

T H E
P A R L I A M E N T A R Y D E B A T E S
O F F I C I A L R E P O R T S

[VOLUME 11]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION (1986) OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

14th Sitting

14:00 hrs Thursday, 1986-06-12

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P.
Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P.,
Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister
and Attorney General

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,
Vice-President, National Mobilisation,
and Deputy Prime Minister

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P.,
Vice-President, Education and Social Development,
and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.I., M.P.,
Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and
Development

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P.,
Minister of Finance

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.,
Minister of Transport

*Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.,
Minister of Trade

Other Ministers (11)

Senior Ministers (3)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment (Absent - on - leave)

*Non-elected Member

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., (Absent)
Minister of Health

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P.,
Minister of Information and the Public Service

Ministers (4)

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of National
Mobilisation

*Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,
Minister of Youth and Sport within the
Ministry of Education

Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P.,
Minister within the Office of the President

*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Education

Ministers of State (4)

*Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of (Absent - on - leave)
Manpower, Housing and Environment

Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Agriculture

Cde. D. Sawh, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Forestry

*Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Planning and Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the
President

Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs

*Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P.,
Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman, M.P.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
Cde. L. Arthur, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Cañistro, M.P.
Cde. G.W. Chin, J.P., M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.

Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo
Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. Patricia A. Daniel, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice)
Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo) (Absent - on leave)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P.,
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. M.B. Henry

14:00 hrsANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Corbin up to the 2nd July, 1986, to Cdes. Ainsworth and Cumberbatch for today's Sitting and to Cde. Arthur up to the 16th July, 1986.

Election Petition - Declaration on

The Speaker: Comrades and Hon. Members, I have received from the hon. Chief Justice a letter dated 11th June, 1986 which I will now read:

"Your Honour,

In accordance with Section 32 of the National Assembly (Validity of Elections) Act, Chapter 1:04, I have the honour to inform you that on the 5th June, 1986, I declared the election Petition presented by Winston Payne and Ivan Austin to be a nullity and accordingly dismissed it.

I shall in due course forward a copy of my judgement which is now being typed.

I am,

Yours co-operatively,

(Sgd.) K.M. GEORGE,
Chief Justice."

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

The Following Reports were laid:

- (1) Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1985. /The Minister of Foreign Affairs/
- (2) Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1985. /The Minister of Information and the Public Service on behalf of the Minister of Finance./
- (3) Annual Report of the Ministry of Transport for the year 1985. /The Minister of Transport/
- (4) Annual Report of the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection for the year 1985. /The Minister of Trade/
- (5) Annual Reports (2) of the Ministry of Health for the years 1983 and 1984. /The Minister of Information and the Public Service on behalf of the Minister of Health/

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. C. Jagan): Cde. Speaker, I have sent in many Questions. Today the Assembly is meeting and there is no Question on the Order Paper. I therefore would like to ask the Minister concerned to please expedite these matters. Yesterday we should have met to deal with Motions, for instance, and the Assembly did not meet. We are falling back to the normal practice of by-passing Wednesdays and meeting after Wednesday or before Wednesday. This is not the way to run the Assembly.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTION

SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF CDE. ALBERT MCRAE, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

"Be it resolved that this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Albert McRae, and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.
/The Vice-President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister./

The Vice-President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister

(Cde. Chandisingh): Cde. Speaker, it is with heartfelt sadness that I move the Motion expressing regret at the passing of a former Member of this honourable Assembly, Cde. Albert ^{Peter} McRae and extending sincere condolences to his widow, Beryl, their 12 children and other relatives.

Cde. Albert McRae who died on May 30, 1986, was born on May 30, 1923 in Georgetown. His life was a testament to the fact that determination and hardwork are the only reward and usually yield fruitful results. After leaving Broad Street Government School where he had gained a Primary School-Leaving Certificate, Cde. McRae earned his living for a while as a Cabinet-maker. During World War II, he enlisted in the South Caribbean forces where he became a drill instructor, rose to the rank of Corporal and served until the end of the war.

Our late colleague then bade Georgetown goodbye when he moved to Linden, then known as McKenzie, in search of better tomorrows. He found employment at the Demerara Bauxite Company, now Guymine, in 1949 with the Civil Engineering Department. Ever since then, Cde. McRae remained unswervingly dedicated to exemplary service on the job.

In November 1953 he was transferred to the milling department and in 1954 he moved to the mobile section of the plant. From late 1955 to early 1958, he performed duties in the shovel and tractor section and as dragline operator and general mechanic. In 1968 he was transferred to the diesel repair shop as a general mechanic. He remained with this department until the time of his death.

During his service with this department he was promoted to mechanic repairman in 1975, mechanic journeyman in 1976, and in 1979, an industrial training assistant with responsibility for training mechanics employed with the department,

TAKE

14:10 – 14:20 HRS

MISSING

14:20 hrs

Cde. Chairman, when we note the figures for the National Service for the year under review we note that \$38.2 million has been expended and only \$1.7 million has been returned as revenue. This is one of the reasons why we have been saying that this institution is too lavishly supplied with funds and we are asking the Government to look into this question of spending. We would like to ask also when a report of the National Service will be tabled in this Assembly? In previous years we have been asking for reports and various Ministries and Organisations of the State have been complying. More and more Ministries have been submitting reports to the National Assembly. I would therefore like to ask the Minister when a report of the National Service will be tabled in this Assembly?

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, Item 1, Office of the President, Expenses specific to the agency. The voted provision is \$270,000. and what is being asked for now is \$210,000 nearly as much as was previously voted for the entire year. The legend says to defray expenses related to the recruitment of overseas personnel. This amount of \$210,000 for recruitment only does seem to be a very large sum for recruitment alone. It could not possibly contain any element of salary for recruitment. Why is the sum so large? Does it include passage for people who have come back to Guyana? If so in what fields are these people recruited and from what countries were they recruited? Could we get some details about this expenditure voted?

