

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

† THURSDAY, 19th FEBRUARY, 1948.

The Council met at 8 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. D. J. Parkinson (acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. E. M. Duke (acting).

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

The Hon. C. V. Wight, O.B.E., (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, C.B.E., (Nominated).

The Hon. Dr. J. B. Singh, O.B.E., (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. Dr. J. A. Nicholson, (Georgetown North).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. C. P. Ferreira (Berbice River).

The Hon. T. T. Thompson (Nominated).

The Hon. W. J. Raatgever (Nominated).

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum (Nominated).

The Hon. D. P. Debidin (Eastern Demerara).

The Hon. J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central).

The Hon. Dr. C. Jagan (Central Demerara).

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. C. A. McDoom (Nominated).

The Hon. A. T. Peters (Western Berbice).

The Hon. W. A. Phang (North Western District).

The Hon. G. H. Smellie (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday the 18th of February, 1948, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES TO FARMERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY communicated the following Message to the Council:—

MESSAGE No. 5.

Honourable Members of Legislative Council,

Honourable Members will recall the undertaking given in my Address at the first meeting of this Council to place before you at an early date proposals for a new long-term guarantee to purchase all locally grown foodstuffs at increased prices, with a view to the encouragement of increased food production within the Colony.

2. I now have the honour to place before you the prices, shown in the second column in the Schedule hereunder, which it is proposed that Government should guarantee, for the next three years, to purchase all farmers' produce of good quality. These prices, which have the full support of the *ad hoc* Marketing Committee and the Executive Council, have been decided on after careful consideration of the estimated cost of present-day production of the various commodities and are, in no instance, higher than those now being paid by the Government Produce Depot.

3. While therefore the present proposals should not in any way affect the cost of these commodities to the consumer, they ensure for the farmer a reasonable price for his crops over a long period.

4. For purposes of comparison, the 3-year minimum guarantee prices which expired on the 31st of August, 1947, and the Government Produce Depot 1-year guarantee prices, which will expire on the 14th of July, 1948, are also given hereunder.

5. I invite Honourable Members to approve of the proposals in paragraph 2 above.

SCHEDULE.

Crop	Proposed 3-year guar- antee cents per lb.	Recent 3-year guar- antee cents per lb.	Present 1-year guar- antee cents per lb.
Cassava—			
sweet	1.25	0.50	1.25
Corn (maize)	2.75	2.00	Nil
Eddoes	1.75	1.25	1.75
Plantains	1.50	1.00	2.00
Sweet			
Potatoes	2.50	2.00	2.50
Tannias	2.50	3.14	3.25
Yams	3.50	3.00	4.50

C. C. WOOLLEY,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana,
19th February, 1948.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICES TO FARMERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motion:—

That with reference to the Governor's Message No. 5 of the 19th of February, 1948, this Council approves of the guaranteed minimum prices to farmers as set out in Coloumn (2) of the Schedule to the Message.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of introduction and first reading of the following Bill:—

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, 1945, with respect to the first register of voters prepared thereunder."

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: I should

like to say that to-morrow I will move the first reading of this Bill and, with the permission of the Council, take it through all its stages. If hon. Members consent, however, I shall proceed with the Bill this evening.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES.

SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

Dr. JAGAN gave notice of the following motion:—

"WHEREAS the present shortage of properly qualified medical practitioners constitutes a grave hazard to the health and well-being of the inhabitants of British Guiana;

AND WHEREAS Guianese students desirous of studying medicine cannot readily gain admission to the Medical Schools in the United Kingdom and Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Medical School of the University College of the West Indies has only a limited number of places;

AND WHEREAS the course of training in approved United States Medical Colleges is equal in standard to that provided in the United Kingdom;

BE IT RESOLVED that British Guianese and West Indian graduates of approved Medical Schools of the U.S.A., be permitted to practise medicine in British Guiana.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (ELECTIONS) (AMDT.) BILL, 1948.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. the Attorney General desires to explain the nature of the Bill of which he has just given notice.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL: The object of this Bill of which I have just given notice is to provide that the first register of voters prepared under the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, 1945, shall continue in force until the 31st day of December, 1948. Under an Ordinance passed last year — No. 15 of 1947 — it is provided that the first register of voters shall continue in force until the 31st day of December, 1947. It did not contemplate that the first register of voters would have been prepared last year but that there would have been a

second register of voters, and it was not possible to commence a second register until the first register had been prepared. The first register of voters gave a lot of trouble because there was considerable difficulty as regards printing and the effect was that the register was not completed until some time about August or September, last year, so that it was not possible to have a register of voters prepared during 1947. The object of this Bill is to have a register of voters which will be effective during the current year; that is the whole object and it is a matter of some urgency in view of certain circumstances which have arisen.

The PRESIDENT: I would suggest to the Council that we take the Bill to-morrow evening; I think that would be sufficient time.

Mr. DEBIDIN: The learned Attorney General spoke to me a while ago about this Bill. It is hardly controversial and because of its importance, I am prepared to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rule and Order so that the Bill should be taken through all its stages to-night. It is very formal.

The PRESIDENT: There is nothing controversial in the Bill; it is just to rectify a position that we have got into owing to unforeseen circumstances. If the hon. Member is prepared to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rule and Order he should do so.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I beg to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rule and Order so as to enable this Bill to be taken through all its stages to-night.

Mr. THOMPSON seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Rule and Order suspended.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move the first reading of —

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Legislative Council (Elections) Ordinance, 1945, with respect to the first register of voters prepared thereunder."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a second time. I have already explained the reasons why it has been brought forward

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The PRESIDENT: Does any other Member wish to speak on the Bill?

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time

Council resolved itself into Committee and considered the Bill without amendment.

Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Motion put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ESTIMATES — 1948.

The PRESIDENT: Council will now resume the debate on the motion standing in the name of the Colonial Treasurer. It reads:—

"That this Council approves the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1948, which have been laid on the table."

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this Council resolves itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Estimates.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Motion put and agreed to.

ANALYST.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Before moving this particular head, I am wondering whether this Committee would not prefer to adopt some other procedure and that is that we dispose of the minor and uncontroversial heads first, and leave over for the last those on which hon. Members intend to speak. In that way we would be able to record a greater amount of progress than we would if, for instance, we got ourselves entangled in a debate on Education. I do not know whether you, Sir, prefer that course.

