as a pioneer of Labour, we will have to consider the inclusion of the late Mr. Van Sertima of the Transport Workers' Union as one of the pioneers of the Labour Movement, and, perhaps with much humility, I will say that I would also have to be included on account of my service with the Post Office Workers' Union.

I doubt whether the hon. Member for Georgetown South would, by his standard, dispute that I am a pioneer, or that the late Mr. Van Sertima should be regarded as a pioneer. I would submit that when he moved his Amendment he knew little about what he was talking when he sought to include the late Mr. Edun with the late Mr. Critchlow as a pioneer of Labour. When the late Mr. Edun entered the Labour Movement there was no trouble existing at all. The M.P.C.A., the Transport Workers' Union and the Post Office Workers' Union were all founded in 1937 when there was no trouble at all in this country for those who were going to be leaders

of the Movement. There was freedom to organize, which did not exist in 1919 when the late Mr. Critchlow was fighting for the right of Labour to organize. In 1937 a law for the registration of labour organizations was already in existence, and all one had to do was to gather a certain number of workers together, form an organization, have rules prepared, and apply for registration.

In the circumstances, how can it possibly be said that the late Mr. Ayube Edun was a pioneer of Labour? I have paid tribute to him and will always pay tribute to the splendid work he did for the sugar workers of this country, but how, in the face of all I have said, can he be regarded as a pioneer of Labour? It is clear, therefore, that while the hon. Member for Georgetown South was prepared to pay tribute to the late Mr. Critchlow, he did so with a lot of grudge in his heart, because no one with any knowledge of the Labour Movement in this country would be so unkind to the late Mr. Critchlow as to place alongside his name that of the late Mr. Edun. Long before the Labour Movement came into existence in this country the late Mr. Critchlow fought and struggled alone for the recognition of Labour. He fought against greater odds than any one of us have fought or could ever fight against.

Those were the days when employers resisted tooth and nail, with all the vigour they possessed, the efforts of a man who sought to improve the lot of the working class people in this country. Working day and night the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow never faltered, because he had in him the full conviction that his was the task to establish the Labour Movement in this country. How many of us have not sat at his feet? I am sure that the late Mr. Edun was one of his scholars. The late Mr. Critchlow was the father of the Labour Movement in this country, and not only in this country, for it is known that he established the first Labour Movement in the Common-

[Mr. JACKSON]

wealth. He led the way not only for this country, but for many countries which have now achieved their independence.

Can it be said that the late Mr. Edun has been a leader of this movement in so many parts of the world which we have known today? It is unfair that all who want to pay respect to Mr. Edun should link the two personalities together. It is an attempt to detract from the value of the services performed very gratuitously, very humbly by a man who knew nothing else than the cause for which the workers stood.

In 1919, the British Guiana Labour Union was formed, and the fact that it was not registered before 1922 was also an indication of the struggles which he had to put up with in order to get it registered as a trade union. Here is a man who fought perpetually for the cause of trade unionism until he found a place in the sun for it—a place of which all of us are justly proud. And it is my conviction that however much one may be inclined to forget, that history will go down throughout the ages or if one may be inclined to be ungrateful to the man, yet there should be something left to remind us of the good work which this man has done and the foundation which he has laid for the development of trade unionism in this country.

Some people believe that it is a waste of time and a waste of money to erect a statue to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. It has been said by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing that to erect a statue would serve no useful purpose whatsoever, and she indicated that in its own quiet way the Government had done something to perpetuate the memory of the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. She said the Minister of Communications and Works has already named a launch after

the man. For that the Minister ought to be commended; but launches are made with wood or steel and they do not last for a great while. Unless you name them the "Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow I", "Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow II", "Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow III", and so on, the name would not be perpetuated as if a statue were erected. It was also said that one of the streets in the Housing Scheme has also been named after this man, but names of streets change time and time again; and who knows if those who follow in the next Government would not change it. What we want today is to put up something which is going to be of lasting memory. Why has it been thought that statues ought not to be erected to perpetuate the memory of people who had done something. In all parts of the world people in all walks of life are convinced that when a man, who did good work in such fields or made outstanding efforts, died, there should be something of lasting memory of the work which they had done. It is found in England and America.

There is also Leningrad as well as Stalingrad. And it is perhaps certain if one went to Leningrad or Stalingrad one would find an auditorium erected to perpetuate further the memory of these people who, in the history of their own nation, would be regarded as men of sterling value—men whose names would remain in the history of the country so that their children, their children's children and their great grandchildren would be able to learn of the lives and history of these people.

