

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 3]

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

68th Sitting

2.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 21st January, 1970

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly Met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]

Present

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R.B. Gajraj, C.B.E., J.P.

Member of the Government

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. SaseNarain, J.P.

Members of the Government

Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E.,
Prime Minister

Dr. The Honourable P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

The Honourable R.J. Jordon,
Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Honourable M. Kasim,
Minister of Communications

The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, O.C.,
Minister of Home Affairs

The Honourable W.G. Carrington,
Minister of Labour and Social Security

The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,
Minister of Education (Leader of the House)

The Honourable B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Trade

The Honourable D.A. Singh,
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, Kt., C.M.G., O.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of State

The Honourable M.W. Carter,
Minister of Information and Culture

The Honourable H. Green,
Minister of Works and Hydraulics

The Honourable H.O. Jack
Minister without a Portfolio

Dr. The Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
Minister of Health

Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. P. Duncan,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. W. Haynes,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of works and Hydraulics

Mr. A. Salim,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mr. J.R. Thomas,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. C.V. Mingo,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Other Members

Mr. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker

Mr. J.N. Aaron

Miss M.M. Ackman

Mr. K. Bancroft

Mr. N.J. Bissember

Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.

Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue

Mr. M. Corrica

Mr. M. Corrica

Mr. E.H.A. Fowler

Mrs. P.A. Limerick

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman

Mr. C.E. Wrights

Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

Members of the Opposition

Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Ram Karran

Mr. R. Chandisingh

Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.

Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P.

Mr. E.M.G. Wilson

Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P.

Mr. M.Y. Ally

Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.

Mr. E.M. Stoby

Mr. R. Ally

Mr. E.L. Ambrose

Mrs. L.M. Brance

Mr. Balchand Persaud
Mr. Bhola Persaud
Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
Mr. V. Teekah
Mrs. E. DaSilva
Mr. M.F. Singh
Mr. J.A. Sutton
Mr. R.E. Cheeks

OFFICERS

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

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

Absent

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E.,
Prime Minister

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, Kt., C.M.G., O.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of State

Dr. The Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
Minister of Health

Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. E.M. Stoby
Mr. M.F. Singh

- on leave

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER LEAVE TO MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to announce that leave has been granted to the hon. Member Mrs. M. Branco for the remainder of the week.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTION****APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES FOR EXPENDITURE 1970**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to resume consideration of the estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1970, totaling \$173,448,058.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, the Clerk has prepared a list of the Heads remaining and the time we had originally allocated to them. I shall not wish to have to stop hon. Members from speaking. I wish that hon. Members would take into consideration the shortness of time at our disposal.

Mr. Ram Karran: I had suggested to the hon. Leader of the House (Miss Field-Ridley) that Finance would hardly take much time. The controversial Head left for consideration is Education and I thought Your Honour would have proportioned the time.

The Chairman: It is difficult that way. I suggest to the hon. Members who might be dealing with that it is not a Second Reading debate, so they should make their comments and Questions as quickly as they can.

I believe we will deal with Ministry of Information first. Page 46. Hon. Members please indicate which subheads or items you wish to speak on.

HEAD 18 - MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: Subhead 1, items 19 and 22; subheads 8, 10, 14, 19 and 20.

Mrs. DaSilva: Subheads 10 and 17.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: Subheads 19 and 21.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to speak on subhead 8.

The Chairman: We will start off with the hon. Member Mr. R.D. Persaud.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: Mr. Chairman, on the 23rd of February, 1970 this country is going to reach another stage in our constitutional advancement and we are going to have the Republic of Guyana. In order for us to do proper research and to produce the necessary materials for children in schools and for the population as a whole in Guyana, it is absolutely necessary for us to take into account the very important section or department of the Ministry of Information which is the Archives. That important department is still housed over the River Police Station. When historians come into this country and go into the Archives, I am sure that they will recognise the very difficult circumstances under which they would have to carry out their research. It is a dark hole.

What is significant too, sir, the Archives has a staff of only three - the Archivist, the Inspecting Officer and one Senior Binder/Repairer. If the Archives is so under-staffed how can

this Department really produce the service that we expect it to produce for the people of this country.

I was expecting that in the Budget this year, provisions would have been made for the removal of the Archives from this dark hole to a better place so that there can be more accommodation.

I should like the hon. Minister to tell us what the Government has in mind with respect to this Department and how early can we expect a better building and an increase in the staff in this Department. I am sure that the Government must know that the present arrangement is hazardous and atrocious.

2.15 p.m.

I will combine item (22), Secretary, National History and Arts Council, with sub-head 20, History and Culture, on page 47, so that I will not have to repeat myself.

Some time ago the Government appointed a National History and Arts Council. On several occasions in this House I pointed out that this Council was operating in isolation. It is a highly sophisticated body. It is a body that one would expect would get to the people of this country to try and find out the various cultures of the land so that, as we move forward constitutionally, simultaneously there would be a move forward culturally. [Miss Field-Ridley: "You would admit that culture is a way of life"] I am willing to concede it is a way of life.

There are various ways of life of our people. We are living in a country with diverse cultures and, in order for us to bring out forcibly to the people of this country the cultures that the various sections of our community have practised from the time of our arrival, the National History and Arts Council will have to play a significant role.

This Council, besides doing certain formal things such as writing a few letters here and there at Independence, for Human Rights Day and for the change to Republic status, has not done anything really for the cultural advancement of our people.

There is talk about evolving a Guyanese culture. We are still to find out what is this Guyanese culture. The National History and Arts Council has not projected, over the period of years it has been functioning, anything of real cultural value. We are spending \$54,000 a year on culture. I am willing to concede that this amount is small for real cultural development in Guyana, but we are not seeing any fruit even for the \$54,000 which we have been spending year after year.

The hon. Minister (Mr. Carter) is a very experienced in the cultural field. I want him to tell this House honestly if he is satisfied with the functioning of the National History and Arts Council. I want to ask him, too, if he thinks that the National History and Arts Council is playing its full part. Previously this body came under the Ministry of Education. Now that it has been under the Ministry of Information for a year I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he is not satisfied that there is need for something more dynamic in the cultural field, if there is no need for people with greater knowledge of the various cultural strains in our country to serve on the National History and Arts Council, or for the body to be abolished completely and something new set up for our cultural development.

Culture is important. Culture plays an important part in the life of any community. It is an integral part of the life of the community and for any Government to be successful that Government would have to pay a great amount of consideration to the various cultures.

The former hon. Minister of Housing and *Reconstruction* has experienced, if we want to admit it, great difficulty in organizing Indian orchestras for a competition. [*Interruptions*]

The Chairman: Order, order!

Mr. Persaud: Only a few days ago a so-called "Music Committee" has been appointed. Only about 48 hours ago an officer was trying to get a band together on the Essequibo Coast and up to now the Government has done nothing in Berbice and in Demerara. I am not criticizing the Minister for this. I am not criticizing the Chairman — [Mr. David Singh: "Who is organizing the boycott?"]

The Chairman: Order! Let us get on with the discussion.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: If the National History and Arts Council was really effective and active in the cultural field, the Minister could easily have told the Council to organise a competition and the Council would have been in a position to present various dramas and so on for the Republic Celebrations.

It is because we have not really seriously tackled the cultural aspect in this country that we are in this very serious position at this moment. It is therefore my suggestion to the hon. Minister that he seriously look at our cultural development. I am sure he will find avenues for improvement in the National History and Arts Council and in culture as a whole in Guyana, so that the \$54,000 will be properly spent and, if need be, there will be an increase of this amount for the cultural development of our people.

The Chairman: As the hon. Member moves to other items, I would ask him to remember that there are other hon. Members who wish to speak on sub-head 2. Time is limited.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: I move on to sub-head 8, Purchase and Production of Films.

Can the hon. Minister tell us what cultural films have been produced during last year? I know the Government has been producing films of the propaganda type so that it can project the Government's image and the Government's programme. This particular film unit has been used purely for Government propaganda.

21.1.70

National Assembly

2.15 – 2.25 p.m.

I have suggested to the Government before, and suggest it again, that the film unit be used also for the filming of cultural events for the good of all of our people so that when various people go into the cinemas they would be able to see and appreciate the various cultures in our midst. I think that our people have failed in this respect. Out of the various strains of culture there can be a common culture. I have always believed in the concept of unity in diversity and when we have diverse cultures we can still have unity in our life. I would therefore suggest that the Government use the film unit to present films pertaining to culture to be shown at the various cinemas.

2.25 p.m.

Broadcasting (General)

Subhead 10, Broadcasting (General): I want to find out from the Minister who manages the Guyana Broadcasting Service. I know that there is a director, but I should like to know how this broadcasting station is really functioning. It is a public station, it is now owned by the State, and I should like to know which ministry is responsible for the accounts of the broadcasting station. This is an important station and we must know how it is functioning. If it is a public station, the corporation must reflect the broad masses of the people of this country and if the station is to be successful, it must not be a Government dominated corporation. It is a commercial station and it must not be used only for the purpose of broadcasting Government propaganda.

There are two – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Please, hon. Members.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: Broadcasting stations in the country and I feel that the Government is morally bound to allow fair competition. Not because the Government is involved in G.B.S. should anything be done to put the other station at a disadvantage. I know this is a premise upon

which the Government is operating. I understand that the Government has brought in at G.B.S. two expatriates to advise on the collection of news and on programming. If the Government is bringing in the country expatriates to advise on one radio station, G.B.S., I think the same facility should be extended to Radio Demerara.

I understand that United Broadcasting Company has made application to the Minister of Home Affairs to bring in a technical officer to give advice and this application has been turned down. If this is so, this is unfair competition. The Guyana Broadcasting Service should not be permitted to bring in expatriates and the United Broadcasting Company is disallowed the same facility. I would therefore ask the Minister to tell us how early the members of the corporation will be appointed so that we can know for sure how the station is operating.

I should also like to ask the Minister, since this is a Government controlled station, if he can tell us of his own knowledge what cultural programmes are broadcast on G.B.S. I am speaking of culture broadly. I am a good radio listener and I cannot say that G.B.S. has got good cultural programmes, or any at all. Can the Minister tell us?

Publishing and Publicising

With respect to Publishing and Publicising, I should like to know, apart from printing the Prime Minister's photographs and publicising them in various parts of the country, what communication of an educational and cultural nature has the Ministry of Information put out. We have heard the hue and cry with respect to the increase in road deaths. What effective contribution has the Ministry of Information made to create greater awareness for road safety? I should like the hon. Minister to tell us something. Those are all the points I wish to make.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva.

Broadcasting (General)

Mrs. DaSilva: Under subhead 10, Broadcasting (General), I wonder if the hon. Minister of Information would clarify for the benefit of Members of this House the policy of the Guyana Broadcasting Service. It appears that this broadcasting station exists solely for the purpose of peddling the propaganda of the P.N.C. *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: *Order!* Order!

Mrs. DaSilva: It is the duty of the broadcasting station, it is the duty of the Press, it is the duty of any media of communication -

[Interruption]

The Chairman: Order, please! Look, we cannot have this sort of thing happening in the House with Members from both sides engaging in loud discussions when another Member is on the Floor. How do you expect the Speaker to hear? How do you expect the Official Reporters to put things down? This is nonsense!

Mrs. DaSilva: Thank you, sir. As I was saying, in any free democratic country, it is the duty of the Press, of any media of communication, to be allowed to broadcast, to publicise, to give both sides of the story. Ever so often we read criticisms in the papers - not necessarily papers that are controlled by Government but free papers - that the case as presented by the Opposition in this House is not being given. People seem to think that the Opposition does nothing because what is said by members of the Opposition, members on this side of the House, is not given free and full publicity. This applies not only to the Press but also to G.B.S. I hope the hon. Minister will explain to us what is the Government's policy on this question of the Guyana Broadcasting Service. Is the G.B.S. there just to publicise what the Government says and give a few paltry lines or a few paltry words to the Members of the Opposition?

The Chairman: Deal with subhead 17 now.

Expenses, Film Censorship

Mrs. DaSilva: As regards projecting our Guyanese culture, I am a Guyanese of the minority race in Guyana. My poor race might as well not exist for all we hear about the Portuguese in this country. "One People, One Nation, One Destiny". These are very fine words but, from the way the publicity is given, I think we consist of one nation, one people. We get just one type of culture here, what is being done by the African race. I am very proud of the fact that I, as a Guyanese, belong to a country of six nations, six races, where we should all contribute together for the benefit of Guyanese.

2.35 p.m.

We all want Guyanese culture but when we try to get it here, we get people from one of the biggest groups to run these things. We have begun to take from one nation and this, I think, is hardly fair. I do not think this is really meant to be one people, one nation, one destiny. Let us really mean it and let us have all the cultures of all the nations. The Ministry of Information and the information services can do a lot to let everybody realize how much we have all helped to contribute to this and to make up the Guyanese way of life. Then, perhaps, we can achieve this Guyanese culture that we talk so much about.

The Chairman: The time is getting on, so I will not be able to allow you to speak on subhead 17. I think you have taken enough time on it.

Mrs. DaSilva: If the Minister would look into these matters, I would appreciate it.

On subhead 17, Expenses, Film Censorship, we have been asked to approve a vote of \$4,490. Would the Minister please say what the Board of Film Censorship is doing? All we get

at the cinema is sex, violence and crime. No wonder the Police Department has so much trouble, what with the sort of censorship that is taking place.

The Chairman: The hon. Member, Mr. Balchand Persaud, will speak. Subhead 19 has already been dealt with. The hon. Member, Mr. Ram Karran will deal with subhead 21.

Mr. Ram Karran: I do not wish to speak.

Mr. Balchand Persaud Subhead 19, I wish to bring up-

The Chairman: Subhead 19 has already been covered, deal with 21, otherwise I will put the Question.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: Subhead 21, Museum Committee and Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society Museum and Zoological Gardens. I wish to ask the hon. Minister to inform us whether Guyanese have been making use generally of the Zoological Gardens and if these are in good shape. How many persons visited the gardens in the course of last year?

Mr. Carter: It is always a revelation to listen to members on the other side speak of culture. When we speak of culture, we are supposing, that you are cultured. Every attitude to the art culture pre-supposes a psychological or ideological position. If you want to speak on questions of films or literature, or art, then you must bring the object, or the artifact, or the idea to be examined, but you must not bring slander and things that have nothing to do with culture.
[Interruption]

The hon. Member, Mr. Persaud, mentioned the Archives. I agree completely. The Archives are in pretty rough shape and I am as concerned as he is about them. We have priorities. *[Interruption]* What do we have to do? We have to face the Venezuelans and Suriname, and the P.P.P.

The second question raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Persaud, concerns broadcasting, who manages G.B.S, I think we all know who manages G.B.S, Mr. Cholomondeley manages G.B.S. [Interruption] Mr. Nascimento is a specialist officer. They know very well, and I will not allow this to pass here without saying it, that the programmes broadcast on G.B.S. have been criticized by the P.N .C. because they have been so favourable to the P.P.P.

The other question was, who manages the accounts. This is purely a family organized company. [Interruption] May I ask who looks after the Gimpex accounts? [Interruption] Then why ask about the G.B.S. accounts?

The hon. Member. Mrs. DaSilva, asked about the accounts of G.B.S. and Action Line, and also, whether film censorship is effective in this country. Who censors films in this country? Guyanese censor them. We put Guyanese on a committee and they themselves decide what films are to be shown. Forty-three Guyanese. So, for what are you blaming us? What do you want me to do, become a dictator and say what films should be shown? [Interruption] Many of the films shown, I do not think they should be shown. We appoint a committee to censor films and the members of that committee have failed to do it properly, so, we have to abide with it. You can choose. We get better offers as time goes on, but as you will agree, you do not change the tactics.

I think the hon. Member, Mr. Balchand Persaud, asked about the Zoo. I think I can say more Guyanese are visiting the Zoo and we have now installed lights which encourage people to go there at night. But I want to make a very serious statement which has a little to do with nit picking. The Opposition has been picking out the nits and tatting, them together.

2.45 p.m.

What we have, comrades, is a country in which Information and Culture have a very serious role to play. I do not make culture nor does the Ministry of Information make culture. It is made by the people. It is not made by this particular house or that and the ideology professed,

by the Opposition understands this that the basis is the people and the structure is what the people produce. [Dr. Jagan: "Basis is manpower and then it reacts on the economy."] Sir, if I may correct the hon. Dr. Jagan [*Interruptions*]

The Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Carter: Dr. Jagan has not read beyond 1968 and when he pointed out very clearly that Marx had over-simplified the whole concept of the relationship of basis and culture, Am I right? [*Interruption by Dr. Jagan*]

The Chairman: Shall we come back to the question?

Mr. Carter: I would like, just for the record, to make it very clear that my and my Ministry's job, and I am only a servant in the Ministry as all of us are servants, is to help. That is all I can do. I cannot run anything. I am not the leader of the party — [Mr. Ram Karran: "You are a technocrat."] I am not even that! I cannot even spell that! I am only a helper and my job - and I think that I am trying - is to encourage the officers to help the people to become people. It is no point trying to talk nonsense about two mattresses at Hog Island. Imagine that! In this august Assembly, big men talk of two mattresses! I am ashamed! I have wasted two days here, wasted two days of my life - a valuable thing - hearing men talk of mattresses at Hog Island.

The Chairman: That has not entered the discussion.

Mr. Carter: Sir, it entered my discussion. I am only asking to record that my Ministry is now the Ministry of Information and Culture and that is a valuable word. ... who was Deputy to Adolf Hitler, when he sought culture, he put it in a revolver; when I seek culture, I put it in a pen.

Head 18 Ministry of Information -836,938, agreed to an order to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION X— MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that this division stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wonder if the hon. Minister, so eloquent on other subjects, can tell us precisely what equipment the money will be spent on?

The Chairman: Can we have the reply at once, then I will put the Question.