The CHAIRMAN: I am in the hands of the Committee, but I think you can move the deferment of any particular head that is controversial.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that the head Analyst be carried out at \$17,981 as recommended in the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. LEE: As regards item I (f) Allowance to officers for analysis of milk on Sundays and Holidays, \$500 — I beg to move that it be deleted. Time and again I have said in this Council that milk can be preserved from Sundays and Holidays and tested later by the Analyst. Fortunately or unfortunately, I have taken milk cases to the Appeal Court and that Court has decided that the Analyst has a right to add sodium bicarbonate to milk sent to him to be tested. I do not think, therefore, that this vote of \$500 is really necessary and in the interest of the taxpayers the amount should be saved.

Mr. ROTH: The hon. Member says that certain chemicals can preserve milk, but can he tell us whether they would also preserve the water that is added to it so very often?

Mr. LEE. That is a matter for the Analyst.

Head passed.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at

\$44,033 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion put and agreed to.

Head passed.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at \$90,776 which includes an addition of \$9,437 (for Cost of Living Allowance) as shown in the report of the Finance Committee.

Motion put and agreed to.

Head passed

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE —
PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION BUREAU.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at \$13,903 as shown in the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I beg to move that this head be reduced by the sum of \$1,920. As hon. Members will observe from item 1, b, the sum of \$1,920 has been inserted under this head to provide for the appointment of an Assistant Public Information Officer. I do not know whether Government desires to have this post because of increased work in this Department, or whether because there is available a young man of sterling qualities who might find it difficult to be placed elsewhere and therefore this post is being created for him.

The CHAIRMAN: Certainly not; Government does not create posts in order to provide for any particular officers.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I assume that that is not usually done, but this officer has been transferred to another post at the same salary I believe, after having given a considerable amount of service in this Department. I think he has gone to the Public Works Department as Relations Officer.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I think the information of the hon. Mem-

ber is false. The officer at the Public Works Department is not the individual who would be taking up this post.

Mr. DEBIDIN: That makes my point even stronger. This Department served its usefulness during the War, and I would add that it served us very well indeed, but now that we have come to the end of hostilities I do not think the necessity for the Department exists any longer. I would say, however, in fairness to the Information Officer, that as a result of the information collected and other things done during the War his services to the Government were very valuable needed. I think provision could be made for his being drafted into Colonial Secretariat, especially as questions are being asked in this Council so often by hon. Members and he would be very useful in answering them. I think the Officer would be of considerable help to this Council and he could also serve as Liaison Officer between us and the various Departments.

The CHAIRMAN: He is attached to the Colonial Secretariat.

Mr. DEBIDIN: He would not be detached, but would be in the Colonial Secretariat proper. At the moment he is in a separate building and is running a separate Department. As will be observed, I am not moving the deletion of the entire head. My desire is that expenditure should not be increased by the appointment of an officer to this post of Assistant Public Information Officer, and I would repeat that this is not the time to increase expenditure in the Colony. While I have not moved the deletion of the entire head I would like to express the opinion that within the year this head should come up for review along the lines I have indicated and by the time the next Estimates come before this Council I hope there would be no necessity for me to move the wiping out of the Department because that capable and responsible officer—the Public Information Officer—would have been transferred to the Colonial Secretariat proper.

Mr. LEE: I would like to tell my friend, the hon. Member for Eastern

Demerara that if he enquires into the service being rendered to the public by the B.P.I. he would find that it is a very useful Department, and especially in the case of the Public Information Officer. A large amount of correspondence and information is sent down here from England and it has to be docketed and got through for the benefit of Members of this Council and also of the general public. Being a past member of the Advisory Committee to this Department. I can assure the hon. Member that at this moment the Department is rendering very valuable service to the public. I think it was suggested in this Council some time ago that films of an educational nature should be shown to the people in the country districts and I can assure my hon. friend that such films are now being sent to this Department. If the aim of Government is carried into effect through this Department the films would be of lasting benefit to the public in general. I would therefore ask the hon. Member to carry this vote and he would see that this Department would prove to be still very useful especially to Members interested in the education of the general public.

Mr. ROTH: While we do not doubt the sincerity of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara it is obvious that he is entirely unaware of the vast amount of work that is being done by this Department and the fact that it cannot be done by the head of the Department without the assistance he requires. The work done by the Department includes the answering of a large number of enquiries—pages and pages of them—from sources both local and abroad.

Dr. NICHOLSON: I rise merely to endorse the remarks made by the last speaker; it would be superfluous to add anything to what he has said about this Department. I said yesterday that the speech of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara did not have much substance but tonight it has no substance at all. (Laughter). I heartily support the vote as set out here.

Head passed.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE—
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER AND
ECONOMIC ADVISER

Mr. DEBIDIN: I move that consideration of this head be deferred.

Head deferred.

CUSTOMS

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at \$151,458 as recommended in the report of the Finance Committee.

Motion put and agreed to.

Head passed.

Mr. LEE: I notice that certain local people have bought property from the American bases—the naval as well as the the air base—and I would like to find out from the Colonial Treasurer whether such property is liable for duty and, if so whether that duty has been collected.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I do not know what particular items the hon. Member is referring to. I can say, however, that as a matter of principle all items that come in from the American bases are liable to duty. What is more, they are liable for licence in the same way as if they came in from America.

EDUCATION

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I suggest that consideration of this head be deferred.

Head deferred.

FIRE PROTECTION

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at \$99,340 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion put and agreed to.

Head passed.

FOREST DEPARTMENT

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that this head be carried out at \$72,768 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I move that consideration of this head be deferred since the head relating to the post of Development Commissioner and Economic Adviser has been also deferred. As a matter of fact, I think all the heads relating to the Department mentioned previously should be deferred.

The CHAIRMAN: Which Department?

Mr. DEBIDIN: The Department referred to in the motion by the hon. Member for Essequibo River—the Geological Survey.

Head deferred.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I \$54,926 as recommended in the report of the Finance Committee.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I move the reduction of this head by one cent for the purpose of discussion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: It is not necessary to move that. I have moved that the Head be carried out at \$54,926, and so the hon. Member can speak without moving that it be reduced by one cent.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I am glad for that. I am made to understand, and I have noticed that some Members always say, it is not good to refer to hearsay. There are times when one must indulge in a certain amount of hearsay. When there is a rumour there is always room for it.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not agree with the hon. Member.