It has been said that habits and customs disappear. The Minister of Labour said—and perhaps some people feel like her—that it is perhaps a waste of time to send wreaths to put on tombstones and that the moneys spent on wreaths could be offered the relatives of the deceased person or persons. But that is what people are accustomed to. Some people are accustomed when people die, to pay tribute to them by

laying wreaths on their graves. That has come down through the ages and we should not always try to break away from custom. It is true that some people send cards of sympathy and condolence and, perhaps, a card does not worth as much as a wreath, but if persons choose to send cards or wreaths, those are the things to which they are accustomed and what they want to maintain. Let it be that these customs remain.

It is not true that the labour movement has ignored Critchlow. It is not true that it has not done what it could have in the circumstances. It was said, during the course of the debate, that he was spurned by the movement. If that were so, then he followed in the wake of the Greatest Master who has been on the earth. For on the Sunday before His crucifixion the throng was with him; they scattered palms for Him to tread upon, and shortly after that they said: "Crucify Him." But what happened after then? His name has become the household word which no one can despise. So if the workers had spurned Critchlow, that is why this effort should be made to perpetuate his memory. When the ten men were cleansed by the Master, one returned to say "thanks"; and it is my view and conviction that the one who returned to say "thanks" meant more to the Master than the nine who did not return. And even if there were one who said "thanks" to what Critchlow had done, even that is equal to what the Master had experienced.

At the closing stage of his life, the one organization which Critchlow founded endeavoured to do what it could in the circumstances of its existence; and it must be recorded, lest some leave this Council Chamber to continue with the thought that it had not done anything, that when Critchlow could no longer move around, the British Guiana Labour Union granted him a pension of \$50 per month. That is what it could have

afforded and that is what it did. It is my conviction that if it could have afforded \$100 per month, that would have been paid for the services which this good man had rendered to it. If the movement itself had the means at its disposal, it would have done as the Minister of Labour has suggested — erected the statue itself so that it would have been assured that what should be perpetuated would have been perpetuated. But the movement cannot do it because of certain circumstances. There are only a few of the organizations in this country of which, even though they had existed for a number of years, it could be said are able to stand on their feet financially. I am almost confident that the majority of them are not in that position. Because of the economic position of the country the workers are not employed as they should. Because of the circumstances, people who would have liked to make a contribution cannot make this contribution or sacrifice since they do not have the means to make the sacrifice. They want even that much pay to keep themselves and their families alive — to keep body and soul together.

Anyone who knows this country, as we know it today, must admit that the economic circumstances of the country have prevented the workers from fulfilling their obligations to the movement to which Critchlow belonged. Therefore, inasmuch as we would like to know that the movement itself has erected the statue of Critchlow: inasmuch as we would like to know that this statue would perpetually hand down to succeeding generations the knowledge of this man, it is one of the things which it is difficult for the movement to do at this stage.

As the hon. Member for Georgetown South said, the Mover of the Motion tried to do this in another place but failed; how still can it be said that because of Election year this Motion has been brought? What has this

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Motion to do with Election year when the people who are in the Government admit that they worked side by side with Critchlow. This is a sacrifice for those of us who had worked with Critchlow.

In 1937, when the Post Office workers went on strike for the first time without knowing what they should do, I remember having slept on the floor on that Sunday night in Regent Street while he spoke to us on the functions of the union. I knew him before 1945; I knew him from my childhood; I knew him better from 1937 to the day of his death. Therefore I knew him much better than the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing who admits his value and greatness. Let us not detract from the greatness of the man by getting away from the fact that his memory ought to be perpetuated. A Scholarship, yes, but how many people have had scholarships to perpetuate their names, and how many of us have remembered them?

I think there is a scholarship to perpetuate the name of the late E. F. Fredericks of Buxton, but how many of us know about that? We want every child in this country to see the statue and realize that Mr. Critchlow was a great man. Only those who have laboured with him can feel as I do at this moment. I wish that those who try to detract from his greatness will reconsider their attitude and support the Motion.

Mr. Tello: Sir, it is no surprise that a Motion should come to this Council asking that the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow should be honoured in such a manner that it would go down to posterity without misunderstanding. I have heard praises sung, and in my opinion sung full with tributes that are not enough for the services rendered by the late Mr. Critchlow.

In 1905 Mr. Critchlow really came before the public's eyes as a young man in the representation of labour; it was doubtful as to whether he was 21 or 23 years of age when he called his first strike. Since then he persisted in agitating for the workers. It is known that he ran into difficulties because he resisted a very powerful personage at that time who was President of the Chamber of Commerce and also head of the Shipping Association or Shipping Organization in Georgetown.