Mr. Kwayana: I should like to know in addition to what other Members asked, Cde. Speaker, for the largest item under Head No. 2. It is a very vague item and a relatively large amount of money?

The Prime Minister: Cde. Speaker, for Item 1, the Office of the President, the additional funds were in fact acquired for the recruitment of an unusually large amount of Sri Lankans who applied to come to Guyana and in fact were they are here. They are accountants, science teachers, engineers and planners, and as part of an agreement we agreed to pay their initial/expenses, freight charges for the things they/bring in. In addition this sum takes in the increased cost for the materials for the service, and the electricity/which will run through most of these heads today.

In terms of Item 3, Guyana National Service, I must state Cde. Speaker, that the Government has no intention of scaling down the National Service because it provides an important service as part of an important educational

institution so as to reorient and to help us push the new Guyana Man and woman so that they can give the adequate responses we need for the development of our society. In the National Service we have had an unusual expenditure for transportation to transport goods to the hinterland because the vessel that usually transported goods was taken out of service for massive overhauling. The result is that we have had to use other vessels and aircraft to take things in and out. Generally we need^{ed} funds to clear lines along the highway railways from Matthews Ridge and these were not budgeted for as part of the programme to get into new areas in Matthews Ridge where our young people are now learning the terrain and to occupy lands and areas of this country.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, a supplementary question. Would the Minister tell us how many people have been settled in the interior under the National Service?. I recall that this was one of the main purposes when the National Service was started that these people will become familiar with what was then said to be the best part of the country and then we will have settlements in the interior. Well this was in 1974 and up to the present time I think we should have had some result from this huge expenditure. The Prime Minister said we will continue to spend more and more money. I know very little is being obtained from the production. What are we getting in terms of this other side that is to create a person that is all round and interested in the interior. Maybe the Minister will give us the answer if he cannot give us the answer now then I hope he will give us a written answer because the answer to that question is very very important, because we do not want to spend more money on this head. It is not that we do not want to spend money on this Head but there are other Heads such as the University of Guyana. There is no money there. We are bringing teachers/^{at tremendous expense} from other countries, it is a disgrace. Not that the Sri Lankans are disgraceful, what is disgraceful is that we have to go to another third world country where the illiteracy rate are much lower than Guyana and yet you fetch them all the way here at a great cost to the taxpayer. And our University because of lack of essentials --

The Speaker: Which one of the questions are you speaking on?

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I am saying that the Head No.1, with all the solutions, due to the fact that the education system is breaking down, University has no money, there is no science lab properly equipped and as a result we do not have enough students to go to the University, we do not have enough graduates especially in the scientific field. What kind of business are we running here? You cannot train your people, those who you have trained are

1986-06-12

14:20 - 14:30 hrs

are not staying here and then you are sending for people from all over the place and you have to pay thousands and thousands of dollars. Maybe the Prime Minister ought to look at this aspect and transfer the money from the National Service to the University and to the Cyril Potter College where they are training teachers. The whole thing is a bankrupt situation at the moment.

14:30 hrs

Cde. Collimore: Cde. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister forgot I asked him if he could say when a report of the National Service would be submitted to the Assembly. Since the National Service has been set up no report has been submitted to Parliament. I do not know if he forgot.

The Chairman: Prime Minister, do you want to make a response?

The Prime Minister indicated in the negative.

The Chairman: Page 2, item 14. Page 3, items 15 to 18. Page 4, items 25 to 31. Page 5, items 32 and 33.

Mr. Kwavana: Mr. Chairman, item 33, Prisons. We see that the cost of food has risen by about one-third over the voted provision. Is this due to an increased incidence of crime. [Interruption] From that response I see that that assumption is mistaken. It is then due to the increased cost for roughly the same quantity of food and this is 33 1/3 per cent. I think it is a fairly reasonable estimate. But yet 10 per cent has been given as wages to workers in the public sector. I just want us to meditate on that conflict coming from the same source. Here is an admission that dietary supplies has risen to by almost one-third. And in the light of that 10 per cent voted for the following year, 1986 for wages and salaries for public employees. This is a contradiction that is very easy to see, but perhaps not easy to explain. Are we suggesting to the labour force that the prison is where they ought to be in order to have their full dietary expenses paid?

The Prime Minister: Cde. Speaker, I am amazed at the contortion of logic that we are exposed to sometimes. Here a Member of the Assembly makes his own assumption and jumps to his own conclusion without making intelligent enquiries

There is nothing to suggest here, nor have we attempted to examine whether there has been an increase in the population, whether it has to do with the fact that we now have several locations in terms of prisons and therefore that would increase the cost. If you have to serve three or four locations it would increase the cost as against if you have to serve one location. But we jump straight away, X to Y, without taking into account --

The Speaker: That is not a fair conclusion. He was saying that if there is an increase in the population, then so and so applies. If it is not as a result

of the increased prison population, then in so far as the dietary expenses in the same population has gone up a third - and he went on to say that it is unfair to give them an increase of a third and not to consider the public servants and only give them 10 per cent. I think that is how he went about the question.

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, if the interrogation had ceased at that point I had no problem. But we go on to generalities and arguments to introduce a subject that is completely irrelevant. I have already responded, Cde. Chairman.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, the Member has shown an inclination more than once to suppress debate in this Assembly. I can only say that as a Member of this Parliament and as a Member of this Minority, I will use the full advantage of the Standing Orders to make comments and we are not to be intimidated. In the recent debate I was promised a psychiatrist. I was honoured to think that a psychiatrist can be of some help to me. But perhaps there are others to whom a psychiatrist can be of no help. More need they the divine than the physician.