Mr. DEBIDIN: On this occasion I have ample foundation for what I am going to refer to in respect of this Department. There is a person from Europe who is being appointed Deputy Commissioner of Labour when I happen to know that in this Colony we have competent men capable of carrying out the duties of that post. If that is so, I would demand that no attempt should be made to appoint anyone outside this Colony when we have competent

Judicial Districts of Berbice and Eastern Demerara will be remedied at a very early time.

Mr. PHANG: I would like to know what has become of the recommendation of the Finance Committee with regard to the appointment of a Travelling Magistrate who is to do some of the work in the North-West District. Last year there was no Court held at Mabaruma for about three months and this year there has been no Court held as yet. I would like to know what has become of the recommendation of the Finance Committee in regard to this matter.

Mr. FERREIRA: I would like to support the remarks made by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara as regards the Magistrate travelling from New Amsterdam to hold Court at Mahaica. It is not the first time that this matter has been mentioned in this Council, but for some reason the change has not been made. I think, I speak correctly when I say, it is a matter which has been brought to the notice of Government by the Police Department. For very good reasons I would urge on Government to pay attention to this matter. It is wrong for a Magistrate to have to leave New Amsterdam and travel to Mahaica to hold Court, which necessitates him sleeping in Georgetown at times as there is no accommodation at Mahaica. Sometimes he has to travel to Georgetown on the day previous to the holding of Court. It imposes a hardship on the Magistrate which does not tend to improve the administration of justice.

Mr. LEE: I think this matter was debated here, led by Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, then a Member of this Council, and the hon. the Attorney-General had promised then to go into the jurisdiction of the several Courts and see what can be done. But nothing has been done, and I feel that the hon. Members for Eastern Demerara and for Berbice River are asking Government to make a speedy remedy. I endorse that, and I would like to tell my hon. friends that if a Magistrate has acted for two years and has given service and satisfaction it would be a saving to the Colony to appoint him permanently.

Mr. FARNUM: I beg to join with the hon. Member, Mr. Phang, in respect of the recommendations of the Finance Committee about a Magistrate for the North-Western District. I think it was unanimous that the Travelling Magistrate should be appointed because the present system that obtains up there is what I regard and call "un-British". I have heard of a case in which someone committed an offence in the District Commissioner's compound in the North-Western District, the Police were called in and the District Commissioner ordered that the person be charged. The Police did so and the District Commissioner tried the case. I am not a lawyer, but I fancy that is rather "un-British". I think the suggestion is a good one that a Travelling Magistrate be appointed not only for the North-Western District but for the whole area—Moruca and other places.

Mr. ROTH: In fairness to the Travelling Magistrate and District Commissioner of which I was one for many years, I must say that at times his position is very embarrassing. It is only a matter of commonsense. In a case like the one which had been referred to, the Commissioner does not charge persons, the Police do. In my day I did not know what cases were coming before me until I got to the Court. I know it is not the best position. Sir Eustace Woolford had in the Combined Court and in this Council expressed very strong views on the subject, I being the victim of those views. It is a question of expense. If you are going to put two Magistrates to function in the North-Western District, the Rupununi and the Interior, then you do not understand the extent of this country to have one Magistrate to travel over the whole Interior. We must be prepared to vote the money. It is no use making plans and not doing anything about it. Travelling Magistrates do their best to hold the scales of justice even. I do not know one case in which they have not done so. They have done all they can. They are working under very peculiar conditions.

Dr. JAGAN: I would like to know what has been done in regard to the recommendation of the Finance Committee relative to Collecting Officers. I think that the six Collecting Officers are not ade-

quately paid when their salary is considered in relation to that of the Chief Collecting Officer. It was shown that there is an anomaly in the salary scales. In the former salary scales there was a difference between the Chief Collecting Officer and the others—\$240, and I find that in the new salary scales that difference will be \$360. Also I see that the Chief Collecting Officer will reach his maximum in six years whereas the other six Collecting Officers will reach their maximum in eight years, despite the fact that the incremental scale for the Chief Collecting Officer is higher. I would like to find out what action Government has taken in this matter, whether Government has decided to increase the salary scale and to measure up in some degree to the Magistrates' recommendation. As we all know, these Collecting Officers are now working under the Magistrates. If the Magistrates make recommendations they should be carried out, as the Magistrates know the responsibilities and duties of these officers.

Mr. LEE: I would like to endorse the statement made by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. Your Excellency, the amount of money that passes through the hands of these Collecting Officers is such that they are deserving of more pay, and I feel Government should consider their case.

Mr. WIGHT: This matter was discussed in Finance Committee and hon. Members were apprised of the fact that there is at the moment a transitory period about which Government has not arrived at a decision as to whether the Magistrates should be under the control of the learned the Attorney-General or under the Chief Justice, and no doubt all these matters can be decided and will be considered by His Honour the Chief Justice if and when he does take control of the Department. I quite appreciate what the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Farnum, said. Inasmuch as the prosecutor happens to be involved it is not only 'un-British' but not British justice. I think that is due to the indiscretion of the person involved, and it does not necessarily mean that it is due to a defect in the administration of justice. It may have been that the individual who had been clothed

with that power exercised powers which he had no right to do.

With regard to the question of the various judicial districts, some time ago Mr. Justice Luckhoo, First Puisne Judge, and myself as Members of the Executive Council at the instance of your predecessor put up a report, and I think that matter is receiving consideration. That report was fully considered and, I think, was approved in principle by the Government with the exception of one point and that is in respect of the division of the Abary River as to whether it should be included in the Berbice District or in the Demerara District. I think that also will in due course be considered when the principle is decided as to whether the learned the Attorney-General should control the Magistracy or His Honour the Chief Justice.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I brought the matter up in Finance Committee relative to these Collecting Officers, and I made the point that whereas the first group is from \$480 to \$1,200 and will reach the maximum within six years according to the increments, the junior men will take eight years to reach their maximum. I made the suggestion then that the increment for the lower grade should be increased to \$40 or so. Apart from that I suggested that those men be given an increase in their salaries on account of the amount of work involved. It is an arduous task. They work just as hard as any clerk in the Magisterial Department.