History tells us that he demanded an increase in wages and better conditions of work. He was told that his petition should be withdrawn or else. He refused to withdraw it; he was dismissed and the doors of employment were closed to him throughout Water Street. He replied with the largest demonstration British Guiana had ever seen in those days, for the people demonstrated their faith in him and the solidarity of the movement. It is recorded that the then Governor of British Guiana intervened and made it possible for British Guiana to have its first joint negotiations in 1915.

There should be no attempt to equate the services of the late Mr. Critchlow with those of the late Mr. Edun. Both of them, in my opinion, were great men and worthy of commemoration. I have no intention of trying to minimize what the great old man of labour has done for British Guiana and the British Empire. Mr. Critchlow's name was a household name throughout the free trade union world, and it was a respected name.

I want to say that while Mr. Edun could not be placed on the same level with Mr. Critchlow, he was undoubtedly a pioneer in the sugar industry. History tells us that in 1905 when Mr. Critchlow called a strike on the waterfront, the very next day the sugar workers on the East Bank came down on a one-mile

march to consult the new leader, the "Black Crosby", who had risen to look after their interests. That was evidence that the sugar workers were desperately in need of a leader.

In 1937 when the M.P.C.A. was registered as a union, in less than one year it collected a membership that exceeded that of the B.G.L.U. which had already been operating over a period of 20 years. The British Guiana Labour Union was registered in 1917. In 1937 the M.P.C.A. was registered, but by 1938 both Unions rivalled each other for membership.

I am supporting the Amendment because I would like to inform this Council that the trade union movement has recognized its duty to commemorate the services of the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, and that a small committee known as the "Critchlow Memorial Committee" was set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Ashton Chase. The objects of that committee were (i) to raise funds to erect a statue; (ii) to build a trade union hall which should be known as "Critchlow's Memorial Hall"; and (iii) to establish scholarships for the benefit of the workers' children which would also be known as "Critchlow's Memorial Scholarships".

I am mandated to say that the trade union movement and this Committee support the Motion before this Council recommending the erection of a statue for Mr. Critchlow because it was one of the prime objects of the "Critchlow Memorial Committee". If, through the generosity of the Government, this first object can be achieved, it would certainly be met with the appreciation of the trade union movement.

I would like to say that the B.G.L.U. itself is now engaged in the reconstruction of its union hall. The Secretary has granted me permission to say today that, as a first gesture of commemorating the grand old man of

labour, when the construction of the Trade Union building is completed it will be known as "Critchlow's House". Even in its impecuniosity, the Union is trying in a small way to honour Mr. Critchlow.

It must be remembered that Mr. Critchlow's services were not restricted to the trade union movement; his services were innumerable and he rendered invaluable services in this very building as a Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils. If there are any qualms about spending public funds in commemorating a trade unionist, I think that aspect of the matter can be forgotten and satisfaction can be gained in the fact that the money will be spent as an appreciation of public services rendered to this Council.

I am directed to support the Amendment, not that I am attempting in any way to minimize the work of this grand old man, but it is not true that we should only honour the first person as a pioneer. We can have many pioneers. Undoubtedly Mr. Critchlow was the father of the labour movement, and he was recognized internationally as such.

However, I know that there are several things that could go to the credit of Mr. Edun. I have had the honour of working with him. I think I was the last Vice-President who served with him just before his retirement. While it is true that in 1937 when unions were registered the spade work had been done already and most of the obstacles had been removed, even now it is not easy sailing.

History tells us that two years after the M.P.C.A. was registered there was a strike at Leonora in 1939. During that strike, armed police were called out to preserve order and lives were lost. Arising out of the death of those sugar workers, Mr. Edun commenced agitating for the recognition of his union to bargain for the sugar workers. In those days—34 years after the first strike and 22 years after the first union was organized,

[MR. TELLO]

the B.G.L.U.—not a single union was accredited formal recognition for collective bargaining. The Unions operated on mass pressure; they demanded what they believed was just and fair, and they used the strike weapon as a means of forcing the employer to respond to their request.