Mr. Carter: Must I give all the details? The tops, the sides—and—the ends? (1).....\$12,240,000 — [*Interruptions*] Comrade, if you are illiterate, keep quiet. I can pronounce the words, it is not my fault. \$12,240,000 needed for 3.8 - - - you understand? Sir, do I have to read all this nonsense? The whole thing is for film equipment which comes up.

Division X, Ministry of Information \$34,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 38 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1, items 2, 11, 14, 24, 29, 30, 33; page 97, subhead 1, items 34, 36, 38. Subheads 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15; page 98, subheads 20, 28, 30 and 34.

The Chairman: From the United Force, does the hon. Member Mrs. DaSilva wish to speak?

Mrs. DaSilva: No, sir.

Mr. Ram Karran: Page 98, subhead 30.

Mr. Sutton: Page 97, subhead 13.

The Chairman: Will the hon. Member — oh, does the hon. Member Mr. Wilson wish to speak?

Mr. Wilson: Subhead 13.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah will start.

Mr. Teekah: Mr. Chairman, before I start I would like to say that most of the questions come -under this Head and therefore we may stay a little long on- this but on the others we will spend about five minutes.

The Chairman: Bearing in mind we can only spare half the time so make it as short as possible. Cut out the frills.

Supernumerary Permanent Secretary

Mr. Teekah: Last year when I questioned the need for this item the hon. Minister said that either the Permanent Secretary or this officer will be assigned to the IBRD Project and therefore the need for this post. I observe in looking through the estimates that the person was not appointed last year because no money was actually spent here and so I do question the desire for this officer in 1970.

In this Personnel Division of the Ministry of Education there is great delay in the processing of applications and the appointment of teachers. As a result, therefore, the teachers are very frustrated. I am very happy that we are going to have an Assistant Personnel Officer but I hope that this new post which is to be created will go a very far way in helping to solve some of the problems which exist in this section of the Ministry.

Item 14, Supernumerary Assistant Field Auditor. I observe that we already have a Field Auditor and an assistant Field Auditor. I wonder why we now need a Supernumerary Assistant Field Auditor. I am keen to see that the administration is versatile enough to carry out the needs of the Ministry but there is absolutely no need for this great bureaucracy in this Ministry. The money there would be much more useful in other fields.

Item 24, Education Officers. There is an Education Officer for each Education District. I think that there are fourteen Education Districts - at least there used to be at one time. One would have thought that there would have been much efficiency in each District and each Officer performing very well. Unfortunately, however, there is a great problem in the admittance of pupils who have been successful at the College of Preceptors and Preliminary Certificate Examinations at the Government Secondary Schools. As a matter of fact, the results of the last P.C.E which were known before December last year and it was expected that successful students would have to be admitted since the beginning of this term, there are many children who are not yet admitted to the Secondary Schools.

I know of quite a few cases on the East Bank Demerara where the parents are running up and down, from the Headmaster of the Secondary School to the Headmaster of the "Primary School. I urge that there be much more efficiency here which would wipe out frustration and parents would not have to run up and down from one school to the other.

Item 29 deals with School Welfare Officers. I wonder if the Government really has been making a check on these officers to see whether these persons are really producing for their

salaries. Now a school welfare officer has to do with delinquent pupils. This is an important job, but very many of these officers have not been seen at schools for the past two or three years. I know of one school on the East Bank Demerara where a Welfare Officer visited that school since 1967 and she has not returned since. There is much work. The officer has to check on pupils - their attendance at school, their books and general problems. They ought to visit schools and check on registers and the reasons for their not attending school regularly. However, I do not think that these officers are doing well and I should like to ask the hon. Minister to make an investigation to see what is happening in this section.

Item 30, Supervisor, School Furniture supplies. I wonder how much work this supervisor is doing. If one visits schools the first thing one would see or observe is that there is a tremendous shortage of furniture in the schools. For example, there are what are called dual benches. Each bench is suppose to accommodate two pupils. But unfortunately, sometimes there are four and five students occupying those benches.

There is also a tremendous need for desks. In many schools one finds that a teacher does not *have a chair*. These conditions do not augur well for education in Guyana because the conditions in schools for children and teachers are very atrocious. Unless, something is done, we will not be able to get the best we expect from the educational system.

Item 33, Captain. *I should like* to ask who is this person. As I understand it, teachers or officers of the Ministry of Education generally move around with the help of transport from other Ministries. I know for a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs provides transportation for this Ministry and other Ministries have been very helpful. I notice they are the ones who really assist in the transportation. Do we really need a Captain? The hon. Minister may say, Yes, we need a Captain in the Riverain Areas. But in most cases, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides the transportation.

Item 34, Superintendent of Examinations. There again, much more efficiency is needed. Immediately, my mind reflects to the Jack Low Government School where the results of the last Preliminary Certificate and Home Economics Examinations were sent to the wrong students.

3.05 p.m.

As a matter of fact the P.C.E. results were sent to the girls who took the Home Economics examination and the results of the Home Economics examination were sent to the boys who took the P.C.E. I would therefore urge more efficiency.

Item (36), Secretary, National Sports Council. The National Sports Council has been a very neglected institution. For a very long time it has not been doing very much in the field of sports. When I look at this item and think of sports, I recall the good old days under the P.P.P. Government when Guyana was the Caribbean champion in athletics. So proud we were in those days when the name of George De Peana was like magic in the Caribbean and we were proud of our athletes! We could have boasted, in those days, of having one of the best tracks in the Caribbean.

There came 1965 and what happened? Everything went haywire. The tracks have almost been abandoned and nobody seems to be paying any attention to sports in Guyana.

Recently, I read in a newspaper that a few coaches have been appointed by the Ministry, but I wonder why Mr. Roy Fredericks has not been appointed full-time coach for cricket. He is a very capable man and one of the best Guyanese cricketers. Cricket is something which has much potential in Guyana. The Government could only find it possible to appoint Mr. Fredericks as a part-time coach. Certainly, if we are to carry out a recovery operation, it means that we have to coach with a great amount of zeal and emphasis and we have, of course, to spend more money to bring Guyana back on the sporting map of the Caribbean and of the world as a whole. Therefore,

I would urge that more money be spent here, more attention given and more supervision carried out.

Item (38) deals with Driver/Projectionist. I observe there is only one Driver/Projectionist for the whole country. Now the Driver/Projectionist is the person who shows films. People all over the world - and it is the same in Guyana- learn by various media. Some people learn by discussion, some learn by seeing and hence the need for audio-visual aids.

Film shows are a great necessity in Guyana. We want more films and we see here that Government is providing only one Driver/Projectionist. There could not be a place where money could be spent more wisely than in this field, because we want more film shows - good film shows - all over the country as people learn through various media.

I would therefore urge that we have two or three more Driver/Projectionists, possibly one attached to each of the counties or perhaps two in the county of Essequibo and one in the counties of Demerara and Berbice.

Sub-head 6, Library and Publications. Recently, I visited libraries in three different schools and I see that there is a great need for expansion of these libraries. I urge that Government should expand the library facilities at schools. Also, Government ought to undertake more publications. It could publish more literature. I mean that Government should specifically do this in education.

Sub-head 8, Broadcasts to Schools. There are two pamphlets put out by this division in the Ministry of Education. One is specifically for the pupils and one for the teachers. I have observed that the one that is intended for the pupils is really just a skeleton. It only has titles. We should have more information in this pamphlet because, if we are able to give more of the subject-matter in these pamphlets, children in their Spare time could look over these things and

pick up what they have forgotten since the pamphlet is given to them to carry home. This would be very useful.

The second point concerns the pamphlet for teachers. If the Minister or any officer of the Ministry would speak to a teacher in a Government school, he or she would say that teachers would do much better with more subject-matter included in the pamphlet for teachers, because on many occasions radios break down and the teachers offer the same lessons. Not only that, the teachers themselves on other occasions could revise the lessons with the students. Almost all the teachers I have spoken to have said more of the subject-matter should be dealt with in the pamphlet for teachers.

Sub-head 10, Expenses, National Council for Education. In discussing this sub-head, I wish to turn to page 11 of the White Paper on Education, Sessional Paper 1/68. This White Paper was put out by the then Minister of Education in the P.N.C/ U.F. Government, Mrs. Winifred Gaskin. I wish to quote what she said when discussing the need for a National Educational Council:

"A National Educational Council, also representative of the varied interests within Guyana, will be set up to serve as a consultative body for the Ministry of Education."

I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Education if the National Educational Council, which the White Paper speaks about, has been set up. I observe there is a provision of \$100 in the Estimates for a National Council for Education, sub-head 10.

3.15 p.m.

This was first voted for in 1969. As far as I know, no National Council for Education has been set up. What I know has been set up is a National Educational Committee, and a National Educational Committee is not really a National Council for Education because the terms of reference are different. The National Educational Committee, which institution has been set up

by this Government, is really not representing the varied interests in education because if you talk about the varied interests involved in education, the first people you should think of are those for whom you have set up the Council, the people, and we find people's representatives absent from this institution. One would have thought that on an important institution like this there would have been representatives of the Opposition because the P.P.P. is a large party representing more than half people of Guyana. First of all, one would have thought that trade unions and local the authorities would have been represented.

One would have thought that the students' organization would have been represented, the Parent Teachers' Association would have been represented, but on this National Educational Committee which has been set up these representatives are nowhere to be seen. I wonder if this National Educational Committee has taken the place of the National Council for Education. If this is so, I want to observe that the P.N.C. Government has not honoured the pledge by its predecessors which it said that it would carry out.

Guyana Scholarships

Subhead 11 deals with Guyana Scholarships. One would expect that, since the founding of the University of Guyana, most of these Guyana scholarships would be taken up at this institution. Perhaps Government may do this, but what I should like to say is that if there are seven scholarships offered at overseas universities, it would mean that a great amount of money would be spent. Now using that same amount of money you could have about ten times the amount of Guyana scholars taking up these scholarships at the University of Guyana. I expect that this *Government* would not double or treble but it would increase by ten times the number of scholarships offered every year because if these scholarships, are taken up at the University of Guyana the cost would be about one-tenth of the amount involved than if they were taken up at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or London. I should like to ask the hon. Minister how many Guyana scholarships will be offered this coming year.

Free places, Secondary Schools

Subhead 13, Free Places, Secondary Schools: I observe that last year the approved estimate was \$48,000 but the revised estimate was \$38,000. Now this year the sum of \$48,000 is being asked for. Now my party would like to see this increased several times because we are committed to giving free education - kindergarten, primary, secondary, university - in this country. First of all, one would expect that in a country like Guyana where the people are not being given a good secondary education by the Government, the sum of money which was voted last year would have been utilized. One would have expected that in a country where 171,469 pupils are in the primary schools, this sum would have been fully utilized. It is important to bear in mind that at present, there are only 7,621 pupils in Government secondary schools and one would have thought, rather than decreasing the amount being spent to give free secondary education in Guyana, that the money would have been increased but last year, instead of spending the full amount of \$48,000 which was provided, the Government spent only \$38,000, \$10,000 less.

In 1968 when I checked how many students there were in the Government secondary schools I found that there were 8,284. When I checked last year the figure was 7,621. How could this be possible? But this is so, the *P.N.C* Government has made this possible. Out of 171,000 pupils in primary schools only 8,000 odd are offered free secondary education up to the G.C.E. level. One would have expected that last year this amount would have been increased instead of decreased. What we have seen is that the number has decreased by over 1,000 in 1969. I should like to ask why is this so. This Government does not have any radical programme in order to give free secondary education to the people of Guyana, We do not want a nation of semi-literates. [Miss Field-Ridley: "What did you do?"]

The hon. Minister asked what did we do. We were the first Government in this country to offer free education to all children, regardless of their background. We wiped out fees in Guyana. We were moving forward, we had a programme to make this free to the student. We

21.1.70

National Assembly

3.15 – 3.25 p.m.

had a programme whereby we would have taken over the expenses of these schools and so we could have offered free secondary education. We were negotiating for the St. Stanislaus Collage and many other high schools so that we could offer free secondary education in Guyana.

3.25 p.m.

Subhead 15, Evening Courses in Science and Other Subjects. I think this amount is far too small. There is a dire need for more qualified people in this country. There is much talk about reducing expenses but if you do not invest, you cannot get them. They would not come from heaven or Mars. We need to spend the money, we have to formulate a programme and produce them. I know there is one centre in Georgetown. This P.N.C. Government had the temerity to move to close down that centre but thanks to the revolutionary attitude of the students and many delegations to the Ministry, the Government was prevented from so doing.

There may be one at Anna Regina. I am not too sure, but what I should like to urge this Government, is that evening courses are very essential in our circumstances and such courses must not be centred in those areas where there are very good secondary schools. We have Queen's College in Georgetown but we still have other evening courses in the city. That is good, but if it can be justified for having a centre in Georgetown, then It would be more justified for having a centre at Skeldon, Corentyne, Essequibo Islands, Bartica, Essequibo Coast, and the other areas.

I urge more money should be spent there and more courses should be offered in other areas. If you can justify having a centre where there are very good schools like Queen's College, then there is greater demand, a dire need for centres in other places where there are no facilities of such institutions like the one I mentioned.

Subhead 20, University of the West Indies, Contribution to the Expenses of, \$360,000. Mr. Chairman, this is a very sore point. I recall during the regime of the P.P.P.that this grant was

reduced to something like \$127,000. The U.W.I. authorities were very angry with the founding of the University of Guyana and there were frantic efforts to retain contributions which were being made by the Guyana Government. Anyhow, determined as we were to spend most of our money on the University of Guyana, we cut down our contribution to the U.W.I. Immediately on the assumption of the P.N.C.-U.F. Government, the sum was increased, and as many persons who know something of our relationship with the U.W.I, would say, this was the penalty instituted by the U.W.I, on the Guyana Government for withdrawing from that university.

Last year, I spoke about the necessity to cut down this amount. The hon. Minister of Education said it was necessary, and that was during the debate on the estimates. Then subsequently, we were asked by supplementary provision for some more money, I said then that I was made to understand that there were students pursuing studies at the U.W.I., in courses which can be offered at U.G., Arts and Social Sciences. The hon. Minister of Education said this was not so. What we really had at the U.W.I, were those students pursuing post graduate studies in science subjects.

Now when I saw this same fabulous sum being provided for this year, I talked with the Assistant Registrar of the U.W.I, and I found there were 82 students there from Guyana, 67 undergraduates and 15 post graduates, and I want to read out in what courses these undergraduates were. In Arts courses, there were 16 students; in Social Science courses, 16 students; in Natural Sciences, there were 11 students; in pre-medical courses, there were 2 students; in nursing education, 2 students, Diploma of Education, 1 student; in medicine, 20 students. These make up 67 students.

If one should check the list, one would see that apart from nursing education and medicine, all the other courses really can be offered at the University of Guyana and that would mean that 45 students could be avoided attending the U.W.I. If one divides the sum of \$360,000 by 82, one would observe that we are spending \$4,590 on each student there, and if one would multiply \$4,390 by 45, one would have \$197,550. It means if this Government were prudent, it

could save \$197,550 which is being spent on the U.W.I. It could have that money spent here and have our things established at the University of Guyana. It is a waste of Guyanese taxpayers' money and it is also an affront to the University of Guyana.

Subhead 28, Grant, University of Guyana, \$1 million. First of all, I observed that last year the grant was \$1,400,000. This year, it is decreased to \$1 million. It is rather strange because we are to be part of the U.W.I, Law Faculty. It means we will have to spend, more money on books. One would have thought since the University of Guyana is to become part of the Faculty of Law of the U.W.I., that the grant should be increased. But apart from that, I observe that last year, the Guyana Government spent \$1,273 on each student at the U.G.

3.35 p.m.

\$1,233 is spent on each student at the University of Guyana. The Government was spending, on the other hand, 4 ... at the University of the West Indies. But this year the amount has decreased to \$909 from \$1,233. Why should we treat our own institution like this? I would have thought that *the* University was something of which every Guyanese would be proud — [*Interruption by the hon. Minister Miss Field-Ridley*] the hon. Minister heckles. I observe that she was absent from the graduation ceremony of the University of Guyana. One would expect more emphasis to be laid, more money to be spent on the institute of higher learning. There are many things wrong at the University of Guyana and they need swift remedy. I would urge an investigation into them.

First of all, since we put out our first batch of graduates, I observe that the number of 1st Division passes have declined so much so that this year it is a little shocking for us to learn that there was no 1st Division pass at the University of Guyana. 112 students graduated the other night but not one - the names are here - got a 1st Division pass! I think that there are about five students, since the founding of the University, who got 1st Division passes; those were in the first and second batches. Not one for the third batch! Does this not need investigation?

It might be agreed that they are part-time students, but the same part-time students in London get 1st Division passes; in our own University where it is easier to work and study than in England, America or Canada, there should be 1st Division passes. I have been trying to investigate the conditions which might be responsible for some of these things and I have discovered that there is a need for more qualified lecturers.

I have discovered a very startling affair and that deals with a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Economics. This man was Head of the faculty of Economics. He is now a Senior Lecturer. Dr. David. I thought him a highly-qualified person but, maybe, this is one of the reasons why we are getting 3rd Division passes. He wrote a book called *Economic Development of Guyana* and this book was published by Oxford University press. There is another lecturer, Dr. Jefferson, who graduated from the same University. He had his thesis in the library at the University of Oxford unpublished. Government published this book the other day, *Economic Development of Guyana*, and when the book was on the market, Dr. Jefferson sent his thesis to be published and the University said that Dr. David had published the same thing. The book is withdrawn and cannot be obtained at the University of Guyana any longer and students are asking Government to investigate the matter of Dr. David. I am asking Government to investigate this matter and to see who we have at the University.