In so far as the Abary River is concerned I am going to make it perfectly clear that Eastern Demerara should begin at the western bank of the Abary River and should include Kitty and there should be one Magistrate for that district. If it means relieving the second Magistrate for Berbice of some of his duties and affording him more time than he can use, then I would say that Magistrate should be given the right to do all the indictable cases and special cases in neighbouring places. I think that will solve the situation. There should be no difficulty as to the division.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: The discussion which took place in Finance

Committee was very useful and I made certain promises in Finance Committee which I shall certainly implement. Those Members of this Council who raised those questions in Finance Committee have not spoken here this evening, because they feel sure I shall honour my promise. I may mention that one point was raised in Finance Committee which was very important. It was with respect to giving power to the Magistrate to make an interim order for the payment of maintenance by a husband to his wife pending the making of an Order. Certain Members have pointed out that some of those cases take a very long time, and I have given that undertaking. I think it was the hon. Member for Georgetown Central who pointed out that whereas the law made provision for the payment to the Court through the medium of Collecting Officers of amounts due on affiliation orders, no similar facility was at present in force with respect to the payment of monies due by a husband to his wife on a maintenance order. Those two points I shall consider, and I hope that an early decision will be reached on those points.

The hon. Member for Eastern Demerara has mentioned that the Courts at Mahaica and Mahaicony, which are within the East Demerara Electoral District, are within the Berbice Judicial District. I do not know whether the hon. Member objects on principle to be allied in that respect to Berbice, but it may very well be that crime within the East Demerara Judicial District may not be as great as in other districts. Apart from the fact that the Magistrate of the Berbice Judicial District has to travel relatively long distances every fortnight, I think that the arrangement works very well and, after all, when a person is appointed a Magistrate he must take the good and the bad; he must be satisfied with the bad roads and be glad when he has good roads to travel on. He knows when he has undertaken the office of Magistrate he is liable to be transferred from one district to another, and when you come to think of it travelling forty miles is not such a long distance and to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning once a fortnight to attend Court is not such a great inconvenience. There

are officers of Government who work practically every night and who work from very early in the morning, so I do not think it is really a good point to say a Magistrate suffers such a great inconvenience because on one day in a fortnight he has to get up at 5 o'clock in the morning. The whole question of the functioning of Magistrates and the division of districts is dependent largely on the amount of money available for the payment of Magistrates.

If hon. Members of this Council think that more Magistrates should be appointed then more money would have to be voted. Government has to carry on with the available money. There has been a great increase in the number of criminal offences which are tried in Georgetown and that is one of the reasons why it is not possible at the present time to separate Mahaica and Mahaicony from the Berbice Judicial District.

As regards the remarks made by the hon. Member for North Western District, I sympathise very much with his views and with the conditions under which the people there have to live but it is a very difficult matter and there again it is a question of expense. Speaking for myself, I would certainly like to see a person who is legally trained functioning as Magistrate in the North Western District but, as I have already said, it is a question of expense. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Farnum, has referred to a case which he says occurred in the North Western District, but it is a pity that when a case like that arises it is not reported promptly to the Attorney General because if such a case is promptly reported to the Attorney General he would certainly take steps to advise you, Sir, to do whatever is right in the circumstances. I shall therefore ask that when such a case arises in future a prompt and early report should be made to the Attorney General. I must thank the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara for the statement which he made that extreme care must always be used in the selection of Magistrates, whether permanent or acting.

Mr. LEE: I am sorry to say that I

am not satisfied with the explanation given by the Attorney General as regards Magistrates in the various districts. The people in the country districts have a great regard for those in authority and let us take the North Western District for instance. There you have the Commissioner of the District acting as the Magistrate and therefore if he charges a man as Commissioner for blackmarketing or any other offence he would have to try that man as Magistrate. Is that an example of British justice? We feel that even if more money has to be expended the principles of British justice should be practised; therefore the reply of the learned the Attorney General is not satisfactory to us. There was an instance in which the Travelling Magistrate in the Mazaruni district wanted the compound cleaned and the only way he could have got it done was to send a man to jail for seven days and get him to do it in the meanwhile. I do not think that was fair, Sir, and I appeal to you in all seriousness to see that steps are taken to remedy the present state of affairs. The country people respect the law and those in authority, and we who are representing them would like to see them get the kind of justice they expect.

Let us take another example: You have a Magistrate who has to leave New Amsterdam at 5 a.m. in order to catch the launch and travel to Mahaica for Court, then he has to leave Mahaica and travel to Georgetown in order to get somewhere to sleep. I think this arrangement results in a waste of time for when a Magistrate is appointed he cases are piling up in the East Coast district. Some of the litigants complain that cases are being postponed because the Magistrate has to try and get to Georgetown in order to get somewhere to sleep. We are asking that these things be remedied and I think the Attorney General, with the consent of the Government should endeavour to remedy them. One should not expect a Magistrate to work under conditions such as I have mentioned all the time as he would only be ruining his health. What would be the use of a man accepting a job if it would only ruin his health.

Mr. PETERS: I do hope that the Attorney General who listened with great care to the criticism levelled against

the system of having a Magistrate coming from New Amsterdam to try cases at Mahaica and Mahaicony would look into the matter, and we entertain some hope that a change would be made in that direction. I know positively that in so far as the amalgamation of the Berbice Judicial District with the East Demerara Judicial District is concerned, it is one of the most unfelicitous matters connected with our Law Courts in this Colony. I have no doubt that the Attorney General is acquainted with the nature of the problem and the inconvenience being experienced by the Magistrates, but we also have to consider the inconvenience and the expense which have to be met by the litigants and the lawyers who visit these courts. I think we lawyers often fight shy of going to Mahaica or Mahaicony for the reason that we are never quite certain that our cases would be heard after one or two trips. The Magistrate has to think about coming to Georgetown for somewhere to lay his head, or if he has to return to New Amsterdam he has to catch the boat. The hardships endured by lawyers and litigants in those parts are certainly very great.