Mr. Edun felt that the time had arrived when constitutional means should be employed, and he proceeded along constitutional lines. That shows that the pioneering days were not over. For Mr. Edun commenced agitating in 1939 for recognition of the M.P.C.A. by the Sugar Companies. It took him two long years of continuous agitation before it received such recognition. It was not until 1946 that the S.P.A. was registered and they in turn recognized the M.P.C.A. That was pioneering work. The official records will support me when I say that the M.P.C.A. was the first trade union in British Guiana to be accorded a collective bargaining agreement. The B.G. Labour Union was dealt with more graciously than anything else, for on account of his influence with Labour the late Mr. Critchlow was allowed to go in and negotiate with employers. There was no formal recognition of Trade Unions until 1941, when the M.P.C.A., led by the late Mr. Ayube Edun, was accorded full recognition by the sugar producers. Mr. Edun was also the first President of a trade union in British Guiana to attach his signature to a collective bargaining agreement. Although formal recognition was granted to the M.P.C.A. prior to that date, there were merely discussions across the table. No collective bargaining agreements were put in writing until the late Mr. Edun signed the first agreement in this country in January, 1945.

Another important milestone in his career as a trade unionist was the introduction of the Labour Welfare Housing

Scheme on sugar estates. The late Mr. Ayube Edun was the first labour representative on the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Committee, and after the first formal meeting, or at the first business session of the Committee, he conceived the idea of a housing programme for the sugar workers in British Guiana. We all know that in those days the sugar workers lived in ranges which afforded no privacy and no social aspirations, and it is not an easy matter to fully measure the social impact on the entire country of the housing scheme now operating in the sugar industry. I have worked in the sugar industry and with the union operating in the industry, and I can say that when the nuclear housing scheme came into being and working class families commenced to own their little homes and to improve their standard of living, people in the villages and the City began to see the great value of owning their own homes. It had a terrific impact on the social life in British Guiana.

It was certainly a pioneering service, because the first nuclear housing scheme in the sugar industry was started in British Guiana, and representatives of Caribbean territories have come here to examine the work done and to adopt our methods. So that while agreeing that the father of the Trade Union Movement in British Guiana and the British Commonwealth was none other than the great Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, we must also pay tribute where tribute is due. If there is objection to the use of the word "pioneer" in the same light as with reference to the late Mr. Critchlow, let us close our eyes to that. I am sure that if we could have consulted the late Mr. Critchlow he would have told us to honour the service rendered by the late Mr. Edun. While the degree of service rendered by Mr. Critchlow was far beyond that of Mr. Edun, the latter has certainly done his share, and I do believe that he sincerely served his people. I do feel that we should honour him without in any way trying to detract from the

work of the great Hubert Critchlow. If public funds are used to erect a monument to the late Ayube Edun we can console ourselves with the fact that he was also a Member of the Legislature, and that he did great service to the country as a whole. There is nothing wrong in spending public funds to commemorate public service.

I have no doubt that the present Government will support the Motion in its amended form, because on the 28th of May, 1958, when tribute was being paid in this Council to the late Mr. Critchlow, the Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan) made this emphatic statement:

"In the early days of trade unionism in this country we can very well imagine the persecution and hardships Mr. Critchlow must have gone through. We therefore have to take note of that period of his life when, by his great efforts, he was able to build up the trade union movement in British Guiana."

"I noticed in the Press that some people were suggesting that a monument should be erected on behalf of the service that he has rendered in this Colony. I hope that when such an occasion arises this Council will give its ready consent to such a project."—*Official Report: Vol. 4, Col. 1369.*

Here we have the virtual leader of the elected section of the Government giving this Council the assurance that when the time came—and the time has now come—for some monument to be erected in commemoration of the late Mr. Critchlow, the Council will readily support it. I am confident that we will have that pledge honoured today, and that the Motion will be accepted.

My only plea is that the Mover of the Motion and the Government will extend their generosity and their sense of fairplay by including in the commemoration another son of the soil who has done great things for humble people in humble walks of life. I certainly recognize the late Mr. Critchlow as the one and only true pioneer of the Labour Movement, not only in British Guiana, but in the entire British Colonial Empire,

and if I accept the assurance of the I.C.F.T.U. for the removal of the word "British", then he was the pioneer of the Labour Movement in the entire Colonial World. In 1905, when he called his first strike, it was the first strike called in any colony throughout the world. When he registered the B.G. Labour Union in 1917 it was also the first labour union registered in the Colonial World. Such a person is worthy of the highest honour.

The Mover of the Motion is himself attached to the Trade Union Movement, and I know that the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan) was once a trade unionist. I appeal to those two trade unionists and to the Members of this Council to agree to honour another great son of the soil, the late Mr. Ayube Edun, who not only made a great contribution in the trade union field, but also served in the Legislature of his country. I take my seat feeling confident that this Council will, unanimously accept the Amendment.