There is a great need for lecturers - qualified lecturers. A University of the West Indies graduate, Dr. Dougan, a graduate in Caribbean history applied to the Government for a job at the University of Guyana. His application was turned down. I do not understand how they are shedding crocodile tears about brain drain when a Guyanese with a degree, a graduate of a Caribbean institute, was rejected; yet his contemporary, one Mr. Alvin Thompson against whom I have nothing, was accepted. Mr. Thompson does not have a Ph.D. Dr. Dougan has since been appointed in the Virgin Islands and will be leaving here shortly.

The Head of the Faculty of Education who was forced out due to frustration, Professor Shirley Gordon, is in the country and I would ask the Government to make an effort to secure

21.1.70

National Assembly

3.35 – 3.45 p.m.

this highly-qualified Professor. The Faculty of Education is still without a Head. What is the Government doing to secure a Head for this Faculty?

Another reason, perhaps, why students are not securing 1st Division passes is that, I am told, many of the lecturers arrive late. The periods are 55 minutes each and many times, I am told, the lecturers do not arrive for 15 to 30 minutes. With the short time at their disposal the students cannot do their best. I would like the hon. Minister to look into this matter.

The third thing which may be responsible for the lack of 1st Division passes is the lack of tutorials. There should be one for every lecture given, but on investigation I found out that there is really none. After the lectures, the whole class sits down and discusses with the lecturer.

3.45 p.m.

That is not really a tutorial even at Accabre College. I should like to urge more real tutorials at the University because this is very important. We can hardly afford such great wastage of our resources. We should do all we can to make sure that every bit of our resources is used and also make sure that there is no wastage.

I observe, too, that at the last graduation many of the students were dressed in gowns. Is it not time, since we are talking about decolonising, that we rid ourselves of the wearing of the gown? In the Soviet countries the students wear badges. I urge that we do away with gowns during graduation exercises.

Another point about the University of Guyana is that the fee is \$112 per year but students doing only science are asked to lodge the sum of \$25 since they will be using the Laboratory and it is possible that they can break or damage equipment; and if the damage on the equipment is worth more than that they will have to pay the difference. This is reasonable. But why is it the students who are doing social sciences are also asked to pay this money? Is it a smart way of

jacking up the fees? Because at the end of the graduation most of the students do not go back for fees. I wish to know if the Government has increased the fees. *[After a pause.]*

The Chairman: You still have two more subheads.

Mr. Teekah: I want to ask very quickly this question: What is the Government doing with respect to the establishment of a Faculty of Agriculture where the basis, if you want to say, is at Mon Repos? It is not difficult for us to have our Faculty of Agriculture. It would certainly mean that we would not have to send students to St. Augustine. I urge the Government to do something about it. The School of Agriculture can be developed or used as a basis for the Faculty of Agriculture.

I have two more points. One is that I observe that the aid which was given by the Canadian Government to the University of Guyana was so violent that even stools had to be imported from Canada. These are things which could be made in Guyana. So violent an aid it was that we had to import stools from Canada. If this is aid don't let us have it.

The second point is this: What is the Government doing about that miserable road from the University campus to the public road?

Subhead 30, Grants to Aided Secondary Schools. I should like to ask what control has Government over the fees of Government aided secondary schools. According to the regulation the school should not increase its fees without prior consultation with the Ministry. In 1967 the Indian Education Trust College jacked up its fees for the Fifth and Sixth Forms to the amount of \$40 per term from \$31.56. Isn't that preposterous?

Subhead 34, Contribution to U.N.E.S.C.O. Last year a Resolution was passed by UNESCO describing Lenin as a great freedom fighter, teacher and humanist. According to this Resolution it is stated that since 1970 is Lenin Centenary Year it is urging all member-Nations of

21.1.70

National Assembly

3.45 – 3.55 p.m.

UNESCO to observe the great contribution to humanity which Lenin made. Since we are associated with UNESCO we must not only take their milk and biscuits. This is the Centenary Year of one who is the father of the working-class movement, a great teacher of mankind and champion of the oppressed. The UNESCO by Resolution has advised all member-Nations to celebrate it. Is this Government doing something about celebrating this centenary? The hon. Minister spoke about Coffy. We salute him, he is our Guyanese Lenin.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton: Mr. Chairman, on the question of free places in secondary schools, in the light of the improvements of the education system in this country one wonders whether the time has not come whereby the free places at least should not be allocated to the various areas of the country. In many cases, it is clear that the urban schools of the country, meaning Georgetown, New Amsterdam, et cetera, will always tend to win the majority of the free places.

3.55 p.m.

In view of the increasing importance of secondary education, one would have thought, as expressed in the words of the hon. Member Mr. Teekah, that opportunity would have been taken to increase the number of free places every year to ensure that higher education is as broad-based as possible as it is so badly needed in all sections of the country.

We should know by now the evils of a smattering of education. As has been said, a little learning is a dangerous thing. One would expect that the Government would make constructive efforts to broaden the base of secondary education, to increase the number of free places and particularly to encourage secondary education in those areas where it is comparatively non-existent by earmarking a percentage of free places for children from those areas.

Mr. Wilson: I want to speak very briefly on free places. Free place students really come through the avenue of the Common Entrance Examination. I am sure that the Minister will agree that this examination is not serving its true purpose which is to assist children who are in need - that is children whose parents are in the low income group - to get free secondary education.

As a matter of fact it does the opposite, because children of parents who are well off go to nursery schools where they have the best environment. They are guided from babyhood practically and, therefore, when they reach the stage of taking the Common Entrance Examination they are way in front of the children of low-income group parents. I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister of Education should devise some means whereby all children of the necessary capacity and intelligence and with the necessary attainment - we can find a lot of intelligence among poor people - could have an opportunity of receiving secondary education.

The other suggestion I would like to make with regard to free place students is the idea that free places should be extended to include free books. It is no use giving a poor child a free place in a school when the parents cannot buy the books which cost \$60 or more. Many parents are apt to decline free places for their children because they cannot afford to buy the books. A maintenance allowance and free books should be given [**Miss Field-Ridley:** "We do give free books"] I am saying that some people *do* not like to beg. They prefer to be deprived of things. This should be something automatic when a child is provided a free place. The child should be entitled, if its parents wish it, to have free books.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to speak on sub-head 30. The sum of \$572,000 was granted to Aided Secondary Schools. I wish to quote from a query made by the hon. Prime Minister when he was Leader of the Opposition. This is from Hansard of 26th April, 1962, column 2136:

"Perhaps the hon. Minister can explain how it is that, as far as I understand, the new Government of Barbados has introduced free secondary education as a first measure on its assumption of office. What is the difference between Barbados and British Guiana so far as the

21.1.70

National Assembly

3.55 – 4.05 p.m.

availability of money is concerned? It seems to me that, *pro rata*, Barbados is poorer than British Guiana. I would like to know. I want to be enlightened."

In this regard, the then Leader of the Opposition went on to show that if his party had been in the Government, free secondary education would have been a reality in a very short time. The record is here. I wish to ask the hon. Minister of Education if she has, in keeping with what her leader proposed in 1962, given thought to the proposition of free secondary education.

The Chairman: May we take the suspension now and then the hon. Minister will reply?

Assembly resumed.

Sitting suspended at 4p.m.

4.33 p.m.

On resumption -

Assembly in Committee of Supply

Miss Field-Ridley rose -

The Chairman: On a similar occasion, when a person arrived late, the Chairman referred - and I will use his own words - to the "late" Minister of Education. Putting the word "late" in the position does give an unfortunate interpretation.

The Minister of Education (head of the House) Miss Field-Ridley: I apologize for being late, sir. I will answer questions very briefly as we have little time.

Item 2, sub-head 1, Supernumerary Permanent Secretary. As I said on the, last occasion, the substantive Permanent Secretary has been appointed as (project Director of the I.B.R.D. project and the vote is for the purpose of retaining his rights intact the salary of the substantive Permanent Secretary is not reflected in this part of the Estimates but it is in the *I.B.R.D.* Fund.

Item (11), Assistant Personnel Officer. Item (11) does not deal with teachers but with other personnel arrangements. There has been need for appointments.

Item (14), Supernumerary Assistant Field Auditor. The substantive Field Auditor has been seconded to - - - and it is necessary to retain this post.

Item (24), Education Officers. There are not 14 Education Officers. Education Officers ... students who have passed their P.C.E. examination and have not already been admitted to secondary schools. I would be grateful if the hon. Members who are on the other side know of children who have a problem and bring it to the attention of the Education Officers to deal with it.

Item (29), School Welfare Officers, We had in the past five School Welfare Officers working in our country. As the hon. Members will see, we now have eight, in addition to which we have reorganized the way in which they perform. Each officer is now performing by means of a Committee. They bring together parents, and people willing to help. This could be extremely effective. There is, therefore, no need for investigation.

Item (30), Supervisor, School Furniture Supplies. The hon. Member, as I expected, exaggerated the position. There are shortages, especially in denominational schools. We have covered the backlog of furniture gaps within the Government schools, in addition to which we completely reorganized the method by which we supply furniture to schools. We have invited areas to build furniture on an area basis and the response, as I have assessed it, seems to be very good.

21.1.70

National Assembly

4.33 – 4.40 p.m.

Item (33), Captain. The Ministry of Education owns a boat in the North West District and the Captain looks after it, we are discussing the Captain who runs it. I do not think we can perform without somebody to do things. It is necessary.

The hon. Member on the other side would appreciate the kind of territory one has in the North West District. He does not understand the function of an Education Officer. He thinks one can depend in this area on the service which is provided by other Ministries. If it is necessary to go to a place at a certain time, it may not be convenient for other Ministries to loan a boat. On that basis, we have to have a Captain.

4.40 p.m.

Item 34, Superintendent of Examinations: The hon. Member raised the point of something going wrong with respect to examinations. The particular case cited did not concern the Superintendent of Examinations at all. It did not concern the P.C.E., as the hon. Member said, it concerned the C.P. which is not a local examination.

Item 38, Driver/Projectionist: There is one Driver/Projectionist.

There is no need for any more because the teachers who use audio-visual aids are trained in their use. We thought it useful that the driver who travels from area to area should be trained as a Driver/Projectionist *ex abundanti cautela*.

Subhead 6, Library and Publications: I am not worried about the quantum of library books at schools, I am more worried about quality and the type of books. We have got a lot of co-operation from the Parent Teachers' Association and this matter *is* well in hand

Subhead 8, Broadcasts to Schools: There have not been two books issued. Two books are issued every single term. The hon. Member mistakes the purpose for which these books are

issued; they are not at all intended to cover everything that is taught in broadcasts to schools. These books will enable teachers to appreciate the programme that is presented over the radio. They are by no means textbooks but guide and outlines to what is presented on the programme.

Subhead 11, Guyana Scholarships: The hon. Member ought to have known that this year the Government is able to give seven *Guyana* scholarships and it will endeavour to continue this.

Subhead 13, Free Places, Secondary Schools: This, if my memory serves me well, comes up year after year. The figures the hon. Member Mr. Teekah gave are grossly inaccurate and I do not know from where he got them. The Ministry which has the only available accurate statistics on this question cannot accept his figures. There are under 90,300 children in Government secondary schools. I think the hon. Member should concede that I am in a better position to see the statistics than he is.

Subhead 15, Evening Courses in Science and Other Subjects: I should like to link this with subhead 13 on the other point the hon. Member made where he pointed out that we did not spend our total provision for secondary schools. We use this vote mainly to pay for students at Government aided secondary schools. What has been happening now is that we are using Government secondary schools much more and, therefore, we do not need to pay fees. Previously we had paid a fairly large sum to Government aided secondary schools and now because of the increased building of Government School we have been able to give more scholarships. However, as you will notice, we have used the savings under this subhead to provide secondary G.C.E. classes in the evening for people who either have not had an opportunity to go to secondary school or who left without what we consider an adequate amount of G.C.E. subjects. We use Queen's College because it has a very good laboratory. We feel that the children who did not go to secondary school should have the benefit of using one of the best laboratories in this country. If the hon. Member had investigated, he would have discovered that we have evening classes in all three counties.

As regards the question of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University, there is nothing new about this. I think in fact we are trying to work out an arrangement whereby the Guyana School of Agriculture is brought much more closer to the University of Guyana, but it has to be a phased thing. It might in fact turn out to be a Faculty, not at this stage certainly, but it is something that we are looking at and we are trying to find the most effective way of supplying what is needed within the resources provided.

Subhead 30, Grant's to Aided Secondary Schools: No secondary school increases its fees unless it gets the permission of the Ministry of Education, The hon. Member pointed out to the case of one school which he said had increased the fees to \$40. This is true, what he did not say is that the Ministry of Education directed, and its directive was taken, that the fees be properly reduced and they were reduced. A fee of \$40 is no longer charged by that school.

Subhead 34, Contribution to U.N.E.S.C.O.: One has to choose priorities and we find it much more relevant to choose a national body.

On the question of the U.W. I., the hon. Member is very fond of that particular hobby-horse. The people doing courses at the U.W.I. are doing professional courses and those who are doing Arts and Science courses are pursuing (Honours) Arts and (Honours) Science degrees also called Special Degrees. These are rather different from general degrees. University of Guyana does not yet offer general degree subjects and we have had to send our scholars to the U.W.I. for *specialised* training. In spite of this, as the hon. Member knows, we have already announced that as of this year all Guyana scholars, all conditional scholars and loan students will be required to go to the U.G. whenever they need a discipline which is offered there.

I think I have covered all the subheads. Sorry, I have left out a few. Item 36 Secretary, National Sports Councils: The National Sports Council has been completely reorganized and is performing effectively. We are trying to make sure that there are rational bases for a sporting population, a population which appreciates the value of sport. Mr. Fredericks, as the hon.

Member made the point, is not employed as a part-time coach but as a temporary coach because his plans will take him away from Guyana within a few months.

With respect to the National Council for Education, I should like to say that we stand by the promise in the White paper. This Council will be established. However, that council is a statutory body and statutory provisions for this will be incorporated into the new education code. Because we saw the necessity for such an organization we have established an *ad hoc* committee which functions in the same way as we see the Council eventually functioning. It is a representative body. All the teachers' professional organizations are represented in addition which specialist teachers and voluntary associations like the A.E.A. which are interested and which have a contribution to make to education are represented. Those itemized by the hon. Member have, in my opinion, m to make in this area.

Head 38, Ministry of Education - \$3,075,080, agreed, to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Will hon. Members now turn to page 99, Head 39?

HEAD 39 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Question ion proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to speak on subhead 1, item 2.

Mr. Sutton: I wish to speak on subhead 1, item 5, and subhead 4.

Supernumerary Masters /Mistresses

Mr. Teekah: Will the hon. Minister say why this item is called Supernumerary Masters/Mistresses? Why not Masters and Mistresses? We are spending \$64,480 on this. From investigations made I observe that it is called Supernumerary Masters/Mistresses mainly because the Government wants to find employment for some of its friends. It is really finding jobs for retired headmasters.

4.50 p.m.

I find it difficult to understand why this is so. In the White Paper on Education, page 6, the Government states, "Mechanical and repetitive processes must give way to pupil-participation and to learning by reason rather than by rote."

Now all of us know they are these same people who perpetuated the rote system. Since you expect teachers to mould the nation, you have new orientation, new techniques, so how can you produce new teachers with new techniques, with pupil-participation, to teach children by reason, by employing those persons who perpetuated the rote system? The people who are responsible for learning by rote are the people who are taking the training of people who are expected to be the new productions, and that is why I cannot understand.

The other day I was talking to one of them, and he started to reminisce about how many children he used to flog, six in the morning and six in the afternoon. I want to urge this Government against having all these unenergetic people at the training centre. It is time to think of the graduates at the University of Guyana. At our last Graduation Exercises, several persons had qualified, who have got the Diploma of Education. These unenergetic people are blocking the way of adequately and properly trained people from taking responsibility as teachers in these schools.

Mr. Sutton: In subhead 1, item (5), Responsibility Allowances to Masters/Mistresses, I wonder if the Minister would be good enough to tell us how these responsibility allowances are allocated and expected, to operate, and whether they are intended to produce specifically any action or field of action. One would believe that the masters and mistresses would have certain responsibilities and it would be appreciated if the Minister would let us know how the responsibility allowances are allocated and how they operate.

Subhead 4, Library and Publications, It is generally accepted the importance of reading the important books and when any education exercise is gone through, whether by teachers or students, libraries are very Important. I wonder if sufficient emphasis is being put on the importance of libraries at all these institutions, in the light of the apparent poor results we have been getting in English and I wonder whether this vote in fact includes a librarian. I also wonder whether the term, "library"¹¹ is just the usual collection of books or really some system is being followed to establish a proper library in this institution.

Miss Field-Ridley: Supernumerary Masters and Mistresses are called supernumerary masters and mistresses because when, the P.P.P. established these centres, they did not intend to set them up as permanent ones, but as temporary ones, so there is no permanent provision for them. We have been making arrangements for making the programme a permanent *one*—I would ignore the rhetoric on the other side and I would ask the hon. Member to acknowledge worth when he sees it, if he can recognize it.

Responsibility Allowances, these are paid to the heads of schools who are in the teacher training programme and general supervisors of In-Service trainees.

The question of a library, we do understand the importance of a library and in fact, the In-Service.

Library has been linked with the Pre-Service Library. They both use the same library. There is a trained librarian who runs the library in addition to which we have had help from a trained librarian from overseas in setting up the library to enable us to carry on.

Head 39, Ministry of Education - In- Service Teacher Training Programme- \$119,174- agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 40 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PRIMARY, MULTI-LATERAL AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1, items (1), (3) and (6), subheads 5, 6, and 8.

Mr. Sutton: Subhead 1, items (1) to (9), subheads 3 and 7.

Mr. Wilson: Subhead 8.