The learned the Attorney General states that crime in Georgetown has increased very much and that is the reason for keeping this system as unfelicitous as it is, but some attention should be given to the fact that the Magistrate who functions in the East Demerara Judicial District and comes to Georgetown does not try criminal cases. He tries civil cases and, as Rent Assessor, he does cases of assessment. That must be brought to the notice of the Attorney General for perchance he may not have realised it. One must also call attention to the infelicity in the fact that the Magistrate of the Demerara River District has to come to Providence. The Magistrate from the Demerara River District is fairly overloaded and in coming to Providence he simply cannot get through the work and the cases left over have to be done by the Magistrate in Georgetown. There is no doubt that there is a growing need for reorganisation of the Judicial Districts in the Colony and one cannot but wish seriously that something would be done whereby this infelicity in matters of litigation would be corrected as soon as possible.

of the Colony I cannot say. I imagine it would be completely expensive, but I think it is highly probable that there will be a unit in Berbice.

Mr. FERREIRA: During the war this vote was there; it is nothing new. On the outbreak of the war this Colony could not shoulder the responsibility of maintaining regular troops, and the Imperial Government took over that responsibility, the Colony contributing a small amount. As regards the organisation being Colony wide, there has always been a Militia Company in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and I am told that this Volunteer Corps will be extended to Skeldon. There is one there now. It is not something that has come to this Council now for the first time.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The hon. Member is quite right. I am getting old, because Members should remember that there were two Militia Companies in this Colony some years ago—the Artillery Company and the Infantry Company, of which the Colony was very proud. During the war we had the South Caribbean Force of which a Battalion was stationed in this Colony. That Force was maintained by H. M. Government as part of the regular British Army. When the Battalions were disbanded in most of the other Colonies a similar disbandment took place in this Colony, and one of the things considered was whether we should support a small Caribbean Force stationed in some other Colony, and we decided that we would prefer to revert to our former position of maintaining our own local Militia. This matter was the subject of a full-dress debate in this Council on September 26 last year, and this Council decided that we should establish a Volunteer Corps, and authorised Government to introduce the necessary legislation. A Bill will be put before the Council soon with regard to the establishment of the Force, and I do hope we will not have an annual repetition of a debate on this matter.

As regards the Militia Band I am glad that it has so many friends in this Council and outside of it. I am one of the greatest friends of the Band. The question of the salaries of the Bandsmen has

come up from time to time, and in common with other services they have had revisions of their salary scales, but I do agree that the scales are low, and that promotion is remote for most of them. There again I have a note of the minutes of the Finance Committee which shows that I undertook to bring this matter up again for consideration. I hope to honour that promise as soon as these Estimates are through.

The CHAIRMAN put the question for the approval of the head "Militia" and declared it carried.

Mr. LEE: I ask for a division on the vote for the Volunteer Corps—sub-heads 7 to 15.

The CHAIRMAN: I put the head and I declared that the "Ayes" had it.

Mr. LEE: I am asking you to put items 1 to 6 first, and then items 7 to 15.

The CHAIRMAN: I think it amounts to the same thing. If the majority of the Council approves of the whole head—

Mr. LEE: I would like you to put items 1 to 6. I am moving the deletion of items 7 to 15.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I must explain that we are really in Committee of the whole Council considering the report of the Finance Committee on the Estimates. I have moved a motion in terms of the recommendations of the Finance Committee's report. That is the motion which has been put and declared carried. The hon. Member is asking for a division but there is no motion now before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The motion put to the Committee was that the provision recommended by the Finance Committee be approved under this head, and I declared the motion carried. The hon. Member says "Divide," but if he does not approve of the recommendation of the Committee he could vote against it.

Mr. LEE: As far as I know, the practice is that if there is dissent by any Member of the Council with regard to any item under a head, he asks that the

preceding items be put first, and then a vote is taken on the item dissented to. I am asking that that procedure be adopted in this case, and that items 7 to 15 be put to the vote now. If Your Excellency feels that that is not the proper procedure I can do nothing but submit to the ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member is rather late in making his suggestion. When I put the motion any Member could move an amendment that any item be deleted, and that would be quite in order. The head was put to the Committee and carried, and then the hon. Member asked for a division.

Mr. LEE: I formally move that items 7 to 15 be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN: I have no objection to putting it to the Committee. Those in favour of the amendment will say "Aye" and those against "No." I declare the "Noes" have it.

Mr. LEE: I ask for a division.

The Committee divided and voted:—

For—Dr. Jagan and Mr. Lee—2.

Against — Messrs. Smellie, Phang, Peters, McDoom, Kendall, Fernandes, Farnum, Raatgever, Thompson, Roth Ferreira, Seaford, Wight, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Singh, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General, and the Colonial Secretary — 18.

Did not vote — Mr. Debidin — 1.

Amendment lost.

The CHAIRMAN: This is the third time this Volunteer Force vote has come up since I have been in the Council. The whole matter had been thoroughly thrashed out, and I gather it had been thrashed out in Finance Committee. I would ask Members not to take up the time of the Council in discussing matters which had been discussed before. I am not anxious to curb the debate in any way whatever, but I do feel that it is one of the whole objects of the Finance Committee to consider matters in detail and go into every detail in respect of any-

thing new. Hon. Members, therefore, ought to be in a position to cast their vote without any further discussion. This is the third time it has come up and it has been one long repetition lasting an hour. I hope that now the Council has decided so decisively on this matter, we will not have any further controversy over it.

MISCELLANEOUS

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I move that Head XXIV "Miscellaneous" be carried out at a total of \$695,282 as recommended by the Finance Committee. In doing so I would like to call attention to the additions since there are a number of new items:—

- "Sub-head 21 — Tourist Bureau and Advertisement of the Colony in Canada and elsewhere, \$3,000 to be increased to \$10,000;
- Sub-head 33 — Compensation Claims to be increased from \$1,000 to \$1,750;
- Sub-head 41 — Assistance to Ex-Servicemen, \$7,600;
- Sub-head 42 — Rent of Premises for temporary office accommodation, \$1,200."

The last two are new items in addition to those which are printed.