Mr. Tasker: Mr. Speaker, I only knew Mr. Critchlow for a short time, and that was at the closing stage of his life. But I share the warm views expressed about him and I certainly support the project for a permanent memorial to him. I think it is a pity, however, that it has come to this Council in this way, because I was one of the persons to whom the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tello, came shortly after Mr. Critchlow's death. He talked about the project—that the Trade Union Movement and the British Guiana Labour Union wanted to erect a memorial to him—and I said that while I was fully in sympathy with the concept of a statue, a memorial hall or trade union scholarships, I felt that what was needed was a clear lead to be given by the trade unions themselves. I told him that I thought it would be a mistake to try to raise funds from business firms, no matter how sympathetic they might be, or from private individuals and public sources, until the trade

[MR. TASKER]

union movement itself had taken the lead.

I am fully aware, as Mr. Tello has said this afternoon, that the trade union movement is not a rich one. The fact remains, however, that in recent years we have seen a steady and welcome increase in the granting of the check-off system to recognized trade unions, and I do not believe that a determined effort by labour organizations could not have produced, by now, a useful sum of money for this purpose. I would have been very much happier if instead of in this Council, we had been invited in Finance Committee to sanction a contribution of public funds towards this admirable project which, by then, would have been got underway by the labour movement.

However, the Motion has come before us and I have no hesitation in supporting it. In doing so, however, I hope that whatever the outcome of the voting on the Motion itself, on an Amendment of which we have notice and on another Amendment which has been circulated, the labour movement as a whole will not in any way diminish its efforts to ensure that additional memorials to Mr. Critchlow are also erected in his memory.

Mr. Beharry: Mr. Speaker, listening to the various speakers on this Motion has caused me to make a contribution to it. Actually, I think that Members should support the original Motion as moved by the Member for Georgetown Central. Listening to the various speakers who are well informed of the activities of Mr. Critchlow and the contributions he has made, I can see no reason why Members of this Council should not support the original Motion. I do not think, personally, that the Amendment or Amendments should have been brought. The Amendments, as I see them, discredit, somewhat, the achievements of this great pioneer of the labour movement. Listening to what

the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tello, said just now about the contributions he made to human labour before any other labour leader, I think the Amendments were deliberately introduced by labour leaders — political leaders more or less — to detract and to bring politics into the achievements of this great man.

I do not deny that Mr. Edun had made a contribution, but so also have Mr. Tello and Mr. Jackson and so many other men in this field of labour, and they should be congratulated and complimented for it; but this man, from what I have been hearing here, was the father of trade unionism, and I say the introduction of Amendments has been deliberate and intentional, and the Amendments should not be supported in this Council because they detract from this man's great achievements.

I am supporting the original Motion, and I am not going to support any of the Amendments to it because I, personally, feel that it is a deliberate attempt to bring politics into it and, as I say, it detracts from the achievements of this man. Any Amendment at this stage, praising other labour leaders in this country or for the awarding of scholarships, is not good enough. It does not give us what this Motion is asking for. It does not give the people in the trade union field—the working class people—what this Motion is asking for, that is, to erect a permanent statue — something that catches the eye and would cause the question to be asked: "Who is this man?" I say that Members should throw out all the Amendments to this Motion because these Amendments were introduced to detract from the glory of this man, Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. I am supporting the original Motion and not the Amendments introduced by other Members of this Council.

Mr. Hubbard: Mr. Speaker, we are asked to support a proposition that a statue should be erected on Bourda Green to commemorate Hubert Nath-

aniel Critchlow; and we are asked, further, that another statue should be erected in the same place to commemorate Ayube Mohammed Edun. Sir, I shall not support the proposition that we should tack on to our consideration of a memorial to Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, the proposition to consider the creation of a memorial to Ayube Edun. I think we should deal with the Critchlow memorial and that alone; and I am fully in support of the proposition that there should be a memorial.

Hubert Critchlow, Sir, rendered services not only to the people of Georgetown; not only to the people of British Guiana, but he rendered his services to the people of the entire colonial world. The heterodoxy which Critchlow introduced here in 1905 and which saw our first massacre on the East Bank — there was another one there later — has not yet become respectable in some regions of the Colonial Empire. We must not forget that Jomo Kenyetta of Kenya is a trade union leader; and even after he had served the penalties which the law had imposed upon him, and even after the chief informer concerned in securing his conviction had, in turn, been convicted of perjury and sentenced, Jomo Kenyetta still is suffering the penalty for which no crime can be named. He is one of those persons for whom the heterodoxy of Critchlow has not yet become respectable in the particular country in which he lives.

I feel that when we are considering the question of a memorial to Critchlow, therefore, we must give it a form which has an appeal to all our countrymen and which will have an appeal to the people of all lands, but I am not satisfied that the erection of a statue on Bourda Green will do justice to the memory of so great a man as Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow.