The Chairman: Mr. Kwayana, let me assure you that as long as I am here you will not be suppressed once your statements and contributions are relevant to the matter.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: I want, Cde. Chairman, to follow up on the answer given, which was not an answer really. Is the increased cost for dietary supplies due to an increase in population of the prisons or is it due to a bigger quantity or a better quality of the diet?

The Chairman: You did not hear?

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: He said something about more centres, where they have to be fed. Maybe that is the only reason for the cost.

The Chairman: Page 8, item 53.

Cde. J. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, I would like to raise a point on the amount of money under this item 53 - \$653,200 - ^{meet} to/increases in salaries and allowances to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Regional Democratic Councils. I want to draw the attention of this Assembly to the fact that we are creating a more burdensome bureaucracy by this so-called regional system and we are not making things any better for the people who live within these regional districts. All we are doing is just increasing the bureaucracy. We have problems to be solved. Therefore I would like to draw it to the attention of this Assembly.

The Chairman: You are merely drawing the attention of the Assembly to that?

Cde. J. Jagan: I am also asking that some attention be drawn to the fact that such expenses should not continue.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: I just want to add that not only the bureaucracy is expanding, I want to know when they will properly be elected.

The Chairman: Capital Estimates, page 1, item 4.

J.

Cde./Jagan: Cde. Chairman, item 4, Office and Residence of the President.

According to my calculations for 1985, we have spent \$1.3 million on repairing the residence which does not seem to be occupied. I pass by almost everyday and I cannot see that it is being occupied. I would like to refer at a later stage to another item on the up-keep. But why should it cost \$1.3 million - and I believe it is more than this because this is the only amount for 1985 - when all that was involved was a little flare-up in the attic. We understood that some children were playing with matches. So it was only to repair the result of a minor fire and now it has become a major amount. I do not know that this country, poor as it is, can afford such exorbitant expenditure.

TAKE

14:40 – 14:50 HRS

MISSING

14:50hrs

Cde. Chandisingh: I think it would be useful to note that the entire area of the Sophia Complex where the Ministry is housed occupies an area I am told, of about twenty-five acres and so infrastructural works would include works done to the main entrance and the bridges inside the compound. There are many bridges, more bridges inside the compound and there are others which connect different blocks going over trenches. And since the area is a big area, I am told that it constantly needs infrastructural works. The fencing of that whole compound, the pathways, the drains, parapets, all of this had to be done, and the road-way also. Part of the internal road had to be resurfaced during the course of 1985. So these are among the infrastructural works. The fencing of that whole compound, the pathways

May I pass on to seven. This was to meet additional expenditure. It involves services purchased and the note says to meet additional expenditure. Cde. Chairman, the services purchased were printing, duplicating equipment, rentals, maintenance and I should remark as Members are aware, the Ministry was involved in national events and ceremonies and so on. These events involved invitations and so on apart from the other works which had to be done. So that printing of invitations and tickets for example, for the Mashramani events, for the national exhibition and other national events and ceremonies, photo-copying, films, rentals of equipment, these are some of the things that add up to the services purchased by the Ministry.

I will now move on to Item 9, I understand that that amount was partly due to meet a conference which was organised on the issue of South African intransients towards the Independence of Namibia. I am subjected to correction, but that is the gist of the name of that conference which was held in Guyana and naturally the Ministry would work in this respect.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, I take it that the Cde. Vice-President is talking about the Ministry of National Mobilisation Development? I want to ask whether that Ministry houses the headquarters of the People's National Congress? If there is a staff of the Congress Place, if he is talking about the same place?

The Chairman: Where does that come under? You should have asked that at the beginning. You cannot ask something new now.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, that is on Item 10. The reason why I did not ask this question before is because the legend of 10 has to meet expenditure resulting from national events.

The Cde. Vice President referred to it as an amount which took care of national events, for tickets, invitations and so on. What I notice is that Item has a specific legend on that to meet the expenditure resulting from national events. What I notice, Cde. Chairman, is the original amount there was \$400,000 and the supplementary \$534,000 and if \$288,684 took care of that kind of event and that kind of expenditure, I am trying to find out why this duplication, and specifically why is the supplementary higher than the original? One can understand that if a sum is not adequate that you will come for a supplementary amount which is less and reasonable but when it is higher I think it requires a more detailed explanation to this Assembly. I am tempted to ask that, Cde. Chairman because of the answer on seven. Item seven had no legend and Item ten says it is for this purpose but when Item seven was answered the explanation was given for that.

The Chairman: Well, if the explanation was given why ask?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: No, Cde. Chairman, the explanation was given as sum used for national events, but there is a specific amount on this supplementary which deals with national events.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I hope this is not the kind of logic, but on March 17 when you were in the main Committee of Supply one of the answers I got from the Hon Prime Minister when I questioned the presence of the Joint Services at the People's National Biannual Congress is that the Joint Services are entitled to attend national events. Now the same phrase is coming from the Minister of National Mobilisation during an explanation. Where do we draw the line? If I am to apply very ordinary logic it means perhaps that some of these conferences are maybe conferences of the ruling party. If they are national events, the Minister could only name one, The Conference of the Independence of Namibia.

The Chairman: That is not fair, Mr. Kwayana. He answered that one in relation to Item 9.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw what is not fair. But the fact remains that this says that some of the expenses were for national events, the same phrase and idiom used by the Prime Minister in defending the rights of the Joint Service to attend events of the ruling party.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: We are told that there were some services purchased for the repairs at Sophia, which is a very big area. I understand that the Prime Minister and some of them in the higher offices have farms at the back there. Some of these expenditures involve all of that.

The Chairman: Which question are you speaking on?

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I have misplaced the numbers but I am speaking specifically on this matter now. I understand that some of the big boys have farms back there. I met a young man who is employed there and he says he works on some of these farms and

therefore I want to know whether all these farms and therefore I want to know whether all these infrastructural work are intended as indirect help for the big boys. /Interruption/ Cde. Speaker, you hear that, increased production we are told? Did you hear that?