TOURIST BUREAU

Dr. JAGAN: In the Finance Committee I reserved the right to speak on the Tourist Bureau. I am against any increase in the vote for this department. As I had mentioned, and I want to state again, I cannot see under present conditions that we in British Guiana can ever hope to attract tourists in any large number, and for that reason I again state it is certainly a waste of money. If I can claim to know the Americans and the people out West and in the North, I would like to state that those people as tourists fall into two categories — one category comprising those who would like to have comfort, and the other category comprising those who would like to have fun. As regards fun, I am sorry to say we in British Guiana have nothing to offer people coming out here from the U.S.A., and Canada, and they much prefer to go to Bermuda or to Miami or Barbados, where they can do a lot of swimming, dancing, etc., and have a lot of fun. As far as the other group is concerned, those whom I call the leisure class who

are interested in having luxury, I can state that British Guiana has no such accommodation for them. The hotels in British Guiana to-day are packed and cannot be compared with the hotels which those tourists are accustomed to in other countries. There are few things that we do have to offer; for instance the trip to Kaieteur, that is not only a hazardous trip, but a very difficult one. Most of the people who are going to come here as tourists are going to do so as round-trippers on the boats, and whether we spend money or not in advertising they are going to come here.

I know Your Excellency has a certain amount of apprehension as regards this Bureau also. I know also that the Tourist Bureau has some department in the U.S.A., in the city of New York, but I cannot see how much good such a small bureau in a very high skyscraper — I do not know on what floor it is, but I am told it is on a very high floor — can do. I do not think that with the small amount of the vote allocated to it, it can in any way attract any large number of tourists to come to British Guiana. Even if we do attract them, what have we to offer them? That is my point. I think the best thing to do, if you want to advertise British Guiana, is to wipe out this vote completely and make a film. There is a company — the Argosy Film Company — which is going to Jamaica. We can invite them to come and make a film of British Guiana. We can show them all the places of attraction, the slums and everything, and let the people away see what they have to come to. In that way, I think, we will be doing a great measure of good. I notice that we have just passed the Head "Publicity and Information Bureau". I think that Bureau can readily undertake that objective. I do not want to comment on the usefulness of that Bureau. What it is doing now is handing out items to the newspapers. That can easily be done by the newspapers themselves. That Bureau can undertake this job and do it openly. I am moving that this item for \$10,000 be removed from the Estimates.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I would like to say the amount for this item is considerably too small. It should be increased tenfold at least. We are at the threshold, so we

are told and so we feel, of great development in this Colony, and I do hope it will come about speedily. We cannot do enough to advertise this Colony and, I venture to think, apart from the income which will be derived from tourists coming to this Colony there will be the possibility of these tourists seeing opportunity for investment in this Colony. I want particularly to refer to a place in this Colony which can be made a tourists' centre of the Colony. I refer to the Bartica Triangle. I think Government should at an early time appoint a Committee to go into the whole question of advertisement of this Colony and invitations to people to come to this Colony and see the panoramic beauty of the Colony. Facilities for having an enjoyable time, as referred to by the last speaker, and opportunities for having all the leisure in the world are afforded by the Bartica Triangle. I happen to know that within recent times aquatic sports have been arranged there and were a huge success. I believe if there can be made the headquarters of the tourists' concern for the Colony and a branch can be established in Georgetown, this Colony would do very much in attracting tourists to the Colony.

I will support this vote, and in doing so I trust it will be the nucleus for developing a real tourist bureau, something which will really extend the possibilities of this Colony to greater heights and extend the knowledge of the beauty etc., which we have and which in no small way will attract the people we want to attract. I think Members of this Council are aware that within the last few weeks a number of important men have arrived in the Colony and have had the opportunity of looking around. Most of them have written of their impressions of this Colony. I have made a trip to Kaieteur and my impressions of that trip have left me in no doubt that we cannot do enough to advertise the beauty and attractiveness of British Guiana to people who want to have a holiday. I pass on, as others may desire to speak on this subject. I do not want to delay the Council, but I must refer to one or two items under this Head.

I desire to refer to the Census of the Colony. As far as I am aware, I have

not been able to see that precious document yet. I would like to know when we are going to have the report, when it is going to be made public. A census has been taken, and I am afraid I cannot commend Government on the long delay this Census report has been forthcoming. Also I would like to refer to the question of the Probation Officers. I happen to know that the Magistrates' Association is putting up a proposal for Probation Officers and the amalgamation of the departments so as to bring this whole thing under a useful head. I want to think that Government can do much to encourage a particular department being formed where sufficient attention can be paid to the boys leaving the Onderneeming School and also those who have been put on probation and those who have served their term completely. I find, and I must make this comment, that the money is being spent in little bits here and there — so much to the Salvation Army to look after twelve probationers, the Probation Officer who is appointed with Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and so much for the Girls' School. The Onderneeming Industrial School is a big establishment. I feel that the whole thing can come under one head which can function to greater advantage for our criminally-minded youths.

I want to refer also to Item 39 "Maintenance of Interior Airfields, \$15,000." I had mentioned in Finance Committee that I intended to speak on this item here. I am strongly of the opinion, and I would like to urge my conviction, that this item should be brought into the working expenses of the British Guiana Airways, Ltd., and not made a Colony expenditure at all. After all, it is true that we need to have these strips maintained, but they have been built at considerable cost to the Colony and it would be a great pity should they get into disuse. But they would not go into disuse if the B.G. Airways, Ltd., is to survive and be maintained in the way it is proposed. But I strongly feel that this item should not be a Colony expenditure since the only concern which will be using the airfields is the B.G. Airways, Ltd., unless we allow competition in having other companies to be formed. But this Company has cause to be pleased, knowing that it has strips

prepared for it, and it should be quite willing to maintain them at its expense. Take another aspect of it. If it is not done as I suggest, it would mean this: If that proposal is put through and we are called upon to meet any deficiency of the B.G. Airways, Ltd., say \$20,000 in one year, that deficiency would really be \$20,000 plus \$15,000. In other words, we are assisting and subsidising that Company to this extent when we allow this item. For that reason I move the deletion of this item for \$15,000.