I am not certain in my mind what form that memorial should take, but I have been toying with the idea that it might be appropriate to associate it with an organization which it is hoped to set up in this country very soon. It is hoped to set up a Biological Research Institute, which would be serviced by scientists from all over the world who are interested in the biology of tropical countries. I understand that it would be a unique institution in this region, and I feel that if we can commemorate Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow by having the Government erect a building which would house this institute and call it "Critchlow Hall", then we might have found a memorial which dignifies sufficiently the individual whom we wish to commemorate, or rather whose memory we wish to compliment, and then also we would have associated with the highest activity of man — the scientific activity — the heterodoxy for which Mr. Critchlow laboured and suffered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the words "should erect a statue" be deleted and the words "establish a memorial" be substituted therefor; and that the comma and words following the word "Critchlow" be deleted and a full stop be substituted therefor. The proposition before us would then be:

"That this Council recommends that Government should establish a memorial to the great pioneer of labour, the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow."

That Sir, is a proposition with which no one can have any quarrel, because it allows a choice of a sufficient memorial to a very great person of international stature.

Mr. Bowman: When this Motion was first debated —

Mr. Speaker: What do you propose to do now?

Mr. Bowman: I am speaking on the Amendment.

Mr. Speaker: Which Amendment?

Mr. Bowman: The one introduced by the hon. Member for Georgetown South.

Mr. Speaker: You cannot speak on that now. I must find out whether the Member's Amendment to the Motion will be seconded or not. We must get things in order first. If somebody gets up and moves an Amendment, I must first be sure whether it stands or falls before another Member speaks on something that has gone before.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to second the Amendment moved by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Hubbard. You will recall, Sir, that when I spoke on the original Motion I discussed it, more or less, in the same vein. I indicated that Government felt that it was a good Motion, and that the idea of having a memorial dedicated to the memory of the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow was an admirable gesture and something which would be useful to the country in reminding people of the good work he had done.

I would like to reiterate the point that a statue in itself, which is requested in the original Motion, would limit the extent of the memorial. The benefit of this Amendment is that it gives a broader range of possibilities for erecting a memorial, establishing scholarships, or whatever form it will take.

I may mention that, since this Motion was discussed, I paid a visit to Grenada, and there I was very pleased to see a memorial to the late Mr. T. A. Marryshow which was put in a different form — it was rather beautiful and interesting in the form of a plaque, in the centre of the town of St. George's carrying a head in relief with words explaining the good works he had done. It was not a statue, but a memorial of a different type.

That is why I strongly urge that we keep the discussion about a memorial on a more flexible basis, in order that all possibilities can be fully examined and the best of the suggestions implemented. There are a number of possibilities ranging from a plaque, scholarships, the construction of a trade union hall, etc. Therefore I take great pleasure in seconding this Amendment.

Mr. Speaker: This is a new Amendment and every member is eligible to speak on it. The hon. Member for Demerara River can speak now if he wishes or at a later stage.

Mr. Bowman: I was inclined to speak on the other Amendment. However —

Mr. Speaker: Your remarks are not restricted; the whole matter is now before you.

Mr. Bowman: I thank you, Sir. The suggestion made in this Amendment is as far apart as cheese is to chalk, because the original Motion stated:

"That this Council recommends that Government should erect a statue to the great pioneer of labour, the late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, and that the statue be placed at Bourda Green."

Mr. Critchlow, as all of us know, has been an ordinary working man, a labourer. He started out, according to the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tello, as early as 1905 — three years before I was born, and today I am 53 years old. The suggestion before us is that an institute of science should be erected and called "Critchlow's Hall". Mr. Critchlow has never been a scientist. The hon. Member spoke of biology — any person who goes in for biology is a scientist.

Sir, the original Motion asked for the erection of a statue at Bourda Green, because it must be remembered that Bourda Green is the parliament of trade unions — it is a place where meetings

concerning trade unions are held. If the original Motion is accepted, when meetings are held there the workingman would see a statue commemorating the memory of the man who had started trade unionism in this country. I am sure the Institute the hon. Member refers to in his Amendment will not be erected anywhere around Bourda Green. We want to keep Mr. Critchlow in the minds of the workers, and we want to see a statue at Bourda Green which will always remind the workers of what he has done for them.