The Chairman: That was not from the Minister.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: What we are doing here is paying the infrastructure for the big boys in the PNC. It is a disgrace.

The Chairman: You cannot come to that conclusion.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Well. I am asking.

The Chairman: Cde. Chandisingh.

National Assembly

15:00 hrs

Cde. Chandisingh: Cde. Chairman, on the question of which conference, how many conferences, I regret that I did not make myself clear. I would like to make myself pellucidly clear now. The amount shown under that item is for one conference. There is some problem I can see arising in the minds of hon. Members over there which reveals itself in the form of saying, well, you know national events are described in one place and then in answer to other questions we see expenses for national events. What do we mean? The explanation is not very difficult. It is a really simple explanation in that the costs for the organisation and arrangements for many of these national events cut across various items of expenditure, for example, transportation, printing, purchasing materials and so forth. So that this is the explanation for that type of question that may be forthcoming.

Under the one dealing with miscellaneous, the hon. Member who questioned this amount referred to the large amount of the supplementary. Here again, I think with the proper information we would be able to see what are the facts. The Ministry has had to spend money in organising various events of national importance which may not have been programmed or planned and so when some big event is necessary the Ministry of National Mobilisation, as it is now designated, is the Government agency responsible for providing the services and the support. As a matter of fact, not only in specific events of that nature, but very often the Ministry of National Mobilisation comes to the aid, the assistance, in terms of providing services for many other Government Ministries when they are having events of importance, conferences and so forth. So that it is a wide span. In 1985, also, we had certain important visits like the state visit of the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe. I do not think this had been programmed in the Ministry at that time and so on. We also had additional expenditure incurred in bringing a Cuban Troupe to Guyana, providing them with accommodation. I do not remember how many there were, but upwards of about 30. But they were here to perform on the occasion of the 151st anniversary for the abolition of slavery. So while the comrades over there may feel that this is a large supplementary request, nonetheless I think the explanation would make it possible now for them to follow the reasoning behind the necessity to have such an increase.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, if the amount under item 10 is for the specific mission of that Ministry to mobilise national events, may I ask why that item did not come under something like expenses specific to the agency. Why it comes under miscellaneous? I would assume that it is most relevant to expenses specific to the agency although we have always to guess what that umbrella designation connotes. I want to ask that under a purely accounting point of view.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, I am sure you will agree with me that if the legend is clear and specific, it may avoid questions. Our objection to this kind of presentation to the Assembly – and it is a reasonable objection – is that you spend 'X' dollars for the Cuban troupe, we do not know how much. You spend 'X' dollars for the visit of the Prime Minister of a foreign country, we do not know how much is involved. Those are the only two references the Vice President alluded the Assembly to. We do not know how much each cost and probably the greater percentage of this vote may be used for purposes which are not provided under the financial regulations. Hence, I want to say on behalf of those of us who constitute this side of the Assembly that we do not accept this explanation and the sum is unreasonable. We are asked to pass \$1/2 million and only two events are referred to for that sum of money.

The Chairman: Page 7, items 46 to 47.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, item 46, Head 44, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, Education Subvention Grants and Scholarships. As I look at the legend I find it difficult to determine what part of the money sought or utilised of the \$962,000 was really spent for running expenses of the President's College and what for the other items they mentioned. I think it is only fair to give us a proper understanding of the expenditure on what was spent on the running expenses of the President's College as distinct from the others.

Secondly, I would like to enquire from the Cde. Vice President whether, since this money was spent, things are now stabilised at the President's College and we would not have need to talk about running expenses and have need to come here for supplementary requests.

Cde. Burnham: Cde. Chairman, as the legend states here, this amount covers a variety of things. In terms of the education subventions, grants and scholarships, that in a way speaks for itself. In terms of the amounts that have to be paid overseas for all the students who are abroad and for whom amounts had to be paid in terms of their tuition allowances and matters of that kind, that come under the particular Head. As far as the President's College is concerned, the amount also includes items that have to do with the provision of food, as you are aware, while the agricultural enterprises that are concerned with the Presidents' College get on stream.

With respect to gratuities, pension contributions, housing allowances, etc., I would think that everyone knows that in the area of education there is a large number of staff and personnel to whom gratuity and pensions become due and to my mind the sum of \$962,000 is not an unreasonable amount to have been spent to cover all the items that were mentioned there.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman: I am not too certain whether I did receive the answer to the question I posed. I appreciate the Vice President's answer but what I asked really is if she is in a position right now to distinguish what amount was spent from this total for the purposes of running expenses as distinct from that amount utilised for gratuities and pensions.

Cde. Burnham: Cde. Chairman, I am not in a position to give those answers but if the Member would like to frame it in terms of a question then that answer would be given in detail.

The Chairman: Capital Estimates, pages 1 and 2, items 5 and 6.

National Assembly

15:10 hrs

Cde. F. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, item 5, I note here that the legend says that \$200,000 were spent for the acquisition of a building to house artifacts. Simply I would like to know whether this constituted the total price for this building. Secondly, whether the Cde. Vice President can assure us that all efforts were made to enquire into the possibilities of acquiring a cheaper building for this purpose and thirdly where is this building located.

The Speaker: Cde. Mohamed have you read this thing here. It says advances made from the Contingencies Fund, advances already made and you are asking a question if they can find a next place. It is on the schedule, anyway go ahead with the question.

Cde. Mohamed: Those were all the questions I wanted to ask on that score. Secondly, items number 6 – to meet additional expenses for scholarships and training. This is quite a huge amount of money for last year calculations show that it was about \$8.5 million. I think it is substantial enough for this House to be given the opportunity to get some details on the expenditure of this huge sum and I would be interested and I think other members of this House would be interested to know how many persons benefitted from the scholarships offered for 1985 and these scholarships were awarded to persons going to what countries and in what field and also how many training programmes were conducted over the last year?