Mr. Teekah: First of all, I wonder why it is Government still continues to refer to heads of schools as headteachers since they have been re-designated headmasters. That is a very small point. This Head is called, "Primary, Multi-lateral and Secondary Schools." Headmasters of secondary schools are supposed to have a degree. The regulation states that headmasters or deputy headmasters must have it, but what we find in the secondary schools is a completely different story. The policy of the Government recently has been the appointment of several retired headmasters of primary schools to secondary schools.

The hon. Minister said just now that she would like me to observe the work if I can recognise it. I wonder if she cannot recognise a Trained Teacher's Certificate from a degree. The regulations say a degree and I cannot understand how a Trained Teacher's Certificate can be recognize for a degree .There are many cases where retired Headmasters have been appointed Headmasters of secondary schools. To back what I am saying there is the case of the Government school at Stewartville. Lionel Trots, a retired Headmaster of a primary school possessing a Trained Teacher's Certificate is the Headmaster with a graduate from the University of Guyana under him as Assistant Master. Then at the Mahaicony Government School, the Deputy Headmaster is Mr. Gopaul, a retired primary school Headmaster. Although the regulations say that the person should have a degree, he, with a Trained Teacher's Certificate, is appointed. The same applies at the Bartica Government School. If I had the time I would read out all the names.

University of Guyana graduates are being bypassed for other people. There is a man named GurdharryLall who got a Master's Degree in nine months; he graduated from the University at Puerto Rico. He is now Head of the Belvedere Government secondary school and under him is a genuine graduate from the University of Guyana. The Graduates –

The Chairman: Nine months is a full term for a certain process, is it not?

Mr. Teekah: Another thing', sir, I observe that several appointments are being made to the post of Headmaster of persons who have never been Senior Masters or Deputy Headmasters. There are many cases where persons appointed as Headmasters are put above persons who have served in these posts. It is a question of discrimination. What is the Government doing about the Headmistress at the Meten-Meer-Zorg Government school? She has been acting there a long time and the Headmaster never assumed office.

Senior Teachers

One question on item 3. Is the hon. Minister aware that at the Government secondary school at Stewartville there is one Mr. Ralph Isaacs who has been to the lunatic asylum on three occasions. Why is he not put on pension? Why is he still on the teaching staff?

The Chairman: The hon. Member must not be *so* archaic. You mean the Mental Hospital.

Acting Teachers

Mr. Teekah: Item 6. A very ridiculous situation exists here where so many people are qualified in Guyana today. We send out sons and daughters to high schools. The Government provides free secondary schools. There are Government-aided secondary schools. At Leonora Government School, there is a man who is a retired Headmaster but who has recently been appointed an acting teacher. Is not this ridiculous? Why bring an old man out of retirement and there are so many young people asking for jobs? He is a trained teacher. He is retired but brought back and put on a salary of \$296. Why block the future of young Guyanese? Acting teachers are the most neglected teachers in the Ministry today. Most of them do not get their salaries until the term is over. Their appointments take a long time to come through and, generally, they are badly treated. I wonder why the hon. Minister does not review the attitude to acting teachers!

If one is sick, he loses pay; no leave is granted; most of them suffer terribly from having to do lots of odd jobs for Headmasters in order to be appointed in the future. Acting teachers have to be reappointed every term and have to knock around - wash cars - do all sorts of odd jobs in order to gain favouritism and thus re-appointment. I think that it is time that the Government set up a Teachers' Service Commission of which we have spoken so long. Why cannot we have one? I also wish to call on the Government to publish the Collins Report Courses for Teachers

21.1.70

National Assembly

5.00 – 5.10 p.m.

I notice that the sum of \$210,000 was voted last year but only \$180,000 was spent. Clearly the hon. Minister would agree that this would not have been too much. As a matter of fact, we need more courses because these courses are generally offered at the ending of each term and how can one cut down on these things?

In the interior we need more courses for teachers there. Presently, there are infrequent courses for the teachers *of* the interior. Why does the hon. Minister not take up, perhaps, two teachers to a central point in the interior and bring the other teachers there and every term have a refresher course or, alternatively, bring them to Georgetown because, generally, when there are these courses the people who benefit are those on the coastland and not those in the interior. I find it difficult to understand why it is that the amount voted was \$220,000.

5.10 p.m.

Subhead 6, Grants to aided schools. I observe here that one of the items is radios. I think it is mentioned in the Estimates about school radios. I know for a fact that many schools have not received grants for radios and funds have had to be raised by the schools for the purchase of radios.

The other point on aided schools is that the Novar High School used to be given aid. This has been cut off since 1966 and that school is pressurized by this Government. First of all, there is a calculated attempt by the Government to drive that school out of existence. The school has an adequately qualified staff and it is asking first of all, for aid. The Government did not give it any aid since 1966. The other point is that permission to allow the children to write exams in the school has also been turned down. The students have to enter as private students in Georgetown if they want to take the examinations. How much aid is really given to secondary education in this country?

On the same subhead 6, (b) Hindu and Muslim Organisations - teaching of languages, last year, I exhorted the hon. Minister to expand the facilities or the aid for the teaching of different languages, for example Swahili.

Subhead 8. I will prefer to give way to the hon. Member Mr. Wilson.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton: Subheads 1 to 9 deal with the question of staffing. In the light of the Government's announcement on the question of improvements to the education system, I should like the hon. Minister to be good enough to tell us whether the training programme has reached the stage where enough teachers have been produced and whether the number of teachers produced are adequate to meet our needs in the primary, multi-lateral and secondary schools. In the light of the allegation that there has still been in several areas application for school places which could not be filled, one wonders too, how close are we to the stage where we would be able to acquire schooling for all the children who require school. This leads to the general question whether the staff situation is considered adequate and our pre-service training schemes are able to produce the number of teachers required to keep the various schools properly staffed. That brings one to the question of attendance enforcement. The answer to the first question would, of course, lead to the second where we reach the stage that in providing primary education for all who require it, we go to the next step in order to ensure regular attendances by re-instituting the old system of having inspectors going around. As we see today, so many children of school age, both in town and country failing to attend school.

I move on now to subhead 3, Libraries for teachers and schools. This is something which has been bothering me and several other people and it is as a result of the poor results we are obtaining from the schools as far as the standard of passes in examinations. The standard of English seems to be deteriorating and we wonder whether the necessary ... to the teaching of English, the most important of which is deemed to be reading, is given sufficient emphasis in all

schools at all levels. It is necessary for children in schools to be given some guide to their reading prevalence. It would seem that it is not enough for children to be taught from text-books. Libraries of some sort should be attached to every single school, from primary school level thereby setting children in the habit of knowing what they should read. This would be a means of directing them in the right channel to improving their English.

Subhead 7, Supplies to Government Schools. In view of the fact that the word covers a model school, one wonders what it does in fact covers; and whether the time has not come for us to standardize all textbooks which will be a meaningful factor in our system. One also wonders whether another thought is being given to provide books in schools as a service rather than have people buy books; because we know of the situation where parents can hardly afford the cost and the children go to school without any books. In these circumstances, I wonder if the hon. Minister could tell us if the Government has in mind as a service at least to the primary schools, and in time to all the schools, of providing books rather than have parents buy them.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson: Mr. Chairman, I speak on subhead 8 in order to point out that this Government seems to be taking great advantage on a category of workers whom I think seem to have the answer and perhaps they fear that they would be victimised of their duties if they speak.

5.20 p.m.

The Government claims that the school places are increasing in number, yet year after year the vote for Government secondary schools remains almost the same. There is very little increase.

I have a sneaking suspicion - in fact, I have evidence to suggest that the Government seeks to keep the vote for secondary schools under control by victimizing the people who work

at these places. I have two examples in mind. At Zeeburg Government Secondary School the cleaner was receiving \$35 a month. Certain re-arrangements have been made and I think she is now receiving \$24 a month. In addition, she has other duties, such as polishing, which she did not have before. At Patentia Government Secondary School, two cleaners used to receive \$35 a month each. Sometime last year this was reduced to less than half and they are now receiving only \$17 a month each for cleaning the school. The Patentia Government Secondary School is 7,200 square feet and at \$34 a month, with 20 days a month, it works out at about half a cent for cleaning 20 square feet.

I think great advantage is being taken of these workers. People are afraid to go to the Ministry of Labour for they would soon find themselves relieved of their jobs. I ask that the Government see to it that these persons are not dismissed from their jobs.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister of Education.

Miss Field-Ridley: Sub-head 1, item (1). There are no headteachers in secondary schools who do not have qualifications. There are, in a very *few* cases, teachers who are acting and not appointed. They are acting precisely because they do not have the qualifications but they are very experience teachers and they will be acting until we find people with the necessary experience, aptitude and qualifications.

The question of the permanent appointment of a Headteacher at the Met-En-Meerzorg School is tied in with In-service. The substantive head of that school is in In-service Training. The problem of acting teachers, which the hon. Member underlined, is really a question of security of tenure. One cannot do what he suggested. They are employed on a month-to-month basis precisely because we only employ them until we can get someone better to fill these posts.

The Collins Report. Not only has the Collins Report been in the hands of the Professional organizations, but the Ministry has received comments from them and, in fact, discussions are on the way.

Sub-head 3, Libraries for Teachers and Schools. This question was raised by the hon. Member Mr. Sutton. Perhaps I speak too quickly, Mr. Chairman, but the answer is precisely the same as the answer I gave under the other Head. Whenever a school can use it we give a library. There are the basis and nucleus of libraries in practically every school. The size of the library depends very much on the use which the school makes of it.

Sub-head 5, Courses for Teachers. The hon. Member, if his recollection serves him well, will realize that in 1969 we did in fact exceed our voted provision and thanks to the hon. Members on the other side we were granted supplementary provision under this Head so that, in fact, we did spend over \$180,000.

We are having very many courses for teachers, including teachers in interior schools. In every educational district, during the last year, we have held courses of one sort or another for teachers, and Education Officers have been very busy on coastal areas as well as in interior areas. Especially because of interior teachers we mount courses to up-grade teachers who benefit from In-Service Training Programmes. For this we brought teachers from interior schools into coastal areas so that they could get this training. This has already been done.

Sub-head 6, grants for several purposes, including Maintenance of School Radios. This grant is only to maintain school radios, not to provide them. I am very pleased to see that some places have taken the initiative to maintain their own radios by self-help effort. I would encourage this. They all have been provided with radios.

6(b) Hindu and Muslim Organisation- Teaching of Languages. The Hon. Member, I remember clearly did make that point last year of teaching African language along with these

Indian Language and I took the trouble to point out that if it were his suggestion I would be willing to use part of this vote to each African languages. We have decided what our priorities are an, in fact I am examining in my mind whether this vote ought to be continued, whether we ought not to phase our programme in the teaching of theses languages and give much more emphasis to the teaching of Spanish, Portuguese and French which are essential, rather than to the teaching of these language which, in some cases could have a very divisive effect on the community.

Novar High school. As far as I Know we have never granted aid to this particular school , so it is not a question of withdrawing that aid. There is a Government secondary school in the area to which children can be admitted.

A hon. Member - Mr. Sutton I think it was - raised some very general questions under items (1) to (9). No country in the world has produced a training college for all its secondary school teachers and certainly we cannot hope to do this. I do not think we could attempt to do it. Our training programmes have increased both in terms of producing certificated teachers, as well as giving them refresher courses and In-service courses *are* continuous.

We are in a position now to provide primary school places for every primary school child. There might be a question of adjustment on an area basis, but we have sufficient places.

The question of School Attendance Offices. We no longer use this term because we recognize, in 1970, there are sometimes very complex reasons which explain why the child does not turn up for school. In fact the School Attendance Officers did much more than enforce attendance at schools. We now have School Welfare Officers.

The hon. Member Mr. Wilson, under the other Head, raised a question which was not answered, concerning the provision of books to children who have been given free places when their parents desire it. In fact, the Ministry does give books and maintenance allowances and

21.1.70

National Assembly

5.20 – 5.30 p.m.

helps the parents when they request it for children who have free places. I have used this vote to help whenever possible.

In addition to all this, the Ministries which have under their control social welfare officers are working together to see how best they can utilise their officers to help with the problems of giving our country the kind of social assistance and welfare assistance that is needed so badly.

The question of libraries again came up. I have already answered it. Sub-head 7, Supplies to Government Schools. It does not cover a multitude of sins, but tries to cover a multitude of needs. With this vote we provide miscellaneous articles: things like chalk, stationery etc.

5.30 p.m.

On the question of cleaning, there is a standard rate now fixed for cleaners. If there are cases of discrimination that the hon. Member knows about I would be grateful if he brings them to my attention, Thank you.

Head 40, Ministry of Education - Primary, Multi-lateral and Secondary Schools - \$13,267,909, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Head 41, Ministry of Education - Practical Instruction Centre.

HEAD 41 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION CENTRE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to speak on subhead 1, item 2,

Mr. Sutton: I wish to speak on subhead 8.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Teachers-in-Charge

Mr. Teekah: I observe here that last year the sum of \$80,082 was voted but only \$49,000 appears on the revised estimates. This is rather strange, since we would like to involve our young people in subjects apart from those that are normally dealt with which encourage them to aim at collar and tie jobs. Since we wish to orient our young people away from the collar and tie jobs, we ought to plan a programme for them so that they would be able to find other avenues for the development of their skills. Last year this Government spent less than the amount approved under this whole Head. This shows that the Government is inconsistent. It says that it wants to provide people with other skills and when we come to a Head like this, Practical Instruction Centres, we find that the Government has not spent the amount approved for last year.

Fellowships to Pre-Service Students

Mr. Sutton: In connection with subhead 8, Fellowships to Pre-Service Students, could the Minister be good enough to tell us what is the policy applied to the granting of these fellowships? Are these fellowships designed to encourage greater effort by all concerned?

Miss Field-Ridley: To deal with the question by the hon. Member Mr. Teekah, if he looks at item 4 he will understand what is happening here because in the years when, the teachers who have now taken charge of these centres should have been trained, no one had the imagination to do it. We now find ourselves in a position where we have centres and not enough fully qualified people to take charge of them. In this case we appoint acting teachers, so these centres in fact have people taking charge of them who have experience but not the necessary qualifications, in

21.1.70

National Assembly

5.30 – 5.40 p.m.

addition to which some centres projected for last year did not start upgrading until during the year so we did not use the entire vote.

I think the hon. Member Mr. Sutton was speaking on a Head that we have not yet reached. Head 41, Ministry of Education - Practical Instruction Centres - \$586,340, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: That is the speed with which I should like to see the other Heads dealt with. We will now turn to page 102, Head 42.

HEAD 42 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE- PRE SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates

Mr. Teekah: I should like to speak on subhead 1, items 1 and 5.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to speak on subhead 8.

Mr. Sutton: I wish to speak on subhead 8.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Principal Supernumerary Master / Mistress

Mr. Teekah: I will deal with items 1 and 5 together in order to expedite matters. First of all, again I see appearing this question of Supernumerary Master/Mistress. Whenever I see this I always observe that a space is being made for someone who desires a job.

The other matter of the Teachers' Training College is a sore point in the whole question of education in Guyana. A long time ago the Government has been talking about a new Teachers' Training College. I should like to ask how is work progressing on the new Teachers' Training College. Instead of building a new college, which the Government says it is doing, why doesn't Government train the teachers for the Trained Teacher's Certificate in the Faculty of Education? Why doesn't the Government streamline matters by allowing the Faculty of Education at the University of Guyana to take care of this matter? This was one of the ideas possessed by the P.P.P, Government, and even during the P.N.C. /U.F. regime there were many who accepted this as a good thing.

On the second point, the teachers who are presently doing pre-service training are finding it a little difficult to repay the loans when they get their certificates. Now a teacher gets \$50 to \$70 per month. He has to repay 50 per cent of this amount per month, plus 5 per cent interest, and with national insurance and the high cost of living life is very difficult for him. Would the Government be a bit more helpful and cut down this repayment to something like 25 per cent per month, or would it consider a small grant instead of a loan?

Fellowships to Pre-Service Students

Mr. Sutton: I think the Minister has heard my remarks on subhead 9, I inadvertently turned the page without realizing it.

Mr. Wilsons: I wish to speak on this subhead in order to repeat the suggestion I made some time ago - not that I think the suggestion really belongs here but I wish to crave your indulgence.

The Chairman: Well make it short.

Mr. Wilson: Very short. I wish to say that I cannot see how two years¹ training of people who have just obtained five subjects at the G.C.E. Ordinary Level could really make them qualified teachers. They will need two years to raise the academic qualification to Advanced Level attainment and at least another year for professional preparation.

5.40 p.m.

Would the Minister consider increasing the time spent in the training college from two to three years, as in the case of Pre-Service training?

Miss Field-Ridley: I do not know why the hon. Member is so worried about everything he hears. This is a historical question. In this particular case the In-Service and Pre-Service programmes were operated under one head at one time and this is a left over. The In-service division has now been separated. There is nothing sinister about it. It is the person functioning in this post. The other question concerning the training of teachers and the teaching of trained teachers, we have last year re-organised the non-graduate training courses, so we have a centre training non-graduate secondary teachers and this training programme has been so organized that the University of Guyana will take charge of the secondary non-graduate programme after two years. It was not possible for the University to take charge of the programme before because it had its own staffing problems.

The question of Pre-Service loans, this is a popular point to make but I want to face this problem. Here we are taking one category of the community, we are not charging them for training, we are making available to them loans because we feel it is important to train them. This training programme assists to increase their earning capacity by approximately 50 per cent. I do not think it difficult for them to repay these loans after their salaries have been increased by 50 per cent. They make a monthly repayment and this is paid into a fund to train other people.

The one difficulty which they had and one which was appreciated was the problem of finding guarantors because the people who used to help them found themselves Presses they were so many people ready to be guarantors and help the situation, the Government waived the necessity for having guarantors. We now accept the student's bond and they stand surety for themselves.