Mr. FERREIRA: I would like to agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara when he speaks of the deletion of \$10,000 for the Tourist Bureau. In so doing, I think the time has come when we must be honest and face facts. Honesty is the best policy. To attract tourists down here and not to be able to provide them with the minimum of comfort and modern amenities, it would do this Colony more harm than good. We have very little down here that really can attract tourists. We speak very glibly of Kaieteur, but it starts and ends just there. We glibly gloss over the grave and serious inconvenience in getting there. We think that tourists will be glad to see a tropical country, a sugar estate, or something like that. Surely if we put ourselves in the place of one of those leaving England, or America, or whatever place, would we be honest in not stopping off at some place where there is blue water, first class hotel accommodation, where service is service? But we think that by advertising to a gullible public we can get business. There is an old saying "Advertise, provided you have the goods." I do not know that by advertising and persuading tourists under false pretences we will get them to do business with us. I maintain that in so doing, we damage our country more than doing it good. One Member speaks of bringing tourists down here and by so doing have the Colony developed. Surely, that is not the way to attract Capital to the Colony. We should do so by being able to advertise facts of our resources, facts which you can only get by geological surveys. The Tourist Bureau is a very poor substitute for that. I like to be honest and for that reason I say, much as we

want the country to progress, let us make progress along honest lines and quit putting up false information to a gullible public.

Mr. LEE: On the last occasion when this vote came up the amount was \$3,000. There was some discussion in Finance Committee, and as this Colony was under a contract it was agreed to pass the item. Now I see that it again appears at \$10,000. As the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Ferreira) has said, we must face facts. Can we honestly tell people in America, Canada or England that we have hotel accommodation here to put them up for a fortnight or even a week? We are going to throw away \$16,000 to bring people here, and after they have come and gone they complain about our hotel accommodation. Our Kaieteur Fall and the Botanic Gardens are great attractions to tourists, but will tourists come here only to see our Botanic Gardens which they can cover in a day? Have we prepared any plan to convey tourists to Kaieteur by plane at reasonable rates, or by comfortable road transport? We have not, therefore why vote \$16,000 for the purpose of fooling tourists. The tourist trade has benefited many of the West Indian islands, but has it benefited British Guiana? I say in all seriousness that every cent that can be saved should be spent in providing vocational training for our boys and girls. I therefore move the deletion of the item.

With respect to the item for the maintenance of interior airfields, I would like to know whether it includes the Mackenzie airfield. If it does, I would move the reduction of the vote because it has definitely been stated by experts that that airfield is a white elephant, and that Government should not have expended money in its construction. It is true that the Imperial Government put up the money, but the cost is chargeable against the grants allocated to this Colony. We should therefore take care to see that Welfare grants are properly spent. If I get an assurance from the Treasurer that the maintenance of the Mackenzie airfield is not included in this vote I would support the item.

Mr. THOMPSON: On the last occasion when, in referring to this item, I

remarked that we had nothing to offer tourists I was taken to task. I did not say that British Guiana has nothing to present, but what I had in mind was the lack of hotel accommodation and the difficulty in getting to places of attraction. We talk glibly about opening the country, but it is my considered opinion that until we are prepared to spend very largely we can never open the country. It should be the duty of the Government to see that proper hotel accommodation is provided for the tourists we desire to attract. We have no philanthropists here who will provide that accommodation, and it is a question we have to face squarely if we are to attract tourists to this country. For a tourist to see Kaieteur he has to take a hazard, and he is not going to be happy in travelling there. When I said that British Guiana had nothing to offer tourists I did not mean that we have no attractions, but that we lack the means to see them. If we are to develop the tourist trade we must go wholeheartedly about it. We quibble over a few thousand dollars which are like a drop in the ocean. The whole question will have to be gone into again and faced squarely.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The discussion has centred around three points — the vote for the Tourist Bureau, the vote for the maintenance of interior airfields, and an item which is not a vote at all (it appeared in last year's Estimate) but was used as an opportunity for making an inquiry as to the census. I shall deal with the last one first. I saw yesterday in my office a paper from Jamaica in which they reported that the Census report would soon be ready, and asked us for our distribution list and the number of copies we required. I should like to explain that the Census was a joint undertaking in this Caribbean area. Each Colony did a certain amount of work locally and the results were sent to the Development and Welfare Office in Jamaica where equipment for rapid collation of the information exists. The whole thing is being done under the auspices of this particular Bureau of the Development and Welfare Organisation. I am led to believe that the Report will be a very voluminous document which will contain new features, and I hope copies will be here in a very short time.

As regards the interior airfields, I have listened to some very curious arguments yesterday and to-night about communications. Yesterday I heard the suggestion that the Rupununi cattle trail should have been built and maintained by the Rupununi Development Co. To-night I have heard that the interior airfields should have been built and maintained by the air transport service. There are many arguments against that. We might take it a little further and say that the Bartica-Potaro road should be maintained by the B.G. Consolidated Goldfields, Ltd., because they use it mainly, but I know of no part of the world where airports used by air services are maintained by the air services. It is quite the normal procedure for either Government or the Municipality to put down these very expensive installations and invite air services to use them. It is a public facility. Interior airfields are put down as our principal means of developing the interior. We are very glad that in these days we have been able to establish communication by air with places where we could never have gone before. We have got these airfields very cheaply. I think we have about 29 or 30 at a cost of £30,000 — an extremely good investment. It was not our money but money given to us by H.M. Government, but we have to maintain them. I think this vote is one of the most useful as far as interior development is concerned. I do submit that it is an extraordinary position to take up, that the air transport company should maintain these airfields. It could very well be said that the Pan American Airways should maintain the airport at Atkinson Field.

With regard to the Tourist Bureau I am going to invite my hon. friend, Mr. Raatgever, to repeat the very eloquent statement he made in Finance Committee in defence of this increase in the vote. I am sure he can convince the majority of the Members of this Council that it would be a very wise investment, and I would ask him to repeat his remarks. I can assure the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) that not one farthing will be spent on the Mackenzie airport, and that he will have another opportunity of expressing himself as eloquently as possible on the Mackenzie airport.

Mr. DEBIDIN : I would like to know whether Pan American Airways do not pay for the use of the Piarco airfield in Trinidad and the Atkinson Base here?

The COLONIAL TREASURER : All air services pay a landing fee of some sort, usually a very small fee, and no airport in the world pays its way. The largest airport in the world is the one at La Guardia in New York which is run at a horrible loss although it accommodates 500 services per day. We do not charge our Airways a fee for landing on interior air strips.

Mr. RAATGEVER : I am rather surprised that my friends, the hon. Members for Central Demerara, Berbice River and Essequibo River have so little faith in the country in which they were born, because I take it that they are all Guianese.