The Speaker: Cde. Burnham.

The Vice President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister (Cde. V. Burnham): Cde. Speaker, I wonder if our member of the Minority Party is perhaps anticipating the sort of questions that he may be wanting to ask when the report for the Ministry of Education is tabled because there is a detailed account of all of this in the Ministry of Education's annual report and I would wonder if he will just have an indication and perhaps when we come to that he can ask all the questions to deal with these specific details, they are all there.

He wanted to know whether the amount of \$200,000 is the final amount for housing the artifacts. I am not in a position to indicate whether this is the last but I would suspect this is not the last, in terms of the acquisition of artifacts that the county is continuing to acquire, in terms of educating our young people. Last year the African collection was purchased and this year there are other plans to purchase other art work including the work of artists like Cde. Phillip Moore which is being negotiated right now and I would say that it may very well not be the last. Once artifacts are acquired they have to be accommodation for these artifacts and the art works.

The Speaker: Page 5 and 6, items 34 to 40.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, on 34, I would like to know how many students were affected by the sum. As you can see the legend says to meet additional cost of providing meals and the period is so stated. I don't want to question that amount but I think in order to know whether that amount is exorbitant one must know many students were affected particularly because this period is also indentified.

Item 36, to meet cost of additional supplies of lumber, we would like to know to whom those lumbar were supplied and for what purpose. I take it that when the budget was presented that the Ministry of Forestry was not conceived because the Minister of State within that Ministry. Is it that a Ministry of Forestry is now being set up with additional staff, Permanent Secretary and so on. Probably the Minister may be able to answer that on a number of items that talks about to meet actual cost since the provision of the new Ministry was nominal. Those are the questions I wish to pose u to 40, is there any other item Cde. Speaker?

The Speaker: No.

Mr. Abraham: I would like to ask what has the enrolment of students of the Guyana School of Agriculture for the year 1985, how many of these graduates were appointed to the various regions and how many scholarships were granted?

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, may I answer the question raised in relation to item number 36 which is the cost of additional supplies of lumbar. This vote normally provides funds to the Ministry and the Ministry uses this as part of the transactions such as counter trade where it is involved in the acquisition of lumbar. In this particularly case what happens is as part of the pricing policy that we had for the lumbar the amounts that were budgeted could not cover that cost and therefore this unanticipated cost had to be found. In relation to the question of the number of students benefiting from the Guyana School of Agriculture operations, I am afraid, since you see

National Assembly

15:20 hrs

(Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud)

And in fact one pint of cow's milk fetches a price of \$2.25. We must be concerned. We have curtailed if not restricted the importation of milk which is no vital not only for adults but for children. So many children go without milk and we have got the potential and resources undoubtedly to produce milk. But inspite of that we still cannot get milk. But what must be strongly condemned and is ridiculous unless there is a reasonable answer, is why do we have to pay consultants? To consult them on what, in what area? The ordinary farmers know all the difficulties and I remember the hon. Member on the other side who is now holding a very senior position said that you do not need an engineer to tell you where to build a koker and how to build a koker. It is the same kind of rational in dealing with this item. You spent \$1.6 million and you are now asking for \$40,000 now to support services for consultants. I would like to know what kind of support services we have to get. I think this sum should not appear on this estimates at all and I want to make the observation, Cde. Speaker, the Minister is absent but he has got the supporting staff in his Ministry to prepare the answer and pass it on to the Assembly. I think it is disrespect that the Government is coming to the Assembly with a supplementary estimate which was tabled a week ago and they are not prepared with an answer. If they find out that we are not prepared they jump on our throats. One week has gone and the Government is not in a position to give satisfactory answer to those of us who have prepared questions. What might be the correct thing is whenever they cannot give an answer that the item be deferred until such answer is forthcoming.

Mr. Abraham: Mr. Chairman, on Item No. 1, may I ask who are these Consultants? Are they Cubans? Secondly on the question of dairy feasibility, when next are we going to get a consignment of milk at places like Moruca, Orealla, and Kabakaburi?

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, this item is entitled to be a feasibility study and the variations of the fuel that has generated all this heat is a variation of less than three percent. The expenditure which seems to have given rise to these comments is intended to finance a feasibility study preliminary to an I.D.B. report for the development of the Dairy Industry. Now, I can understand why my colleagues on the other side find it difficult to conceive of the need to carry out a study before funds are lent. But it is normal for the International Funding Agencies to make decisions based upon reasons and analysis. Whilst a consultant does not have to come and tell you that a cow may need an artificial insemination or a bull may need a particular type of feed, if the project is a comprehensive project then estimates have to be done in terms of the quantum of inputs that need to be provided to the Industry.

The phasing of these inputs and the supporting services are necessary. Whilst the other side may have undertaken in the past to expect feasibility studies, what I gathered from across the table is that it is not always practical to do that. As far as the type of supporting services are concerned, Cde. Chairman the input to the Consultants who are Yugoslav Consultants are by way of office, normal support services that are necessary. These expenditures will give rise to a loan from the IADB for the development of Dairy Industry. This dairy industry has already been put in place, a programme is on the way and the milk production is already on the increase. This is part of a comprehensive programme of the IDB input which is one of the many inputs. They are also going to provide support to the dairy industry in collaboration with the Guyana Sugar Corporation. Cde. Chairman, you could see, and on the other side, we have indicated that we could not answer that question and in thrust that you find the answer satisfactory.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, the Minister must accept that fundamentally, Guyana is agriculturally based and the whole question of feasibility study dates back to thirty or forty years ago. We had indications from the Government benches that by 1988 we will be self-sufficient in milk. Our complaint on this side of the Assembly is that this is not so. We have been under-producing instead of producing more and as a result the nation is affected. So when a matter of this kind becomes sensitive, it is a reality and the Minister cannot succeed in bamboozling us. In fact, I think we have people in this country who can advise a lot of third world countries on milk and we do not need outside help on this matter. I thought the record should be set straight on this matter.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, on this question of feasibility study, may I ask where are the Cuban cows?