We have in South Road, for example, a building known as the King George V Memorial building where infants are cared for. It is in the name of a member of the Royal Family, but it does not have the impact which a statue erected for Mr. Critchlow would have. This manoeuvring is merely to steal the essence from the original Motion. No doubt it is because Mr. Critchlow has never been called a communist that my former colleagues do not want to have something singular set up in his honour. Mr. Critchlow has been a pioneer of labour not only in this country, but throughout the British Colonial Empire. Why should those people try to introduce something other than what has been asked for in the original Motion? They are merely trying to detract from it.

Sir, we want to see Mr. Critchlow's statue erected on Bourda Green. I am a workingman — [**An hon. Member:** "You were a workingman".] — and I am sure all workingmen with the exception of a few people here who have decided to change their category — I cannot be divorced from that class. Some people are trying to steal the singularity from this Motion. I know that they have the voting strength and they are depending upon that. I am sure if a vote were taken among the workingmen the majority would vote for it.

I disagree with what Mr. Tello has said. Mr. Critchlow has been in this field since 1905. Mr. Edun started long after him, I think, in 1927. Mr. Tello said 1937, but I think it was in 1927; there appears to be a big difference in time, therefore Mr. Edun cannot be considered as a pioneer of labour.

The late Mr. Critchlow was the great pioneer of Labour, which distinguished his service entirely from that of anyone else in that field. I disagree entirely with the suggestion made by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Hubbard, and even if the Amendment is passed I am certain that a Biological Institute will not be erected before the General Election decides who are going to sit in this Chamber. I am sure that the Members of the present Government are not going to be here as the majority, and if they are not here, then we shall erect a statue in honour of the late Mr. Critchlow.

Mr. Jackson: I had hoped that I would not have had to speak again on this subject. I had hoped that, when I had finished speaking and had appealed to all Members of the Council not to detract from the value of the life lived by the late Mr. Critchlow, we would have agreed to accept the Motion which is before the Council. But my hope was founded upon misconception of the ideas of those of us who are here today.

What is the memorial which the second Amendment seeks to establish? The Mover of the Amendment himself said he had not a very clear picture of what form it should take. Yet he spoke of what is likely to happen in the very near future—the establishment of an institute in the field of Biology, and that it would be a good thing to link the name of the late Mr. Critchlow with the proposed Biological Institute. That would not be the right thing to do, for memorials are established to commemorate the work of people in a particular field. For that reason there is in the University

[MR. JACKSON]

College of the West Indies what is known as the Mary Seacole Hall to commemorate the work of a pioneer in her own field. It would be dishonest for any Government to name a Biological Institute after the late Mr. Critchlow. Perhaps it would be most fitting to erect it in memory of the late Dr. Frederick Gardener Rose, or perhaps after our good friend, Dr. B. B. G. Nehaul, when he has passed on.

Are we going to erect a memorial on the Bourda Green where Critchlow was heard from time to time speaking to his people in his simple and broken language? A memorial of the kind suggested would mean nothing to the ordinary worker. Workers would find inspiration in a statue on Bourda Green because it was there that this great man often spoke to them. They would remember that it was there where their hardships were discussed and the revolution which has been brought into the conditions of the working class people — [Interruption] (yes I say revolution) was begun from that very spot — changes which have made the worker become conscious of himself to learn a new level of integrity. Let it be that looking down upon the Bourda Green will be a statue to Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, towering over all minds, for his mind was bigger than those of us who sat at his feet. Bourda Green is the only place where a statue can do justice to what has been done by him, the only place where his memory should be commemorated for the working class man.

The Mover of the last Amendment was himself in the Labour Movement and must also be considered as a politician. How can he say that a memorial of the kind he suggests will suit the purpose? I am sure that he means well and that he will not for one moment want to detract from what the late Mr. Critchlow has done. I am certain that on reflection he will admit that there is no better place

for a memorial to the late Mr. Critchlow than Bourda Green, and that it would be quite wrong to link his name with a building related to the study of Biology.

The late Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow was an ordinary man, born of the humblest of all humble parents, a man who knew poverty, a man who suffered great privation. I submit that the place for the erection of a monument to that great man is the place where the ordinary working class people go, a place where they would be reminded of their hunger and his hunger, a place where determination will steel their hearts and minds to maintain the struggle which Critchlow himself would want to maintain were he alive today to march and struggle with us all.

May I appeal to the Mover of the last Amendment and his seconder, the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, to change their attitude and recognize the fact that the workers themselves, if they were asked to decide, would say with one voice, "Let a statue be erected at Bourda Green." Where else should it be but on Bourda Green, and what else should it be but a statue with his hands jesticulating as he was in the habit of doing? There ought not to be anything else than a statue. I speak as one who knows the minds of the workers on this issue. Perhaps those who are opposed to a statue have been removed from the workers for too long a time to remember how they think. They are not alive and aware of what the ordinary workers want. I wish to remind them that the workers will say: "Let it be a statue, and let it be erected on Bourda Green."