I think the hon. Member, Mr. Sutton, wanted an explanation of what this fellowship programme means. This is a fellowship programme which was started by a UNESCO grant and the Government has continued the provision as the UNESCO grant has now ended. We give scholars in this programme a monthly allowance.

The hon. Member, Mr. Wilson, wanted the period of training extended because the present period of training, he said, is too short. He made this point last year. The teacher's training does not end at the end of two years' college training. When the teacher graduates from, the Training college, he gets a temporary certificate only, then he gets on the job practice as a teacher for two years. When that is completed and we consider that he is competent in it we then give him a Permanent certificate.

Head 42, Ministry of Education. Government Training College-Pre-Service Teacher Training Programme - \$189,161 - agreed to, and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 43 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1, items (3) and (18).

Dr. Ramsahoye: Subhead 9.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1, item (3), here again I notice that we have a Principal, and a Deputy Principal, and provision is also made for a Supernumerary Deputy Principal. Is this post needed? There is much corruption alleged right here. As a matter of fact, there is one part-time lecturer who, I understand, goes to the country area and recruits students at a price of \$300. This is how they get students and I want the Minister to investigate the allegation concerning this person who goes around to recruit students at a price of \$300.

Dr. Ramsahoye: I notice that subhead 9, Training in Land Surveying, is put as a new subhead. I presume for the first time the Technical Institute will be carrying to the full, the training of land surveyors. The Government has in the past been making a lot of excuses in relation to its land policy because it has claimed that the number of land surveyors available for doing surveying work for the Government is inadequate. I should like to know from the hon. Minister, if this information is available, what is the programme which it is proposed to carry out and upon which that sum of \$5,000 is to be spent.

I would wish to know particularly, this should be available at once, what should be the qualifications and what will be the method of selecting people for training in this area. We are suspicious about the selection methods which are used by the Government and I would wish to be assured that the selection methods will be fair so there will be no accusation of discrimination.

Miss Field Ridley: I did not get the question which the hon. Member asked concerning the Supernumerary Deputy Principal but I assume it is similar to the one he asked on every Head.

The position is one where the Deputy Principal of the Technical Institute has had to be seconded to take charge of the new Technical Institute in New Amsterdam. This is a different reason for this item than when the P.P.P. was in Power.

21.1.70

National Assembly

5.40 – 5.50 p.m.

Part-time teaching staffer- if what the hon. Member says is true then I am amazed that he has kept this information to himself and not passed it on to the police. I would request that he does so immediately.

The question of the training of land surveyors, which the hon. Member, Dr. Ramsahoye, asked- it is not the first time the Technical Institute is mounting any land surveying course. It is part of the normal subjects offered by the Technical Institute in view of the great demand for this category of skilled worker. We have, in 1968, started a full programme in the training of land surveyors. We advertised widely in the Gazette and in the press and we invited applications from persons holding four G.C.E, subjects. This is a fifteen-month programme and it is already in progress. Thank you.

Head 43, Ministry of Education, Technical Institute - \$493,807 - agreed to, and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

5.50 p.m.

HEAD 44 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF HOME ECONOMICS

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 8, sir.

The Chairman: Please proceed!

Evening Classes, Rural Area

Mr. Teekah: I would like to ask how many classes there are now. The other point is this. I think that it is time that we have two more centres. These are for evening classes. Where the female population is greater than the male in a country like this, why cannot we do something substantial for the fairer sex? There is much talk of trying to bring up women to be equals; to recognise them as equals, to respect them as equals, but this is not only sociological but also a human problem. The material thing is that if males are always more qualified it means that the females will always be brushed aside. That is why more attention should be placed on this. Instead of only having one evening class at the Carnegie, expand and have the classes carried to other areas. Publicise them properly and encourage the females, or rather the fairer sex to attend these schools because, only when that is done will there be the desired results.

Unless the women themselves possess the qualities of their male counterparts, they would not be considered as equals. All the talk of equality will be eye-wash. The base must be prepared; this is not being done. This is treated so lightly. How efficiently are they done? How many women are encouraged in this type of thing? I would urge strongly that the Government would re-think its policy on this question and have the Carnegie School given at least two more centres. Take them to the areas of backwardness and bring up our womenfolk as we wish them to be.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister of Education.

Miss Field-Ridley: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the appeal made by the hon. Member on behalf of what he calls the weaker or fairer sex both terms inapplicable to that of which he spoke. However, he should know that for questions like numbers of evening classes, I would require notice. It is not conducted at one center but held throughout the length and breadth of the country from time to time for varied duration to train women in handicraft of one sort or the other. He as how many and how deep the whole exercise goes? I would like to point out that, in fact, this is providing the basis for the start of training in which many co-operatives are being

21.1.70

National Assembly

5.50 – 6 p.m.

founded and very recently there was an exhibition in the National Park in which women who had learned some expertise could display and sell their handwork and make a profit.

Carnegie is not the only centre. There are four centres of Home Economics in the country and, in fact, if he recalls, we were discussing this earlier.

Head 44, Ministry of Education - Carnegie School of Home Economics - \$112,045, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 45 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1, items 15; subheads 5, 7 and 10,

Mr. Wilson: Subhead 10.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Deputy Headmaster

Mr. Teekah: Mr. Chairman, last year I observed, under this subhead for Deputy Headmaster, that the amount used up was \$13,606 which is a bit abnormal. Why is this really so?

Temporary Clerical Assistance

Temporary Teaching Staff

What is this \$10 for Temporary Clerical Assistance and Temporary Teaching Staff really for?

Furniture

The furniture at Queen's College is regularly destroyed by the frequent use of this College by a particular political party and organisations affiliated to it. [Mr. Green: "Call the name."] The P.N.C. uses this place frequently and those in charge are not very happy with the damage done to the furniture and the mess the place is in after such use.

I think that more discretion should be used by those who use this place. The paint is scratched and is looking horrible. [Mr. Green: "When last were you there?"] Saturday night!
[Interruptions]

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr. Teekah: I wish that the place would not be made a political venue for meetings of the P.N.C. and its affiliated organs and it should really be a school where students are taught; it should only be used for important occasions and open, of course, to all sections of the community.

Educational Supplies, Equipment and Apparatus

I would like to relate this to libraries. I was there and the library is in need of expansion. The books are very outdated and this library really needs expansion. This has always been the premier high school in the Caribbean and we should like to keep it at this standard and should not allow it to deteriorate. If it continues as it is now, then, certainly, it will lose its position as the number one school in this region. I therefore urge that new books be put in the library especially in the science section.

Mr. Wilson: Subhead 10, Queen's College Scholarships. I observe that only \$27 was actually spent in 1968. May I ask what kind of scholarships are these that only cost \$27. For what purpose are these scholarships awarded? What are the bases of awarding these scholarships? What items of expenses?

The Chairman: The hon. Minister.

Miss Field-Ridley: With regard to the comment on the Deputy Headmaster, I wish to inform the hon. Member that the substantive holder of the post was away and an acting Deputy Headmaster had to be paid.

Temporary Clerical Assistance. There was need for this. With regard to furniture, there is a furniture fund at Queen's College. As regards the question of the use of the school, we have had more applications from the PPP for the use of schools and these applications were under the hand of the General-Secretary. We have facilitated whenever it was possible.

The hon. Member, Mr. Wilson wanted to know about Queen's College Scholarships. These are scholarships within the school and are given a monthly allowance.

Head 45, Ministry of Education- Queen's College- \$338,527, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Head 46.

HEAD 46-MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

BISHOPS' HIGH SCHOOL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to speak on subheads 4 and 6. Subhead 4, Furniture. For some time now the auditorium of Bishops' High School has had no chairs. I should like to appeal to the hon. Minister of Education to put some chairs. How can students be happy and comfortable if there are no chairs. The children have to squat on the floor. I, therefore, wish to appeal to the hon. Minister to do something about it.

Subhead 6, Supplies and equipment. These are really needed at the Bishops' High School. I do not know when last the hon. Minister visited the school but in the words of one of the Chemistry mistresses it is described in this way: "Open any chemistry books from the most elementary - - - These were the remarks of a Chemistry Mistress quite recently. And to prove this, there are only three students taking chemistry at the G.C.E. Advanced level. The Laboratory is really run down in the range of glass equipment. There is a shortage of equipment from test tubes - - - and I have made a list of other things that are needed which I jotted down. Among the other equipment there is need for - - - and a room in which to put them. The reason I wrote them down is because there were denials from the Government. That is why I have taken pains to write them down.

Miss Field-Ridley: Mr. Chairman, on the question of furniture, Bishops' High School has never had furniture in the Assembly. ----- have for generation sat on the floor for Assembly. My own pinion which I have expressed to the girls is that the situation remains as is and they have all agreed to this. All of us have benefited from this and the girls agreed that more girls will be able to sit there.

On the question of equipment the only point I should like to make is that the Guyana Scholarship this year was won by a pupil of Bishops' High School who did Science.

Head 46 – Ministry of Education [Bishops' High School] \$231,942, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Head 47.

Head 47, Ministry of Education – Anna Regina Secondary School- \$118,085, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Head 48.

HEAD 48 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

BERBICE HIGH SCHOOL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah rose –

The Chairman: You did not ask for questions on Head 47.

Mr. Teekah: I was waiting for you to pause. On Head 48, I wish to speak on item 1. I was a little disappointed with the treatment just now.

The Chairman: I appreciate you are trying to do your best, but let us get on.

Mr. Teekah: On the question of the Berbice High School I notice that this school is being terribly neglected. Perhaps the reason is that Government does not want to spend too much money on free secondary education. For a long time Berbice High School has had a limited capacity. The need for secondary education in that area has been growing, so much so, there have been very many private secondary schools established in that area. And what we have found is that Berbice High is not expanding its facilities. It is a Government school, to offer free secondary education. If it should expand its facilities certainly people in that area will benefit. By

21.1.70

National Assembly

6 – 6.10 p.m.

not expanding its facilities, it means that the private high schools will be doing good business by selling education to the people in that area. I would, therefore, make an urgent plea that

Government should expand the facilities of this school since it is the only secondary school in that area which offers free secondary education.

6.10 p.m.

Other private schools are expanding. For example the Berbice Educational Institute is expanding rapidly and has about twice the number of students as the Berbice High School but in the B.E.I, students have to pay for education and the B.H.S. they do not have to pay. If the Government expands here the people will benefit. I want to appeal to the Government to spend some money and expand this school very urgently.

Miss Field-Ridley: Very recently the Berbice High School has been a hive of activity. A very good head-master assumed duty at the beginning of the academic year and some of the buildings have been repaired and reconstructed. The school has been doing very well, in spite of the attempted setback by the formation of subversive cells, which I am sure the hon. Members on the other side know about. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is in charge of the situation. I hope it will be easily remedied.

Head 48, Ministry of Education -Berbice High School - \$169,984, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION XVIII - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that this Division stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: Sub-head 18.

Mr. Teekah: Sub-heads 1, 8, 15 and 21.

Mr. Wilson: Sub-head 5, 6 and 18.

Mr. Sutton: Sub-heads 1, 9, 10 and 15.

Mr. Teekah: Sub-head 1. This sub-head is called Primary, Multi-lateral and Secondary Schools. I wonder why it is called "Multi-lateral" because multi-lateral is taken care of in another Division. That is the first observation.

At sub-head 8, School Sites, the sum of \$40,000 is to be voted. I would like to know where these sites are and how many such sites there are.

Sub-head 15, Technical Institute, Anna Regina. I observe that no money is to be voted this year for the Technical Institute at Anna Regina. Government had said it had in mind to set up a Technical Institute at Anna Regina, but although it has spoken about this, it has not found it necessary in the Estimates for this year to provide or accommodate such an Institute. It is the same thing again. It is a question of Government not being consistent.

Essequibo is a huge county. People should be taught subjects other than grammar. There is a Technical Institute in Georgetown and there is going to be one in New Amsterdam and there is not one cent to be voted for the one in Essequibo about which there has been so much talk. Why is it that no money is to be voted for the Technical Institute in Essequibo?

Sub-head 21, Public Free Library. I observe that no money is to be voted here. I am not sure whether this is taken care of under the Ministry of Information but the Public Free Library occurs here, otherwise it would be written in a different type. Why has no money been voted for the Public Free Library?

The Reference Section of this Library needs a thorough expansion and is not being expanded. For a long time the same erection is there and we see nothing being done. More care should be given to the Library.

Mr. Wilson: Sub-head 5, Handicapped Children. I speak on this sub-head in order to make a plea for a wider, broader interpretation of the word "handicapped" than is usually done. The usual interpretation for "handicapped" children is children who are physically handicapped, deaf and dumb, with their eye-sight very badly affected, or crippled. But when I was engaged in schools I used to have many students who were retarded, that is to say, they developed so very slowly that we had to let them remain in the school classes and just pass them through, because we could not keep them in classes with students very much their juniors.

I would like to know what the Minister is doing with children who are mentally retarded, whether there is any plan to bring them together and put them under specialist attention.

Sub-head 6, Teachers' Houses. I would like to speak on this sub-head in order to make a plea for assistant teachers. It is usually the case that the head master is provided with a house but at one time a teacher from the North West District came to me and told me of his plight. He could not go back to the district because he had nowhere to stay. A house is provided only for the head master. The same thing happened at Kamarang and the assistant teacher had to live in a logie with the miners, which was very undesirable.

I am making a plea that when the question of houses for teachers is being examined consideration would be given to the other teachers and not only to the head master.

Mr. Sutton: With reference to sub-head 1, I would, like to speak on it in conjunction with sub-head 8. Under sub-head 1, Primary, Multi-lateral and Secondary Schools, I notice that the legend says "To provide for the completion of schools under construction". One would

21.1.70

National Assembly

6.10 – 6.20 p.m.

presume that all schools under construction require sites but under sub-head 8, School Sites, I notice the legend says "To provide for the acquisition of sites".

I wonder whether the sum of \$1,000 under sub-head 8 is intended for sites other than those sites on which the completion of schools under construction is being taken care of with a vote of \$200,000, or whether it is for additional sites in the light of the continuity of the programme which I hope will be so geared as not to permit any falling backward in the primary school situation where the Minister has said that Government is now in a position to provide all places necessary for primary schools.

6.20 p.m.

In the case of subhead 1, \$5,100,000 is provided in the Development Programme, and, in the case of subhead 8, \$100,000 is provided but only; a small proportion of that has been put down for the acquisition of sites. We must not lose sight of the fact that the acquisition of sites and the building of schools will enable primary education to be available to all who require it.

School libraries

Subhead 9, School Libraries; In view of the Minister's answer on the question of libraries under a previous Head and in view of the fact that \$300,000 has been provided in the Development Programme and something in the vicinity of only \$6,700 has so far been spent, we hope that the expenditure will always be before the Minister in making an effort, wherever possible, to provide a library for every single school in the country.

Audio-Visual Aids

Subhead 10, Audio-Visual Aids: We are aware that in the education system in other parts of the world increasing emphasis is being given to Audio-Visual Aids. In some cases it has been

found that shortage of teachers can be made up by a central programme relayed by radio and television. I would presume that the Ministry of Information is keeping abreast with these modern trends and that the provision of Audio-Visual Aids as visualized in the Development Programme is geared for when the time comes to take full advantage of the improvement which will be necessary and desirable when television becomes a reality in this country.

Technical Institute, Anna Regina

Subhead 15, Technical Institute, Anna Regina: The same point struck me as was already mentioned by the hon. Member Mr. Teekah and that is that we have been saying that technical education is so necessary for all involved, particularly people in the rural areas, and yet there seems to be no start made for technical education in the county of Essequibo. It would appear, judging from its size and the type of employment, that a technical institute is nearly as necessary as primary schools and it is hoped that in the light of these remarks the Government will give serious attention to doing something concrete about a technical institute.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran.

Loans to Students

Mr. Ram Karran; Subhead 18, Loans to Students - \$300,000: This is an indication that the Government does not intend to pursue the policy of the first Minister of Education in this House, the present Prime Minister. The Prime Minister seems to be opposed to the idea which he once held and perhaps after reading what he said in this House as late as 1961, the hon. Minister of Education might tell us what is the Government's position *vis-a-vis* what the Prime Minister said when he was Leader of the Opposition

"Closer proximity . . ."

The Chairman: What is the date and column number?

Mr. Ram Karran: I am quoting from the Hansard of 27th April, 1961, column 1221:

"Closer proximity to the grocery or salt goods shop I do not see. It is despicable that individuals in our community should think that way today. It is the Government's duty to give higher education to those with ability to take advantage of it. This attitude of not giving scholarships but lending money shocks me; and I hope that I shall not hear it here this afternoon."

The hon. Prime Minister continues at column 1225:

"I am a little surprised to hear the Minister of Community Development and Education, saying- that students have to be bound to return by contract because it has been found that they do not have a full sense of responsibility. I think the shoe is on the other foot. Has Government shown its sense of responsibility to the students?"

I continue to quote from column 1225:

"This policy of giving students loans to enable them to qualify abroad is a vulgarising of education - a pattern similar to a poor man's shop or any other business. Why talk about the \$125,000 in loans? Government is no better than the average businessman who wants for his money a contract *cum* interest and proof that the student will return."

In view of these statements made by the first Minister of Education, now Prime Minister in an independent territory, it is surprising to see the sum of \$300,000 under this subhead.

It is known that certain people who apply - not everyone - are asked to deposit their transports and even some who can fill the bill are discriminated against by this administration. This is what the Prime Minister said at column 1218

"If we are to make a reality of Independence, if we are to run our own affairs, if we are to build those new industries which so many of us talk about; if indeed we are to make Guiana a better place, I think it is conceded that we must get a larger number of trained persons. As I see it, the eventual aim should be to make available to all who are capable of taking advantage of it, courses in higher education in the various fields in which we need experts or expertise."