The Chairman: Pages 7, and 8. Item 50, 51, and 52.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 52 refers to refunds of revenue. The voted provision is \$100,000. The legend says: "Original provision nominal as actual cost is difficult to estimate." Mr. Chairman, I have always said this and I repeat again. This is the kind of things that makes us make the allegation that when we get estimates in this Assembly, they are really guesstimates. Surely nobody in their right senses could possibly have conceived that the provision of \$100,000 would be sufficient under this Head. It is admitted that they provided a nominal sum. Instead of doing that why did you not provide something more realistic so as to make the estimates a little more realistic so as to make the estimates a little more realistic. The supplementary provision being sought is \$2,294,200. Let us get an estimate. We do not want guesstimates. This has been recurring year after year and surely after all this time the Minister should be able to give a realistic amount of what should be spent.

National Assembly15:30 hrs

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, this item is, in accounting terms, an item that appears on both sides of the accounts. As far as the numbers provided in the budget are concerned, we would use a nominal sum like this because it makes no difference either way to the total quantum of expenditure. As far as the refund of revenue is concerned, if you look at the provision for last year, you will also find it is \$100,000. We have been trying to encourage the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to speed up the refunds or repayments associated with over-payments and so forth and therefore in any particular year it is not going to be easy to anticipate the exact quantum of this item. It is not necessary in the context of accounting arrangements within which it appears. It is not like expenditure on transport or expenditure on a material item. So I do not think the Assembly needs to concern itself too much about the variance there.

The Chairman: Capital Estimates, pages 2 and 3, items 7 to 14.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, item 14, Ministry of Finance, (New) Glass Works. The legend states to finance operations for the Guyana Glass Works Limited. This Head is now going to cost nearly \$8-1/2 million. What are we doing? We were told not too long ago ho the North Koreans came here and how wonderful they were and we gave them big decorations, how they saved the country so many millions of dollars and everything was going fine. This country is owed an explanation. What is going on? Why do we have to keep pouring money down the drain? If we have made a blunter, if the million that this Glass Works cost are not going to produce any results, let us have an explanation of what is going on and let us decide to give it away to somebody or dump it in the Demerara River. The question is, what is the position?

Not too long ago I read in the Chronicle where they said that the thing would be put out of commission for three months and alternative employment might be found for the workers. What is he position since then? Have the three months gone, or we are still in the three-month period? What happened to the workers? Are they getting any alternative employment? What are the prospects for this thing? Are we going to keep pouring money down the drain? Why is it not working? I understand bottles which were produced were rejected by Banks Breweries, they are no good. The country is owed an explanation of what is happening.

Here was an opportunity to set up a viable industry based on raw materials which we have plenty of. We have sand all over the place. This Government in 1965 cancelled a Glass Factory that we were going to bring from Hungary and West Germany and that was going to cost less than \$1 million. How many millions have gone down here? That time they were taking orders from Uncle Sam. You cannot buy anything from Hungary. I do not know where this one came from. How many more millions are we going to throw down the drain when we do not have bandages and

essentials for people at the hospital? How long? I think we need a proper debate and a proper explanation of what is going on in this factory. The Government must bring the Members of this Assembly into its confidence and tell us exactly what is happening. Do not keep coming and asking for more and more millions for this dead. If it is a dead let us bury it. This is a waste of money. Let the Minister tell us precisely what is the actual position and whether this thing is going to work or not, or let us close it off.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 9, Ministry of Finance, National Projects. The sum being asked for is \$472,109, nearly \$1/2 million. The legend states: "Compensation to BIDCO for transporting goods from and on behalf of the Government of Guyana." What goods were transported from Guyana on behalf of the Government? Where did they go? Were they sold? Where did they money go to if they were sold? Is the Government doing business that we do not know about in respect of transporting goods? Could we have some details about this.

Item 10, the Ministry of Finance, National Projects. We are asking for \$90,218 for the first time to provide for payment of consultancy services, re, Guyana/Suriname Ferry Project which we have been hearing about for ages now. For years and years we have been hearing about the Guyana/Suriname Ferry Project. In previous estimates money was provided in respect of this project. I do not know what the position is now, but I think it is time that the Assembly be told exactly what the status quo is, what the state of affairs is, when we will get this ferry, what is happening. We have been hearing about it for too long now for us not to have an up-to-date report.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Speaker, perhaps this is the time for Ministers to bring us up-to-date as to what is happening in Guyana Timbers Limited. The second thing that concerns me is LIDCO. I would like to know, now that this money has been spent, what is the capacity of LIDCO to satisfy the demand for that kind of milk. As I mentioned in a previous meeting, it is our report that the hospitals are short of milk. I should like assurances from someone on the Government benches that this expenditure that was engaged last year endowed this plan with capacity. It is very important that places like the maternity wards and children's wards of all hospitals should be fully supplied with milk on a daily basis.

The Glass Factory is something of national concern. At one time we were told that it lacked working capital. Then we got the impression several months ago that it was active and now from my knowledge it is again inactive. I can be corrected but my whole impression is that it is inactive. I met a person the other day who had been transferred because of the inactivity of the Glass Works. We need a statement here at the highest level on the present state of things at the Glass factory because it is something of national interest.

1986-06-12

15:30 – 15:40 hrs

It is an important project in the structure of the economy and the way it is treated does not make full seriousness or full respect for the National Assembly.

Mr. Abraham: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make the observation that LIDCO is supposed to be supplying milk to all parts of the country.