Mr. FERREIRA : I have every faith in my country but not along tourist lines.

Mr. RAATGEVER : The tourist industry is one of the most important industries in many countries of the world, and it is so in many of the West Indian islands. In Jamaica revenue of over a million pounds is received annually from tourists, and the Government of that island spends \$150,000 annually in encouraging them to go there. Coming nearer home to Trinidad, revenue of over a million dollars is secured from tourists, and the Government gives a grant of \$40,000 to the Tourist Bureau. In this Colony the grant is only \$10,000, a mere bagatelle. As I said in Finance Committee, this money is necessary for advertising the Colony, because it is well known that visitors coming here are told awful tales in the West Indian islands of conditions obtaining in this Colony—about snakes, monkeys, alligators and other things walking on the streets, and about malaria, typhoid and all sorts of fevers that we have not got here. So that for the purpose of advertising the Colony I think this \$10,000 is money well spent.

One of my friends mentioned about hotel accommodation. I have just returned from the Conference in Barbados where the hotel accommodation is worse than it is here. The Deputy President and I had to share a small room.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I do not think the hon. Member selected his hotel with sufficient care.

Mr. RAATGEVER: Unfortunately I did not select the hotel. The accommodation was selected for me, and if I did not take it I would have had to come back. The point is that the hotel accommodation in this Colony is no worse than it is elsewhere. Government was asked last year to enact an Ordinance similar to legislation passed in Jamaica and Trinidad providing facilities for people to invest money in hotels, to improve the present hotel accommodation and also to build new hotels, but for some reason Government has not seen fit to pass that legislation. Until that is done I am afraid we are not going to have any more hotels or increased or improved hotel accommodation.

As far as tourists are concerned I agree that we have not the attractions in this Colony that perhaps other Colonies have. We have not blue water and other attractions, but we have something here which is far superior—one of the wonders of the world, the magnificent Kaieteur fall, and it is quite easy to get there by plane and return in a day. As hon. Members know, we have asked Government and the Committee that is sitting now, to reduce the plane rates to a figure which would not only be reasonable for tourists to pay but for people of the Colony, many of whom have not seen Kaieteur. We have suggested a fare of \$25, and I think if that is agreed to we would see hundreds and perhaps thousands of Guianese going to Kaieteur.

Last year 260 tourists were brought to the Colony by the "Lady" boats within a period of nine months, and they spent \$17,600 in this Colony. They brought American and Canadian currency which is so badly needed here, while this Government spent \$10,000 in advertising the Colony. I do not think that was a bad return. We got back most of the money we spent. I am sure that if this vote is passed Members of the Council would not regret it because it would be the means of advertising the Colony in the United States and Canada.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I do not think the hon. Member does his case any good when he emphasizes the point that there will be no hotels or no good hotels here unless and until Government introduces legislation. That legislation was designed to give freedom from income tax for a period of years, and specified certain freedom from Customs duties and licences. It has not been introduced but on the other hand the Committee of which the hon. Member is Vice-Chairman has had a letter from Government stating that if any group of business people in this Colony would put up a proposition for the erection of a suitable hotel, or for extending and improving existing hotels in the Colony, and would give details of that proposition to Government they would be given assistance. What Government desires is a definite proposal. It is no good saying that there must be legislation. There is plenty of scope in the Customs Duties Ordinance to grant all the relief necessary to capital for a hotel. There will also be provision in the Income Tax Ordinance for relief, as it is proposed to introduce certain relief for risky undertakings, and it is quite possible that a tourist hotel will come under that provision. It is therefore no good excusing the position by saying that until Government passes a law there will be no new hotel in British Guiana.

Mr. DEBIDIN: Granted that there are difficulties as regards bad roads, and that the rest house on the route to Kaieteur needs to be put in better condition, I would like to say that the overland trip to Kaieteur is far more enjoyable than a plane trip. One is not only thrilled by the experience and knowledge gained of the country but the scenic beauty along the route amply repays any discomfort that may be encountered. I would like to remove the impression that the overland trip is bad and a deterrent to tourists. For one thing the climb up Kaieteur is enthralling.

Mr. LEE: Perhaps the hon. Member has not travelled over the road within recent years. I have been there within the last two years. The road has not been maintained in a condition in which we can invite tourists to travel by it. It must be remembered that the majority of

tourists are middle aged people who cannot stand rough travelling. I challenge my friend to travel by that road and say that it is comfortable. In addition to that, since the death of the caretaker the rest house at Tukeit has not been maintained in a condition to accommodate persons who are accustomed to any comfort. Then on the top of Kaieteur there is a small shed where travellers by plane take lunch. That shed can only accommodate about eight persons sitting close together. Unless those conditions are improved what is the use of this vote of \$10,000 for advertising the Colony?

Mr. FERNANDES: What is worrying me is the deadlock between Government and the people who would really like to put up a decent hotel. The hon. the Colonial Treasurer has said that those people should submit a definite proposal, while they on the other hand say that Government should state definitely what concessions it is prepared to offer them. Therefore there seems to be a deadlock, and steps should be taken to remove it. Personally I think it is the duty of Government to say definitely what it would be prepared to do in the case of a new concern or any group of people who desire to build a proper hotel. It is very unsatisfactory that they should be expected to spend money in preparing plans and putting up a definite proposition before they know exactly what relief from taxation Government is prepared to offer. If Government would say that it is prepared to give the same relief that is given in other Colonies if concrete proposals were submitted, that would be a

different matter. There is no doubt that we need more and better hotel accommodation in this Colony.

The CHAIRMAN: If Members are going to continue speaking on this matter I think we might adjourn at this stage.

Mr. FERREIRA: I move that the item be deleted.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the item be increased to \$10,000.

The Committee divided and voted:

For—Messrs. Smellie, Phang, Peters, McDoom, Kendall, Fernandes, Debidin, Farnum, Raatgever, Thompson, Roth, Seaford, Wight, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Singh, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—18.

Against—Dr. Jagan, Messrs. Ferreira and Lee—3.

Item carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara wish to move the deletion of item 29 after the explanation that has been given?

Mr. DEBIDIN: I would rather not at this moment, Sir. I can bring it up again.

The Council resumed and was adjourned until 3 p.m. the following day.