I am surprised to see that this Government is indulging in this pawnshop business.

I should now like to quote what the Prime Minister said at column 1192:

"In any case a country like this must not think in terms of scholarships. It must start thinking at this period in terms of giving free education to all, so that there would not be any more scholarships. There may be medals for distinction."

I wonder if they are striking the medals now. Independence has long gone, we are moving to another stage, Co-operative Republic.

The other day I referred to a case where one individual, after spending a long time qualifying, had returned from abroad, and he had a very difficult time because at first, for some reason or the other, the Government did not send him the money. When this person came back, instead of carrying out the terms of the contract as is demanded of every student who returns, he was given an opportunity to practice his profession outside the Government service. I have no quarrel with that but why doesn't the Government extend that facility, give the same terms and conditions, to other people who wish to stay outside the Government, service but within the country? There must be no discrimination. I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Education to think of what her leader said some years ago.

It does not matter. The Government must carry out the policy. *[Interruption]* Do you mean to tell me that the Minister of Home Affairs has a different idea to the Prime Minister? People find themselves on the Back Benches who have different ideas to the Prime Minister, like my friend.

Miss Field-Ridley: The sum of \$200,000 is to be provided for primary, multi-lateral and secondary schools, and the legend states, "To provide for the completion of schools under construction.

Subhead 5, Handicapped Children, these include mentally handicapped children and other retarded children in the school. We have been bringing them together into one group which has been covered by the Red Cross in that school, but what we have been doing, we are acquiring the services of officers in this area and posting teachers trained in the teaching of these retarded children.

Capital expenditure for housing in the hinterland, we do not limit ourselves to providing housing facilities for headmasters. I know of my own knowledge that buildings have been put in the entire Kamarang area. The \$40,000 allocated for school sites-this is, not to secure school sites but for schools already decided upon. This sum is really for the multi-lateral school building programme mainly at Mahaica.

The question of school libraries, I have answered this specifically and under two other Heads.

Audio –Visual Aid, we have fitted an audio-visual department. It is equipped to keep up with the latest trends wherever we think they are useful to this country.

The Technical Institute at Anna Regina-nothing is provided here because we have recently equipped the technical wing of the secondary school, where during normal school hours,

21.1.70

National Assembly

6.30 – 6.40 p.m.

children can use the equipment and after normal school hours, adults can use it. I do not, think we need to rush into duplicating our facilities, We can make a start with the equipment in the school that is equipped.

Loans to students, - we give scholarships and we have increased the number of scholarships given.

A question raised by the hon. Member was one that he raised under another Head and it was specifically answered by the Prime Minister, I do not propose going into it.

The other question, the Public Free Library is now with the Ministry of Information.

Division XVIII. Ministry of Education - 2,530,000, agreed to, and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We shall have the suspension for this evening. Is there any objection from Members of the House? [Hon. Members: "No."]

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: We shall suspend now until 8 o'clock.

Sitting suspended at 6.35 p.m.

8.05 p.m.

On resumption -

Assembly in committee of supply.

The Chairman: We will now deal with Division XIX - Ministry of Education - IBRD/IDA Projects.

DIVISION XIX—MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

IBRD/IDA PROJECTS

Question proposed that this Division stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subheads 1 to 4.

The Chairman: You may proceed.

Civil Works

Mr. Teekah: I wish to observe that civil works are proceeding slowly on this project. The project is supposed to be completed around 1973 and if it continues to be this way, it is going to take a long time before it reaches completion. I observed that the first batch of multilateral school teachers will be coming out about June next year. It does not seem to me that these schools will be ready. Perhaps the hon. Minister knows how this can be done. This whole question of multilateral schools, generally, is not the correct thing for improvement of secondary education. The multilateral school is really the secondary school.

I recall that during the regime of the P.P.P. teachers were sent to England to study the counterpart of the multilateral school - the comprehensive school. It was expressed in the Sessional Paper of 1963. That Paper was accepted before the House of that time and it was the Government's plan to establish comprehensive schools. When the P.N.C./U.F. Government succeeded the P.P.P. Government, it decided that it would not pursue the establishment of comprehensive schools but it would, on the other hand, establish multilateral schools. Perhaps

this was done not merely because it was better but really because the loan was coming from the United States of America because the multilateral school is a part of American society. That is what they call their counterpart of the English comprehensive school.

I recall, also, that the hon. Prime Minister said during Speech Night at Queen's College that it was to become a comprehensive school but he as contradicted by the then Minister of Education, Mrs. Gaskin, who said that it would not be a comprehensive school but a multilateral school. It is not what is better for the country but where the loan is coming from. Multilateral schools are to assist the secondary schools. What we want in Guyana is sound secondary education for our children. Rather than dealing with it piecemeal, why does the Government not approach the whole question of secondary education in a very comprehensive way and develop it along the lines from the primary school into secondary schools and if they want to broaden it call it a modern secondary school?

The multilateral school envisages children flowing from the secondary schools to them. Now, we will have seven multilateral schools and this is not possible as I see it. If it will be so, there will be discrimination in the areas where they are situated as against those areas where there is none. Those children will have to write P.S.L. or Common Entrance. I would have thought that the Government, first of all, would have aimed at creating some new thing but as Mr. Wilson said, instead of saying multilateral schools to dazzle the population, Government should do something new for education. Why not tackle the thing as a whole? We have ...schools and only one out of every 22 will get free education. Why not try to raise the level generally and broaden the curriculum of the primary schools and go on to broaden the curriculum of the secondary schools.

When we were in the Government we did attempt this by attacking the primary schools and changing their names to All-Age Schools. Just to show the shallowness of this Government, it changed the names of the All-Age Schools to primary schools but how silly it is that the primary school has a secondary department! We have a situation in Guyana here we have three

schools - primary teaching secondary subjects secondary teaching secondary subjects and multilateral teaching- secondary subjects. Now, is this not crazy? There is certainly more need for streamlining. If you really want to teach secondary subjects in the primary schools, then call them All-Age schools. If it is proposed to develop secondary education system, then why not work on the basis of what is there rather than raise something new. It is as simple as that. Anyone who knows about education would know that this is just a silly exercise in creating a new kind of school called the multilateral school. Therefore the Government should get down to tackle the problem as a whole and I want it remembered at all times that only one out of twenty-two get secondary education and it is not going to assist.

8.15 p.m.

I observe, too, under subhead 4, that the consultant services are increasing all the time. In 1969, the sum of \$300,000 was approved and the revised estimates show that only \$195,000 was spent. Consultant services are increasing all the time and this is coupled with the \$40,000 interest. It is clear that the money which is being given in the form of loans is being thrown back to the United States. This is exactly how agreement loans are.

Mr. Chairman, it is envisaged that \$20 million will be obtained from this whole project. I think this money could be better utilised if we should use it to develop the entire educational system. As it is here, it is certainly not in the interest of the Guyanese people to be continued this way. I therefore strongly urge that the Government revise and investigate this whole system of multi-lateral schools. The United States itself, has found that this is not the best type of school for that country; and for a developed country it is even worse.

Finally, I want to comment by saying that I am not at all happy with the way these estimates were conducted. I thought that it was perhaps a studied attempt by the hon. Leader of the House (Miss Field-Ridley) to leave consideration of the Ministry of Education for the last so that we would have to run it through.

The Chairman: When we started the hon. Member Mr. Sutton was not here. Does he wish to speak on any of these subheads briefly?

Mr. Sutton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether one sum of money mentioned here as IBRD projects, considering in the light of the planned programme, would be adequate to provide food and work equipment that is necessary. Does this programme of multi-lateral schools foresees the possibility of a moresignificant proportion of our primary school children obtaining a meaningful secondary education?

The Chairman: The hon. Minister of Education.

Miss Field-Ridley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As regards the question raised on the item which deals -with civil works, I should like to inform the hon. Member that we are working to schedule. We are certainly not behind time and civil works are proceeding according to plans. We shall, therefore, meet the deadline which we have fixed for ourselves.

He made the point that money for consultant services had increased. In fact, consultants are being paid a fixed fee but we are paying them by fixed instalments.

The other comments are of a general nature. I am satisfied that this is a good way to use the money. As I have explained several times in this House, the multi-lateral school is a secondary school. The hon. Member- Mr. Sutton wanted to know whether it would provide a more meaningful educational system. The answer is, yes, and this is the pattern which we have set ourselves for the entire educational structure.

As regards the latter comment, I cannot refrain from saying that the hon. Member was not at all anxious in fixing these Heads. He had certain long distance calls to make. I consulted at all times with both Leaders of the Opposition.

Division XIX - Ministry of Education - IBRD/IDA Projects - \$1,149,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the estimates.

The Chairman: We turn now to the Ministry of Finance, page 134, Head 61.

HEAD 61 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: I wish to speak on subhead 4. [*After a pause*]

The Chairman: No other hon. Member? The hon. Member Mr. Balchand Persaud.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: Last year, the amount voted for telephone expenses was \$25,000. I notice that during the course of last year the revised estimates show that a total sum of \$28,000 was spent. This year the sum of \$25,000 is being voted again. I should like to ask the hon. Minister whether he could tell us if telephone expenses for this year would be above the approved estimates for last year.

Dr. Reid: We believe that the expenses for telephone will be \$25,000.

Head 61, Ministry of finance, \$231,730, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Head 62, page 135.

HEAD 62 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: I wish to speak on subheads 6, 10, 12, 18, 19, 20, 24 and 26.

The Chairman: Does the hon. Member Mr. Sutton wish to speak on this?

Mr. Sutton: I should like to speak on subheads 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: Mr. Chairman, with respect to subhead 6, Rental of Data processing equipment, forms, e t c . where the sum of \$60,000 is being voted, I notice that all along in the estimates we have been renting data processing machine. I wish to ask the government to think in terms of having its own machines so that we would not have to pay rents.

8.25 p.m.

I have noticed that we have "been paying a large amount of rent on this type of machine year in and year out. I wish to ask whether the hon. Minister can give us an explanation on this matter.

Sub-head 10, Expenses of Commissions, Committees and Conferences held in Guyana. The sum of \$45,000 is to be voted. I want to know whether this amount of money is properly being spent because some very unfruitful conferences have been held in this country at the expense of Guyanese taxpayers.

I want to know whether the expense the Minister hopes to encounter this year will relate to fruitful conferences because, so far as the Amerindian Lands Commission is concerned, all the Touchaus were brought here and entertained by the Government and it did not really materialize to the benefit of Guyana except in the process of bribery and corruption. I hope we will have an explanation from the hon. Minister.

Sub-head 12, Loss of Public Money and Stores. It is a very embarrassing situation to know that the taxpayers of this country have to pay for losses on stores because of the negligence of the Ministry. I think the hon. Minister should be in a position to tell us why these losses occurred. When a man pays taxes it comes from the sweat of his brow and I would expect that the money would be properly spent and all equipment be properly kept and maintained. I hope we can have the necessary explanation.

Sub-head 18, Special Visits and Representation at External Conferences. During the course of last year we had numerous external Conferences being held to the detriment of Guyana's economy. CARIFTA has not proved it can bring anything for Guyanese. So far we have only been subsidizing or maintaining CARIFTA countries. I wish to have an explanation on this. What guarantee do we have that this large amount of money, \$200,000, will be spent this year on special visits and not on the excursions we have from time to time? I hope that on the next occasion when members of the Government are going abroad they will take special monuments of Guyana to display what we have in our interior.

Sub-head 20, Expenses of Official Missions and Visitors to Guyana. While I agree that Government will have to entertain persons from abroad, especially persons at Government level, nevertheless I think the Government goes in for too much extravagance and waste of taxpayers' money.

I can remember quite well a remark made by the hon. Prime Minister of Barbados when he said that luxurious escorts, with police vehicles and sirens blowing, were not necessary. The hon. Minister should consider easing the taxpayers of this country. Let this money be channelled to development and not for entertaining with fancy parties and so on.

Sub-head 24, Overseas Service Aid Scheme. I am not quite clear about this. I wish the hon. Minister to give us an explanation concerning the sum of \$267,000 made up of Inducement

Allowances - \$150,000, Education Allowances -\$5,000, Passages - \$30,000, Pensions and Gratuities - \$30,000, Miscellaneous - \$2,000 and Compensation - \$50,000.

Sub-head 26, Expenses of Issue. I wish the hon. Minister to enlighten me on these items where the provisions are large.

Mr. Sutton: In connection with sub-head 11, Remittances - Commission on, I wonder if the hon. Minister would be good enough to tell us to whom these Commissions are paid and whether the remittances in question are remittances normally paid, possibly to Government servants or others, and if it is paid to the Crown Agents also.

I would prefer to go to sub-head 13 Crown Agents Charges on Stores Purchases, and then come back to 12, just in case they have any connection with each, other.

I have no doubt that my comments last year on the Crown Agents were well taken. The situation this year, in view of the fact that the Government has established the Supply division of the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics, is of rather a different nature. This department was recommended a very long time ago and in view of the fact that we have attained Independence it is certainly long overdue.

We hope, therefore, that now that we will have our own purchasing officers and our own Supply department - which in time will become fully trained in the technique of international purchasing - that the Crown Agents will be used strictly as agents who take instructions from the Supply Officers and only put up alternatives for them to say what they want rather than the Crown Agents being allowed to make up their minds for the Government and supply what they think is best for us, as has been the case previously. In time, our own people will certainly have enough expertise to decide what they want for themselves.

I would repeat that it must be borne in mind that every reputable manufacturer in the world today, who goes in for export to other countries, has resident agents in the countries concerned. In nine cases out of ten, the services provided by the Crown Agents, and paid for, are available free of charge.

I must make a clear distinction between goods purchased, to be shipped from markets abroad direct to the Government, as separate and distinct from stocks of goods, primarily drugs and other items, carried locally for sale by distributors. The two things are not in the same category at all.

In the case where goods are carried and stocked locally the mark up is obviously put on for the purpose of storage and having to carry those stocks for an indeterminate time. But I repeat - and repeat very clearly - where manufacturers, in all cases that would apply, have resident agents, in no case can the Crown Agents get the goods any cheaper for direct shipment to the Government than the agents here would be able to provide them without charge to the Government.

I would be pleased if at any time the Minister of Finance would give me the pleasure and honour of going into this situation with him for his own satisfaction, for I am sure that this country can do with any money saved in this respect. *[Interruption]* It is very interesting to note - I mention this in passing - that the contribution made by certain Members in this House is limited to sitting down.

Sub-head 12, Loss of Public Money and Stores. This Item has been recurring for a long time and we now hope that in the atmosphere of Independence, from long experience on these matters, checks and balances will be set up to minimize the question of defalcation - it can hardly make it impossible - and that Government would give the undertaking that penalties will be pursued to the limit so as to discourage defalcations in every case.

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance

Subhead 14, Workmen's Compensation Ordinance: The legend states:

"To provide for only employees not covered by the National Insurance Scheme."

That causes one to bear in mind that the Government gave the undertaking that people who had to substitute the National Insurance Scheme for workmen's compensation will not suffer in any regard and we hope the Government will examine this issue very clearly because, as has been set out by the hon. Member Mr. Jagan, there are areas in which the same people do not get comparable benefit, although they had to switch to the National Insurance Scheme, This will no doubt account for those people who, owing to the amount of their income, are not normally expected to be covered by the terms of the National Insurance Scheme, but I took the opportunity to make the point I have just made.

Dr. Reid: This Government has decided on renting data processing machines because it is to Government's advantage to rent them. For the information of the questioner, these are machines that go through constant change of models, etc. and it will be a sad day if we start purchasing. In the interest of our economy it is better to rent than to purchase.

I just want to make a passing remark about conferences in and out of Guyana. These are useful for the development of an independent country and Guyana will continue to be represented at conferences in and out of Guyana.

With respect to the Overseas Aid Scheme, if the questioner had taken time to look at page 10 of the Estimates he would have seen that this is a U.K. provision for officers from the United Kingdom. If you look at page 10 you will see where we get revenue to balance this expenditure.

As regards the question about the Crown Agents, the hon. Member was answered last year at Estimates time. Circumstances have not yet changed and so this Government will remain with the Crown Agents. I just want to make one observation that during last year a vehicle was bought from the Crown Agents at \$500 cheaper than the quotation that was obtained from local agents.

Head 62, Ministry of Finance- Accountant General- \$1,490,423, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 137, Customs and Excise.

HEAD 63 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Question propose that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Lall: I should like to speak on subhead 1, item 23, and subhead 9

The Chairman: Anybody else? [Pause] Then the hon. Member Mr. Lall may proceed. Just a moment, I think the hon. Member Mr. Sutton is getting up. Do you want to speak on any of the subheads?

Mr. Sutton: I wish to speak on subhead 1, items 6, 10, 14, 15 and 22 and subheads 6 and 8.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to speak on subhead 8.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Lall.

Porters and Handymen

Mr. Lall: Item 23, Porters and Handymen: The expenditure under this item is \$30,000. This seems to be ambiguous. There is nothing here to show how many handymen will be employed and how many porters will be employed. The hon. Minister of Finance is offering people increased salaries, vain promises, but he did not declare or define clearly how many porters and how many handymen will be employed.

Revenue Protection

Subhead 8; I observe that in 1967 the actual expenditure was \$116,421 but the revised estimate for 1969 was \$87,529 and the Minister is now asking for an additional \$20,000. I should like to ask how many dollars were protected revenue wise in 1967, 1968, 1969, and how many dollars it is contemplated will be protected revenue wise in 1970. We feel that the additional \$20,000 asked for is too extravagant and the Minister of Finance should give an explanation.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Supernumerary Senior Executive Officer

Mr. Sutton: Item 6, Supernumerary Senior Executive Officer: The sum of \$1 is put down, as has been explained over and over again, so that this item may be used if necessary, but we all know that the Customs and Excise Department is one of the most hard working and heavily pressed departments of the Government and since this post was first created by supplementary estimates in 1969, it would appear that there can be lots of justification for making it a standard post and not keeping it as a supernumerary post to have criticisms being levelled that it is put there to employ specific people for specific purposes.