Mr. Tello: Why I appealed to Members of the Council to give preference to the choice made by representatives of the labour movement is because, in appointing this Memorial Committee, the first object was to have a statue erected. That was the first object, as was pointed out by the Mover of the Motion. As a trade unionist, the Member for Georgetown

North spoke of his experience and could have spoken for the workers who gave preference to a statue. I appealed to the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry; I appealed to his trade union loyalty; I tried to remind him of the time when he was, himself, a very active trade unionist and when he approved of a monument and preference was given to a statue. I never thought that it would have fallen to another trade unionist to, again, divert to another line of thought.

I said I believed that the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry said on the 28th May, 1958, that there was an article in the Press relating to the erection of a monument. At the time, the Press was referring to a statue; and I felt sure that the Minister was impressed with the appeals made and he was then speaking of a monument in relation to a statue.

I quite agree that a case has been made out by the Member for Georgetown North to erect a monument in the field in which Mr. Critchlow operated. But monuments are erected, specially, to commemorate notable persons or events and not for biological purposes; so that to build a biological institute and call it a memorial to that particular great son of the soil, is not appropriate. When reference was made to the erection of a memorial in Grenada, it must have been obvious to the Minister that that memorial was erected, specifically, to commemorate that great Grenadian. It was not something erected, primarily, for another purpose and his name was put on it eventually, or the whole thing would have lost its purpose.

The hon. Member for Georgetown North pointed out that the workers would be opposed to an institute. They would not relate it to the activities of Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow; and if Government succeeds in relating this biological institute to the activities of Critchlow, it

would die with the generation. And that is not the purpose of a memorial. It is that it should go down to posterity.

I regret very much that I cannot read into the speech of the hon. Minister of Trade and Industry that sincerity I thought I had recognized when he, on his own volition, said that this Council should support the erection of a monument. I think I was correct in saying what appeared in the Press was the erection of a statue; and I felt, at that time, that the hon. Minister spoke from his heart when he said that a monument should be erected; that the people's choice as it appeared in the Press was a statue; and that when the time comes for this Council to give its approval, that it would be given.

The whole purpose of the commemoration is being defeated. I want to say, if people are sincere in having something to commemorate anyone, they must relate that something to the activities of that individual. The Critchlow Memorial Committee thought of a statue or a trade union hall so that anyone could recognize, at once, that it must have been erected in honour of a trade unionist; or a scholarship to aid in the education of the children of workers. Why should the workers' children be given preference? Because it is to commemorate a champion of the workers. That is the way it has been done throughout generations. Why are we departing from tradition and practice which are honoured and respected on to this day? Is it the intention to confuse the people as to the true meaning of a memorial and to force them to forget this great man. I am loathed to believe that that is the intention. I feel it is a misconception in our zeal to economize; and it would do no harm if we erect a statue to commemorate Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow.

I have supported the suggestion relating to Edun, because I feel that the spirit dominant in this Council, at this time, is the spirit of gratefulness and, in-

[Mr. TELLO]

asmuch as we really want to commemorate this grand old man, Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, it would do no harm to commemorate another man. But if we are thinking of having a biological institute as a memorial, it is better that nothing be done. It is better that his name only appear in the records for reference, because an institute of that sort would serve no useful purpose except to have a record of the services of this trade unionist.

I regret very much that this debate has been prolonged. I felt that "Critchlow" would have been a magic word. I never thought that for the services he had rendered people would try to employ false economies. I feel it is Government's intention to economize by erecting something that would be used by Government and at the same time commemorate this grand old man of labour. I say the choice of the Critchlow Memorial Committee would have been his first love. I believe it is not the intention to remove the memory of Critchlow from the minds of the working class; and I am sorry that a man who was, at one time, Secretary of the T.U.C. should have given less thought of some-

thing to the memory of Critchlow. I would like him to withdraw that Amendment. It would be very bad in the history of the Legislature to keep it on the records. We are asking that something definite be done. We are not asking Government to do something that it cannot afford to do. We are asking that a statue be erected to the memory of this worthy son of the soil.

Dr. Jagan rose—

Mr. Speaker: I do not know how long you are going to speak, but it is now 4.58 p.m.

Mr. Kendall: will speak on the next occasion.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to move that this Council do adjourn to a date to be fixed.

Mr. Speaker: This Council stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Council adjourned accordingly, at 5.05 p.m.