National Assembly

15:40 hrs

(Mr. M.A. Abraham continues)

May I ask how soon would LIDCO be taking the interior areas into consideration? Particularly the areas I mentioned earlier on. In the event that we cannot get milk from the milk plant, then what plans are there for us in the interior to get powdered milk at an early stage? Thank you.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development (Cde. H. Parris): Cde. Speaker, perhaps I should begin the response to that ... comments and questions by saying something about glass. Right at the very beginning I think I should say that it is my due that it would be extremely useful to have the debate, discussion, whatever you call it on the matter of glass as soon as possible, I think you will find it very interesting and for my part I think it would be very beneficial. My reason for thinking that is that I think there ought to be every attempt made to avoid this in my view, unfair assertion that there is something being hidden about glass. By the very nature of the transparency of glass it is very difficult to hide things in glass. I think also that if we are to be as a Government afforded any consistency by those who criticise us then it is highly unlikely that if we wanted to hide something it would be found as easily as we know in the things about glass. I think we should talk about glass but not now in that level of detail. What I would give you now in response to your insistence are the following comments.

First, I think I must say that it is now my view that we have wasted money on glass. Secondly and I am dealing first of all with things that I think are above contention. The Glass Factory is currently closed. I do not remember the actual data but it was closed about a month or two ago. That is not something that was hidden.

The third comment I would like to make is this. I do not think that I would like to subscribe to the denigration of the efforts of the Koreans. They did make a very great effort and I think they justifiably got the rewards for that. In terms of the Company who made the input it was a Company called General Glass and that is something that happened some time ago. My personal view is that in many ways there were issues connected with the putting in place of the Glass Factory that were done less well than they might have been done but I understand why that happened. The fact of the matter is that glass, the profession of making glass, indeed like some other professions which one would not tend to mention here is as old as the hill but it does not follow that everybody who conducts that profession would conduct it as well as possible. The fact is that if you look at glass you will find names like Libby and Pinkinton and Rockware who have taken the technology of glass to the point where if you acquire a plant, whether it is the general glass one of not so long ago or the Hungarian one of much longer ago you will start having marketing problems, for

instance if you decide to produce sheet glass you are almost certain to find yourself in a position where the technology that is required to be competitive in terms of the consistency and that kind of thing is going to put you in trouble. In our case we ended up with a plant whose technology is not at the very forefront required for the competitiveness of a Libby, a Pinkinton and Rockware, that happens to be a fact. Error – call it what you will, what one should decide or what I should say to you before I encourage you to say yes is that if you were to try to go to the forefront you will find an entirely different set of problems in terms of both the population including computerisation and that kind of thing that my personal view is we don't have the money to do it and secondly if we try to get the technology to do it I doubt it would be easily acquired. However, that possible mistake having been made one attempted to make sure that we make the best of what we had. What did we have we had a factory that was capable of making bottle and of making plain sheet glass and containers, like tumblers and so on. I don't think that there is any need to be ashamed to say that in a country that is less than just two decades old that as you set about doing something like that that you are surprised that the problems come, technical problems come, that bottles come not quite straight and that kind of thing. There is about the development process a natural gestation period which you cannot jump pass and no amount of rhetoric can take you in that jump from not knowing to being perfect. There is a price to be paid for learning, in terms of that price we have learnt, we put together people who had no previous experience of making glass and they now know something they did not know before, admittedly it was costly, I submit that if you compare that with the people that you encourage us to compare with, be they Hungarians, Yugoslavs, Americans, English or what you will find that in the process of their industrialization they too had a learning term and that learning term was associated with a clock. In our case we tried to get the experience not only of the Koreans but of the Cubans. Both groups made inputs and in each case they gave us insights into how we might solve the problem, however the matter that arose involved a matter of ... I would say both a technical and a management problem of the whole complex unless they are saying look let us call a halt and do two sets of things both of which have been done (1) is to go to the Cubans who have given some insights into one aspect of the problem who claim that they have some experience with certain types of the machinery to get ideas from them as to how best might we deal with this problem which was turning out to be a very difficult technical problem. The Cubans said to us among other things that they thought that they had people who could help us and they may even be prepared to give us a name and say look really the people whose technology they had been using if I remember correctly were Checkoslovaks and if they are going to be honest with us it

may be that we should check also with Checkoslovakia rather than just relying on them ... there are schedules to give us some insight in some aspects of it but then there is another matter, many years ago we asked a firm I think it was called Rockware to do an audit of the plant because we had the same idea that the Leader of the Minority has that we were bold enough to say that if this thin is in fact going to be a millstone around our neck why don't we sell it to somebody who would do something with it. We had Rockware, we had some Indian technicians looking at it, the net result of all those looks was that the fellows said look in terms of what you have and in terms of the technology that we are using in our markets and what not we will be prepared to run it for you if you were prepared to give us a management contract but we would not be prepared to just buy that plant with that kind of technology to try to complete. We said that what would happen is that we would try to run it and we are now in a situation where we have gone to the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, expose the problems to them, their man Mr. Matar has been done here and have seen it and they are putting up the Fund to hire Consultants Rockware. Rockware, I submit is the one firm in this world that knows more about that Glass Factory than any other firm that is in the business of glass because they are the ones that did the work. The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation people are putting up the Fund that will lead to some experts from the Rockware place that did the initial that would come now and say look we know the plant you have got, we know the technology you have is not the most up to date one, we are not recommending that you get the most up to date technology we will show you the things that we think need to be done to correct some of the inadequacies that have to do with technology in a sense I have not yet mentioned. The Banks Brewery reference, Banks have a bottling plant that is a replacement for the old plant that requires a certain tolerance to be met in terms of the height of the bottle that before were not quite the tolerance that had to be met.