Now sir, moving on to item (10), Grade II Officers, we notice in the legend, "Some posts are at present vacant." I should like, therefore, to be given the opportunity to speak at the same time on subhead 6, which covers training. As I said before, we all are aware, those of us who have anything to do with the heavy work done by the Customs Department, that there is a substantial training programme in this Department and one wonders whether this programme is not successful, not sufficiently wide. When officers are required, they cannot be obtained. Can the Minister tell us, in view of the training programme, why vacancies are unfilled among Grade II Officers when they are so badly needed?

Items (14) and (15). 1 Chief Guard to 28 Class I Guards, and Overseer, Government Warehouse. I think those people who have anything to do with the Customs and the clearing of goods know what an important job that has to be done by Guards. Without proper and efficient guards, I am afraid the loss of revenue would be much more than it might be and it would appear on this basis that there might be an incorrect value placed on goods and the opportunity might be attempted by interested persons to entertain bribes to do what they should not do. The Government should consider raising the standard of guards by increasing their pay because it is an important section if revenue is to be protected.

I would point out that an important officer is the Overseer of the Government Warehouse. If I understand what this term means, it is to be noted that the Overseer is classified as BLO, which is not even as much as a Guard. The Overseer of the Government Warehouse is paid less than the Guard himself. Are we to understand *a man* has to be moved to the Government Warehouse as an Overseer before he can get further promotion? One would expect that the Overseer would be higher than the Guard because he has to oversee a lot of defalcations.

Item (22), Overtime. If we were to look at Appendix M on page 185, we would notice, if I am to take what I read as correct, that the Customs collects or plans to collect \$291,000 in overtime fees. I have always been under the impression that the overtime paid by merchants is to compensate the officer in question for the overtime work he does because it is not included in

his regular pay. Would the Minister say whether, though the Government aims to collect \$291,000 in overtime fees, that in fact, according to these estimates, only \$255 is budgeted for to be paid out? Are we to understand that the balance is a profit to be made on the labour of the officers concerned?

Under subhead 8, Revenue Protection, in view of the importance of collecting every ounce of revenue, one wonders whether adequate and sufficient steps are being taken, and shall we say meaningfully taken, on the question of revenue protection because it may be found if you try to economize on revenue protection, you would be penny wise and pound foolish. More revenue would be lost than the revenue you save. A proper fleet of patrol boats, make the Customs people more mobile than they are because it is an open secret, various parts of the Coast particularly in comparatively striking distance of Trinidad, are nests of smuggling and I feel that except the proper equipment is available and manned in the proper *manner*, there would be far more revenue lost than we are attempting to save on proper revenue collection.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to speak on this subhead in order to expose the very scandalous misdemeanour of leading members of the Government. "Jackass ears big but he does not hear his own story." Apples which have been banned from this country are being brought into the country and apart from the fact that they are banned, no revenue is collected. Some of the men from the waterfront stole some of the crates. Of course, some perhaps got through to the people to whom they were sent. Is the Minister aware that leading members of the Government still get apples although the poor man cannot get any.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, in regard to handymen, there are some who are permanent and some who are casual. Permanent porters are 13 and 1 handyman is permanent. Others are engaged as the occasion warrants.

might have gone up since this Report was written because four years have passed and, with the growing population - there is a three per cent increase - that figure is sure to have gone up.

The department itself is not in a position in which it needs staff and re-organisation. The department is now subject to tremendous complaint from the public and the reason for this is that it is inadequately staffed and not properly organised. When one looks at the salary scales of the people who have to function there, some of these salaries are nothing less than ludicrous.

The Commissioner of Inland Revenue, under the Ordinance, does both administrative and judicial functions. Apart from making assessments he has to hear objections under the rule of law in a society covered by the rule of law. He must hear objections. In other words, when it reaches that stage he is exercising judicial functions, yet he is paid on the F6 scale which, as anyone would know, is absolutely ridiculous for a man who has to know an important field of law and to administer it and to exercise judicial functions.

The Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue is on the F11 scale which is \$8,640; the Assistant Commissioners of Inland Revenue being on the F13 scale at \$8,160 each; Senior Inspectors of Taxes are on the A1 scale and receive \$6,226 each. No wonder people have left and have gone to seek employment in commerce and industry. It is because of these things that there is great need to re-organise this department. As a legal practitioner, I along with my colleagues, get numerous complaints. Some want tax clearance; some are claiming that they have paid their taxes and are getting new assessments; some say that when they object, they cannot get their objections heard. The department function without frustration and with satisfaction and in which the public will get the services of the department with least difficulty possible.

Some people have claimed that revenue refunds are due and they cannot get them. This is because, clearly, there are administrative bottlenecks in that office. One needs to ensure that the department is not set apart in a position of trouble against the rest of the community. This

tendency could develop under bureaucratic arrangements. The department is looked on by the public as an instrument constantly in confrontation with them.

9.05 p.m.

The task of the Revenue Department has always been difficult; everybody knows this. I, myself, have worked as a civil servant from the year 1950. I have been working in the Treasury and I know what goes on. I know the great difficulties in which the Public Service has been in administering that part of the Public Service, but with so many people changing in the Department, with the country growing and more money being collected, the Department has been suffering grave neglect and it is now in grave confrontation with the public.

We know that an Inland Revenue Adviser, I think his name is Dotson, has been working in that Department for some time but I do not remember seeing any Report laid with respect to what he has done. Maybe it was laid, maybe it was not laid. I should like to know whether any of the recommendations have been implemented. If not, why not.

The hon. Minister of Finance said the other day that there were a few matters going to the Board of Review. There maybe a few matters going to the Board of Review but I should like to know how many objections the Department has which have not yet come to the Board of Review. This Department has been raising assessments for the last seven years even on people who have paid their taxes. This means of course that the files cannot be found and that valuable information needed by the tax officers for doing their work is not in the files.

The Board of Review is very much an organization in which, one gets service out of, but with great difficulty. As we know, the Board of Review can hear matters and can reserve judgment like Judges in the Supreme Court. They are bound to give their judgment at any particular time. In certain circumstances, for example, a magistrate has to give a decision within weeks but I do not know that similar limitations are put on the Board of Review. There is a great

case for re-organization of the Board of Review to ensure that matters will be heard expeditiously and dealt with expeditiously.

There is also some substantial reason why a Tribunal, like the Board of Review, should be required to give its decision within a reasonable time after the matter is heard while conceiving that the Board of Review has the right to adjourn the matter from time to time if they want any other information. But once a matter has been considered there ought to be some reasonable time beyond which there should not be delay to give their judgment. The Government, in the Budget Speech, has said that it is intended to bring a law to the effect that where a man who brings his case before the Court will be required to pay two-thirds of the tax assessed before he can prosecute. We know that there is no reason or logic for such a provision because there is no reason why the Board of Review cannot hear the man's case expeditiously so that when the matter reaches the Board of Review both the Revenue Department and the citizen will know how much is required to pay. We all know that when a matter reaches the Board of Review, there is little more for the taxpayer to do; whatever work has to be done at that stage is done by the Commissioner and there can be no reason at all that this Board cannot be re-organised to hear matters.

In this respect, nobody grudges the expenses of the Board, but it is useless if we are going to spend \$12,000 and we do not have people there who will ensure that matters will be dealt with expeditiously. The new laws which are being proposed show the need for the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to exercise a real and sound judgment in the first stage of the taxpayer's problems. One can see quite easily that this two-thirds rule would be used as a political weapon and all that would be needed to be done is to make an assessment which is beyond a man's reach and he would not be able to find the two-thirds to pay and he could suffer grave losses. Therefore, there is need to re-organise the Division and most of all, to revise the salary structure of the Division. We are not going to get qualified men; and they are not many. If I were to count them, it looks very much as though there are not more than forty men doing this type of work. So there is great need to revise the salaries so as to be able to recruit competent men and not to

allow them to go into commerce. The sum of \$460,418 is obviously a small amount for the undertaking which this Government now envisages. It is even smaller than what Sir Arthur Lewis had envisaged in 1966 when he thought that a number of individuals paying tax could have been much less.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran.

Mr. Ram Karran: My friend and colleague the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye has dealt with the subheads on which I had wished to raise questions, subheads 7, 8 and 10. But there is one left for me. I wish to deal now with subhead 12, Licence labels, \$19,000. I presume that it is for cycle licences. I cannot imagine any other licence which requires licence labels. I wonder if the hon. Minister has inserted this, perhaps this should be deleted.

9.15 p.m.

Mr. Sutton: Items (1), (2) and (3) of sub-head 1, which I would like to take together with item (6).

In view of the importance of this department, not only as known by everyone here, but as specifically mentioned by the hon. Minister of Finance himself, I must, as mentioned by the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye, recommend to the Government that it is highly unlikely that this department will ever run smoothly if the top officers are paid these salaries, bearing in mind the type of qualifications they require and the remuneration of their opposite numbers in industry.

We cannot see that the Income Tax Department, with so many important duties being placed on it, could have the Commissioner being paid \$10,320 a year when that salary can be obtained in several other places in this country. As a matter of fact, it is unlikely that a big firm, which uses a top accountant, could get one at a salary anything like this.

It is to be noted that the present Commissioner of Inland Revenue has been sent away in order to improve his qualifications in the light of his responsibilities and to come back to do a very big job for the Government. This has been done on several occasions by the Government. The Government should therefore do some self-searching, some self-examination, and ask itself why it has been losing so many top men in the Income Tax Department and why it should find it exceedingly difficult to keep even those whom it helps to become qualified. It must see that the remuneration of these specialist officers is indeed highly inadequate and should be gone into immediately, because the work and responsibilities of the Inland Revenue Department are extending and becoming even more onerous.

This would apply not only to sub-head 1, items (2) and (3), but even to the same extent to item (6), Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Taxes. In this case we note that the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Taxes was the same in 1968 and 1969 and will be the same in 1970, notwithstanding the fact that we all recognize that the new and additional work that will be thrown on this department will certainly call for more hands and expert hands at that.

We all know of the terrific situation which develops in getting tax clearance certificates. Those people who get through in two weeks are very lucky. We bear in mind that the object of tax clearance is primarily to ensure that people do not leave the country and the Government finds the tax uncollectible. In every other country in the world, particularly in England and the United States, where I have taken the trouble to make inquiries, you will find that people whose business keeps them moving up and down all the time have special facilities for tax clearance. When they wish to leave at short notice, it is only necessary for them to be able to provide guarantors acceptable to their Government, rather than waste a lot of time going into their returns which, from their very nature, can be complicated and can take a considerable amount of time to complete.

We hope that the Government will look, in particular, into this question of tax clearance because there is a terrific bottle-neck in the department and there is no differentiation, generally

speaking, between people who want to leave in the normal course of business, people who want to leave the country in a short time, and other persons. Everybody has to get into a line, notwithstanding some people go away once in 10 years and others may have to go away two and three times a year.

This brings me to item (28), Temporary Clerical Assistance. There is an increase in temporary staff to the extent projected of \$24,000. I wonder, whether it would not be in the best interest of this department to examine this. Very clearly there needs to be some overhauling right now and some re-arrangement of the staff. Let the staff see that you are thinking about them and increase the staff on a permanent basis so that they will be satisfied and the people whom they serve will also be satisfied.

I hope you will permit me, sir, to say a few words on page 139 under Head 64, particularly on sub-head 8, Refunds of Revenue, which is stated as \$900,000. As we are all aware the Government has thought fit, and rightly so, to appoint a committee charged with the collection by every possible means of revenue that is due. This would seem to indicate that it is not only necessary to collect revenue that is properly collectible, but to make every effort to see that refunds that are payable are paid in a proper time. We hope that the Government in taking steps to collect will also take steps to see that refunds are not paid after six or nine months in the year, which is presently the case.

In connection with sub-heads 10, Expenses of Board of Review. Most of the points that I had in mind have been covered by the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye, but I would specifically like to mention this question of the two-thirds deposit on objections being lodged. I ask the Government to give second thoughts to this, in the sense that it could have some system whereby the two-thirds is lodged at a point where the objection could, in fact, be deemed to be trivial. Where an objection is properly made, the two-thirds could be lodged at a higher stage, possibly when it reaches the Board of Review, but not in the first instance of the objection being filed.

Certainly one would not hang a whole town in order to get at one murderer. We must try to make a penalty meaningful so that it does not create more hardship than it is intended to prevent.

Therefore, I hope that the Government will give some thought to setting up a system whereby objections would pass immediately through a sieve to decide which are trivial. Possibly objections should be reviewed by a small Board within 7 days of their being lodged and, if they are confirmed, then the individuals could be asked to lodge two-thirds of the amount. As it stands, it must be deemed to be grossly unfair and unjust.

On item (13), Expenses, Operation of Road Toll System. It is seen that the expenses of the operation of the Road Toll System for 1970 are projected at \$59,000. On turning to page 184, Appendix M, one will find that the projected collections from the Road Toll System are \$480,000, a difference of \$421,000. It would appear that the difference is terrific, even though we know it is difficult to say what the maintenance of the road in question would be.

9.25 p.m.

There are established principles on the question of collecting the capital costs and maintenance of important trunk-roads, and you can get important roads financed by very large contractors. I am certain that the Government can go in for that sort of thing based on a recovery through tolls. One would like to invite the Government to set up a system of accounting, which seems to be vitally necessary, where roads like the Mackenzie and Bartica roads that can properly respond to tolls can be segregated in the sense that the cost of their maintenance can be clearly seen and the cost of their operation can be clearly seen. It is not expected - nor can it be expected - that the public should pay for roads like those in five, six, seven or eight years, because - roads of this nature are usually capitalized against expenditures for twenty and twenty-five years and we hope the Government will set up a system where the direct cost of maintenance will be arrived at.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Yacoob Ally.

Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Taxes

Mr. M.Y. Ally: Item 6, Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Taxes: The Government should sometimes pay attention, to these little comments from the Opposition and not disregard them. The Government is pretending that it is a socialist Government. The philosophy of a socialist Government is "To each according to his ability", but what do we find? We find that friends of this Government are evading the payment of income tax. Hundreds of its friends – [Anhon. Member (Government): "Nameone."]I can name several who evade the payment of income tax. The Government should realize that, regardless of which party is in, office, the only way any Government can upkeep itself is by collecting taxes. Several friends of this Government get away with murder - when I say that I mean they evade the payment of income tax - but those who are not its friends are victimized.

I should like to refer to an incident which occurred last year. I presume the Inland Revenue Department opens at 1 p.m. One day I took in my returns at about 1.15 p.m. and there were some young ladies in the office eating green mangoes and salt. I have no objection to that but I was asking for some attention as a member of the public and these young ladies became annoyed. In fact they told me to wait another five minutes. I told them that that was not the way the public should be treated and one young lady told me to put my returns in a box. I did but three months later I receive a letter from the Inland Revenue Department Stating that I had to pay \$600 for failure to send in returns. [*Interruption*]

The Chairman: Order!

Mr. M.Y. Ally: Perhaps because I gave my views about the waste of public time I was discriminated against. Anyhow, I tried to explain by letter to the Commissioner that I had sent in my returns, that he should look keenly into this matter, as this is not the way the department

should be run. Two weeks later I received a reply stating that the returns were found. These incidents occur daily in the Inland Revenue Department. Several friends of the Government *still owe* income tax and yet nothing is being done. In fact I understand that one, person was summoned but the records have all disappeared and the case was dismissed. One of the Government's friends owe \$27,000; one owe \$39,000; one owe \$600,000. Every person liable to pay tax should be taxed, whether or not he is a friend of the Government. If the Country is to exist we must collect taxes. Most of these criticisms are constructive and the Government should heed advice and see to it that incidents such as these do not occur any more. Everyone should be treated alike.

The Chairman: you must not repeat yourself all the time.

Overtime Allowance for Collection of Entertainment Duty

Mr. M.Y. Ally: Item 27, Overtime Allowance for Collection of Entertainment Duty: When you turn to page 8 of the Estimates you will notice that in 1969 the amount anticipated for collection was \$640,000 and in 1970 the amount anticipated is \$650,000, \$10,000 more, but here we find that \$22,000 is being asked for the collection of this entertainment duty. We are told over and over that the Government is squandering. If you want to squander, squander in any department except the Inland Revenue Department. You are taxing innocent people who can hardly pay, who can barely make ends meet, and I feel that the Government should be more careful in the collection of taxation.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Lall

Mr. Hamid: The hon. Member Mr. Lall has asked me to mention that the *hon.* Member Mr. Sutton has covered the points he wanted to make it is not necessary for him to speak.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Wilson

Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Mr. Wilson: The Inland Revenue Department is described as the life- blood of the economy, of the nation, and the Commissioner of Inland Revenue should not only be a highly qualified and competent officer but he should also be a man of high integrity. Reports have reached me which make me fully satisfied that this officer is a man of high integrity but, because of political interference, political pressures, the result of his work is being nullified.

9.35 p.m.

This Government is not only noted for ruling by slogans but by discrimination. Why are files disappearing in that department? Very specific information has reached me that a certain prominent P.N.C. member, recently appointed to an important institution, was recently sued for income tax amounting to \$28,000. On account of political pressures, the action was thwarted and the result was that the file for that particular person's income tax disappeared from the Income Tax Department. On the other hand, not so long ago, two other prominent members of the community were so pressured that they had to consent to income tax amounting to \$40,000 and \$60,000 respectively.

This Government must try to purge itself of this evil. Unless it does so, the bloodstream of this nation will clog and it will be a sorry day for Guyana when that happens.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I want to make one observation before I go any further. Tax collectors are always butts of criticism especially from certain persons in the community. They cannot escape, but this department is performing. When we look at the tax collection over the years, we see improvement from time to time.

We note some of the observations made by the hon. Member, Dr. Ramsahoye and we want to assure him that notwithstanding, we dare not think of compensating men for the work

they do, for many of our departments would not be staffed because some jobs are not being done because of pay but because of the contribution these persons are making to the community. We note, however, with the job evaluation that is now in hand, many adjustments will be made in many departments including Inland Revenue.

The work that is being done now in the Arrears Committee will certainly contribute somewhat not only to the collection of arrears but to the prompt payment of any money due to persons. I want to make it clear that the Committee is not only looking to collect money but also to ensure that refunds are made as promptly as ever. We want to note here that the deposit that is being paid is not paid when a person makes representations to the Commissioner. It is not there that it is paid. This is for the benefit of my hon. Friend, Mr. Sutton. It is when you reach the Board of Review that you have to pay the deposit.

From the record I find that the Commissioner did not win 90 per cent of the cases. This is the proof of some of the frivolous appeals that prevent the Government from carrying on its business. The Board of Review is doing its work and we are speeding up that work now. We are certain in another four months or so, the backlog of cases will disappear.

It is surprising to see hon. Members thinking that we are collecting too much and hoping that in 2025 this road should be paid for. Even though we collect \$1/2 million a year, this will not pay for that road. It is costly and it is good to see the response of the community in paying this toll which will help to pay capital expenditure until we can find some funds for road construction in the country.

I do not think there is much more on the various points, Mr. Chairman. I will not delay this House any longer.

Head 64 Ministry of Finance – Inland Revenue - \$1,599,488, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 65 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE**POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK**

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wonder whether I can raise a small point in relation to this figure of \$76,713, and ask the hon. Minister if he is satisfied that this bank is sited in the proper place, having regard to the fact that there is a convenient building, having regard to the fact that other banking institutions are in this building, and having regard to the drop in savings at the Post Office Savings Bank, and whether the Government will consider sitting this institution in the proper place.

Mr. Balchand Persaud: I wish to raise a general question and I hope the hon. Minister will be able to say something. Subhead 1, item (1). I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether it is necessary to have the Post Office Savings Bank. The reason for asking this question is that Government is setting up a Co-operative Bank and that Bank will need a lot of personnel to serve in it. There is already staff in the Post Office Savings Bank and the Bank of Guyana. This is a waste of tax payers' money to pay additional staff in order to mobilize the finance of this country.

I feel the whole apparatus and the personnel of the Post Office Savings Bank can be put in the Co-operative Bank or vice versa. This would save the unnecessary expenditure in having two different sets of personnel for both banks engaged in co-operative. the development can play an important role in advising the bank. Persons can be encouraged to pay their money to the Savings Bank and this would generate finance for the Co-operatives. We do not see the need to have the Post Office Saving Bank and then go on train officers to run the Co-operative Bank.

21.1.70

National Assembly

9.45 – 9.55 p.m.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister of Finance.

Dr. Reid: Right now there is no plan to move the Post Office Savings Bank from its site. I want my hon. Friend Mr. Balchand Persaud to know that each bank has its own function to perform.

Head 66, Ministry of Finance – Post Office Savings Bank- \$76,713, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 66- MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PENSION AND GARTUTIES

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: Sir, this is a sort of a general Head.

The Chairman: Find a particular subhead. There will be no general Heads at this stage.

Mr. Ram Karran: Item. The hon. Minister made a profound observation that these are statutory figures. The amount to be voted is \$743,314. What I would like to ask is if, having regard to the fact that the value of money changes and so many people having retired so long ago, the pensions today, in terms of our money, is increased in keeping with what they should get. Some of them retired a quarter of a century ago.

The hon. Minister and the Government should agree that this is the appropriate time for the review of these sums, these meager sums, which have been paid to people who have retired so many years ago. This should be a regular thing. Every now and again at reasonable periods

the Government of the day should take into account these factors mentioned and add to the allowances, pensions, lumpsums, et cetera. More should be paid to civil servants who have given of their best in their day, but who are now old. I am sure that the hon. Minister will want to look into this having regard to the fact that revision of civil servants' salaries is in the air.

It must be observed that people in Sea Defences and Public Works are entitled to superannuation benefits but because of some snag in the law, those under the Drainage and Irrigation department which is now a part of the Works and Hydraulics Ministry were not entitled to this. The predecessor to the hon. Minister of Finance, Mr. D'Aguiar, had promised to adjust it and I do not know if it has been done. The assurance was given some time ago and so it would be retroactive to take care of people retrenched by this Government since they came into office. I would like to have the hon. Minister's reaction.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, whenever there is a revision of salaries adjustments are made to pensioners et cetera. As far as the workers of the Drainage and Irrigation Board are concerned my hon. Friend does know that this is not our responsibility.

Head 66, Ministry of Finance - Pensions and Gratuities - \$743,314, ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 67 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE PUBLIC DEBT

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Head 67, Ministry of Finance- Public Debt- \$312,154, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: And now we turn to the last one, Division XXIII.

DIVISION XXIII – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. R.D. Persaud: Subhead 10.

Mr. Ambrose: Subhead 10

Mr. Ram Karran:

The Chairman: Let us start off on this and if we have time we will do that.

Dr. Ramsahoye: I would like to speak on subhead 2 if I may.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye.

Guyana Electricity Corporation

Dr. Ramsahoye: Your Honour, I heard I heard that there will be proposed increases of the charges made by this Corporation. I think that it is time the government takes a very firm line in this Corporation. When the P.P.P. Government was in office, arrangements was made for it to be a Government concern. Now it is under some kind of private management and the charges are beginning to spiral. I would like to know if the Government would not consider making provision for some sort of control of the charges to be made by the Guyana Electricity Corporation. Exploitation has gone to such a degree that *we do not* have only to watch merchandise sold in shops but we are obliged to call on Government to institute a form of cost control and price control on the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

Rice Rehabilitation Programme

Mr. R.D. Persaud: There were reports in the Press that the hon. Minister told farmers on the Essequibo Coast that unless they reap 20 bags per acre, there will be no increase in the rice price. I would like to believe that this report in the Press is inaccurate and I want to give the hon. Minister an opportunity of denying it. Before one can make such a statement one has to take into consideration that there is great need for improvement in the important services because, in order for us to have proper and effective production of rice, there must be drainage and irrigation, preparation of land, seed control, use of fertilisers and pest control. At this very meeting which the hon. Minister attended, farmers complained about bad drainage and irrigation, complained about ineffective service from the Government and we have to take into account the soil is not suitable. *It* would be wrong for the Government to consider the rice industry on these premises. *It* is a shame on the part of the Government and I would wish to feel that when the hon. Minister made this statement, if he did make it, he was under a delusion of the realities of the rice industry.

The Chairman: I do not think that the hon. Member can ask the question and answer it with speculation. The hon. Member Mr. Ambrose wishes to speak?

Mr. R.D. Persaud: I feel that this pronouncement by the hon. Minister to the rice farmers is unfair and unjust.

9.55 p.m.

It does not really support the Government publicized programme that it has the interest of the rice farmers at heart; and it ought to do something more. I would, therefore, ask the hon. Minister to retract from that line and give consideration to the immediate increase in the price of rice.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Ambrose.

Mr. Ambrose: Mr. Chairman, the sum of \$12 million is sought under subhead 10, Rice Rehabilitation Programme. Any person who is knowledgeable in the field of rice would want to ask this question; is the Government really serious with respect to this question of expending this sum of \$12 million on what is now known as the Rice Rehabilitation Programme? Because under this Rice Rehabilitation Programme, the Government is seeking to do exactly what was done to the rice industry in 1954 when \$5 million was expended to create the then Rice Development Company. In the end after fifteen long years the government had to write off write off \$4.5 million of the \$5 million expended to establish the Rice Development Company. The rice industry proved that it was not able to bear this burden of \$5 million.

Under this Rehabilitation Programme the Government seeks to spend \$12 million. This is another form of exploiting the rice industry because in the course of spending \$5 million, as we were following the trend in the industry all along, we have seen that over the period of fifteen years, the Government actually repaid by way of interest about \$4.5 million, and in the end it had to write off about the same amount.

What will be the position when you spend this large sum of \$12 million? It will take the industry more than half a century to repay this money together with the interest. When one examines this so-called Rice Rehabilitation Programme one will see that the Government intends to put up silos all over the country. There is nothing very productive in the whole programme. The answer is to increase productivity in the industry, and this programme has not sought to do this at all. We feel that the Government should re-consider its rice policy and stop spending money willy-nilly.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister may reply.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, I just do not want to waste any more time. I wish to let some hon. Members opposite know that I am aware that their capacity to understand is nil. *[Interruption]*

Our losses over the years in storage and drying have been recorded as \$4 million a year. This is for storage and drying alone. The facilities that are being put up are mainly for storage and drying. If we can save \$4 million a year, it will surely put us a far way by improving our storage and drying facilities.

As regards the Programme for increased production, this programme is already bearing fruit. We have visited rice areas and we are talking with the farmers about their problems. These are problems that have been with the rice industry all through the years and we are now trying to solve them. Hon. Members opposite knew about these problems and they did nothing about them. For instance, over the years, the price of paddy has been increasing and yield per going down and they say that this will solve the problem. We are doing a wonderful and sensible thing which will help the farmer and which will improve his land and so to increase his profit and to make him a better farmer. I have met some farmers only during the week-end who did not get any crop for years. They have proudly boasted that they were able to reap twenty to twenty-two bags per acre. *[Interruption]* The farmers are responding to it. I have read in the Mirror that farmers walked out of the meeting. I do not know how that was possible. Some of them were reaping and ploughing on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Mr. Chairman, this is the last time I will speak on the rice industry. Some hon. Members opposite have no capacity to understand, *[Interruption]*

Division XXIII - Ministry of Finance - \$15,634,000, agreed to ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, this concludes consideration of the Estimates in Committee of Supply. The question now is that the Estimates be reported to the Assembly.

Assembly resumed.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I beg to report that the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1970 totalling \$173,448,058 has been considered in Committee of Supply and approved as printed. I ask that it be read a Third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that this National Assembly agree with the recommendations of the Committee of Supply

Mr. R.D. Persaud: *Division!*

10.05 p.m.

Assembly divided: Ayes 27, Noes 15, Declined to vote 1, as follows:

Ayes	Noes	Declined to Vote
Mr. Zaheeruddeen	Mr. Teekah	Mr. Sutton - 1
Mr. Wrights	Mr. Remington	
Mr. Van Sluytman	Mr. Bholā Persaud	
Mr. Saffee	Mr. Balchand Persaud	
Mrs. Limerick	Mrs. Branco	
Mr. Fowler	Mr. Ambrose	
Mr. Correia	Mr. R. Ally	
Mr. Chan-A-Sue	Mr. R.D. Persaud	
Mr. Budhoo	Mr. M.Y. Ally	
Mr. Bissember	Mr. Lall	
Mr. Bancroft	Mr. Hamid	
Miss Ackman	Mr. Wilson	
Mr. Aaron	Dr. Ramsahoye	
Mr. Clarke	Mr. Chandisingh	

21.1.70

National Assembly

10.05 – 10.15 p.m.

Mr. Mingo
Mr. Thomas
Mr. Salim
Mr. Haynes
Mr. Duncan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. D.A. Singh
Mr. Ramsaroop
Mr. Carrington
Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Kasim
Mr. Jordan
Dr. Reid - 27

Mr. Ram Karran - 15

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Now that hon. Members have had their bit of fun may I take the opportunity first of thanking the hon. Member the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Clarke) for having assisted me by presiding over the consideration of the Estimates on certain occasions during the sittings.

I should also like to thank all hon. Members for their co-operation get the discussions through within the time fixed by the Standing Orders so that we have been able to deal with all the Heads by this evening.

I cannot help but make mention of what the hon. Member Mr. Teekahas said, I think in the last remarks of his, that he thought that the way in which the Heads were adjusted for discussion was particularly done to bring Education towards the end and so as to rob him of the opportunity of a full discussion of the points he wished to make.

I speak from my own knowledge when I say that I know that the Leader of the House (Miss Field-Ridley) was in constant touch day after day with the Leaders on the Opposition side informing them of the Heads that the Government proposed should be taken on that day, and it was after such consultation and agreement that word was passed to me that the Heads in question would be the ones to be discussed and in the order which they were done.

Now, there is nothing wrong in changing the order because all hon. Members are sufficiently aware of the fact that there is a time limit during which the discussions on the Heads of the Estimates must be concluded. What has happened? Hon. Members cannot deny this: in spite of the admonitions from the Chair, certain hon. Members took advantage of their positions and made Second Reading speeches when they should have been dealing with particular items on the Estimates. If the hon. Members, in the early portion of the discussions, utilized the available time, perhaps to their personal advantage, they certainly robbed their own colleagues who came subsequently of enough time to deal with their own matters in the way in which they would have liked to have dealt with them.

This is the second year in which I have been trying to point out to hon. Members of the Opposition that they should try to divide the work among their Members who are best qualified to deal with particular Heads for, if that were done, there would be hardly any duplication in the time that is spent on particular items on the Estimates, We could then, of course, have more time to delve more deeply into the various aspects of items of expenditure under the Heads on the Estimates.

There is another thing which passed through my mind as I listened to hon. Members, both during the debate on the Motion and in discussions on the Estimates. I am wondering whether it is worthwhile to divide consideration of the Estimates into these two parts - first, having a discussion on the Motion and then coming back to deal with Heads of the Estimates - because we find that the things that are said when the Motion is discussed are the same things that are repeated when the items come up for discussion.

I would like hon. Members, in the meantime, to give consideration to this aspect of it because, if it is the wish of hon. Members, I would then remit this matter to the Standing Orders Committee so that the Committee might come up with some suggestion whereby we might take twelve days and deal with the matters in such a manner that we could divide the Heads of the Estimates into so much time for each and then hon. Members can decide how much time they want to spend on the discussions. When the time limit is reached the Question would be put on the Head and they could either accept or reject. But there must be limitation.

I do not think it is fair to the Leader of the House or to me as Speaker for a charge such as that made by the hon. Member Mr. Teekah to go unanswered in the House, It is very unfair.

There is another point I would like to raise as we are at the end of this debate. Hon. Members know that I have done my very best during the whole of my tenure of office in the Chair to bring about a better feeling between Members on both sides of the House, members of the Opposition and members of the Government. I try to let all hon. Members realize that their rights will be properly protected by the Chair. If I failed in giving proper protection, then I am unaware of such a failure. I thought we had done a very good job so far because the tensions we started out with have all dissipated and we have been getting on together very well. What is disturbing is to find that when important matters are being considered, those who should know better and who should give an example to hon. Members indulge in so much loud cross-talk. This is done particularly by those who occupy the front benches on both sides of the House. I wonder whether it is because the space between the tables has been reduced on account of the greater number of Members. Certainly, I found it very difficult to follow what hon. Members have been saying and the Official Reporters must have found it more difficult because they hear the interjections and interruptions when a Member is on his or her feet making his or her points.

I think that hon. Members must give consideration to this, because I do not want to hold the House in a strait jacket and say there must be absolute silence all the time. I allow a certain amount of side talk among yourselves but, where the voices are going to be so loud as to

interrupt, I give warning that shall call on the hon. Members concerned to go into the Lobby and finish their discussions, because that is what the Lobby is for. The House is for the business to be transacted and, whatever it is, the business must get preference. Members' personal jibes, or discussions, or personal business, can best be discussed in the lobby.

10.15 p.m.

Now I should like to speak on another matter. So long as you have got a Speaker of your Parliament, orders or decisions are to be given from the Chair. I am tired of listening at times to so many Members shouting at another one who is making his point, "Shut up!", "Sit down!", and sometimes, "We have got the votes here, why don't you shut your mouth?" and things of that kind. Now that is not making for the best relations between Members of this honourable House. Whatever may be the positions of the two sides of the House those are facts that we cannot change, but whilst discussions are going on it certainly would affect the feelings of some hon. Members if others were to try to make remarks such as I have related.

Please, hon. Members, we are moving in to the republican era of our life and history. We are going to have to make many changes in regard to our attitudes in the past, but let us not change, I beg of you, the spirit, the dignity, the honour and the respect we wish this House to maintain and this can only happen if hon. Members take my words to heart and try to practice these precepts in the future. Thank you very much.

Mr. Clarke (Deputy Speaker): Mr. Speaker, may I just say how thoroughly I enjoyed sitting when you requested me to do so. I think it is part of my duty so to do and I believe that when I am in the Chair I command the respect and support of all the hon. Members on both sides of the House. I am very happy to be able to report that I really enjoyed sitting when I was requested to do so.

Mr. Speaker: I am very glad to hear that.

ADJOURNMENT AND PENDING BUSINESS

Dr. Reid: I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn until Thursday, 22nd January, 1970, at 2 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the business for consideration tomorrow if I may mention, will not be the Estimates. We shall be considering the Motion listed at item 2 on today's Order Paper to be moved by the hon. Minister of Finance for the confirmation of the Consumption Tax (Petroleum) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1969. Secondly, there will be consideration of the motion listed at item 3 on today's Order Paper, to be moved by the Minister of Finance, for the Second Reading of the Supplementary Appropriation (1968) Bill, 1970. Thirdly, the introduction and formal consideration of the Appropriation Bill for 1970 which will be published in an Extraordinary *Issue* of tomorrow's Gazette. There will also be two Questions placed on the Order Paper to be answered and the hon. Members who will be asking the Questions have already been advised of this.

Hon. Members, please be up standing. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, 22nd January, 1970, at 2 p.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 10.18 p.m.