National Assembly

15:50 hrs

Once they went into what they required, you see a lack of variation of bottles could not be classed as having difficulty. I do not think that one should even try to deny that. But with the technology they have they should not get problems. I think July is the date they have pin-pointed in an attempt to make us make what we have work as best as it can be made to work. They are going to do their investigations. They are going to put in research programmes and so on in an attempt to make what we have work. It has been suggested by the Korean people that apart from making bottles for our own use and making glass, if we can make with great dispatch, we will find ourselves in a position in which we can cease the opportunity which and until now apparently for reason that I do not understand did not exist, but the opportunity they have pin-pointed is this: Nowhere else in the Caribbean is there the potential for making tumblers that we have been endowed with by the fellow who are coming. They are suggesting too that we move with dispatch to do that because then for the first time we will have gotten the commodity which could be exported. There is no question of exporting the bottles. I am not going to be competitive with that if you try to go into that you will be running into competition with fibre glass from Trinidad. We cannot sell bottles to Trinidad and we sure as well not going to sell them to America. But we cannot take the view that, ha, ha why you build the glass factory, why you do this and why you do that, if you want to take that naïve myopic point of view then you do not understand the development process. What we have to do is to run the glass factory. Glass is one of the fundamental things you ought to have a capability of producing. We will progress if we have the help of co-operation of the Third World countries and with the help of Cuba, we have already had the help of the Koreans and I would not wish the records to say that the Koreans messed us up. That is not true. If the Cubans come to help us and things do not work out well I would not wish it to be said that the Cubans messed us up. The act of messing oneself up is an act that is concomitant to the human conditions ...

/Laughter./ All you have to do is to have the courage to know that you are going to mess and get a clean piece of paper. I said that in terms of the Commonwealth Funds ... Such mess might well spoil the Guyanese toilet. And in fact in terms of ignoring the whole money you have to pay for the development process, I am very sanguine, and I agree that if we have the debate I am going to tell you much more on that, that we will come to the position with the help of the combination of people from whom we have so far gotten help to a position when we will be producing the product again when we would with pride become the first Caricom country producing tumblers. Jamaica is trying. We will be in a position to be producing tumblers, to be producing bottles for ourselves once again. That is going to happen and I give you the assurance that there is nothing in my view that either this Government or the country or those people who

had the courage to go in and be the pioneers in that, should be ashamed of regardless of what was uttered here denigrating the attempts they have made. /Applause./

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, Item No. 9 which pertains to national projects is an area I think which we are called upon to explain on each occasion and perhaps it is necessary to explain it here again. This item is really the item for facilitating the counter trade activity. It is a book-keeping item for facilitating counter trade activities such as the payments that are listed here. So when, for example, we brought in the tractors and the combines they had to be freighted therefore the amount had to be inspected in the Public Accounts so that the government could take the code for the transactions since it would not have been a proper part of the code for book keeping activities. Similarly when revenues are generated, they will also be inspected under the Item of National Projects. As far as the Guyana/Suriname ferry is concerned I am not sure what exactly is expected by way of an answer, Cde. Chairman. The Guyana/Suriname ferry while it has been spoken of a long time ago, the Minister of Transport and I believe other Ministers have answered to this question in the past. The ferry project is a joint project between Guyana and Suriname Government and it is financed by the EEC Regional Programme. The first phase of the programme has been carried out on schedule and the area that should be financed here, arose out of the fact that EEC approved in the later part of last year phase 2 of the project. Now we are in phase 2 which requires the contracting of consultants and the contractors for the actual construction of infrastructure on each side of the river to be followed by the procurement of a vessel for the transport of passengers travelling to Guyana and Suriname.

Cde. Chairman, as far as the milk plant is concerned I am not clear as to whether a question was asked. Mr. Kwayana made a statement and I think we will note it on this side. As far as the supply of milk is concerned we are in a position to say that there are several projects in train intended to deliver milk to areas throughout Guyana. Those projects are focusing in initial phases on the generation of raw milk supplies, and there is associated with them the processing of milk which will enable the urban areas and the rural areas also to be supplied during the course of time.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, the Hon. Vice-President and Prime Minister in speaking about the glass factory said as I understood it that the major problems was one of a managerial and technical aspect. This brings me to the point, and then he gave us a long meandering about different people in the glass industry like Libby Glass. The question is Cde. Speaker, where does this factory come from? When we bought it, when it was purchased was it in keeping with the most modern technology at that time? There is a view that Third World countries can industrialization surpass some of the developed countries because they can take advantage of the most modern technology

that is used. That is how Japan and Germany out passed USA because they were retooled after the World War with more modern technology. Now we are hearing about these technical problems, what are they? Did the people from which we bought this factory give us the consultancy services? I remember when we were discussing the question years ago about buying the factory part of the package was that we would send technicians to Hungary to work in a similar glass factory. This was supposed to include managers, technicians and everybody, so when the factor comes here after signing the contract, then we would be prepared to work the factory and in the early period the people abroad were supplying the equipment to make a managerial contract to manage the factory for two or three years.

National Assembly

16:00 hrs

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: That is how you run things but these people are dumping everything. Somebody gives them something, they take it.

The Chairman: I may have to take the suspension unless you all agree for us to complete your question and the answer and decide whether we will finish this Paper or whether we go in now and come back.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: I just want to finish this Head and then go to whatever you want.

The Chairman: You have to try and be shorter in this dialogue.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: This Government is making too many blunders: The railway, the Glass Factory, the Textile Factory – and therefore through their blunders we have to pay.

I come to the next point, managerial. We are told that paramountcy is here to stay. The Prime Minister said in a debate recently that all countries have paramountcy, paramountcy in the sense that the ruling party will decide on the policy that the Government will pursue, but not that the ruling party will decide X, Y and Z, will become the employer and so on. The state and the party have become undistinguishable, that, is, beyond paramountcy. Nobody is disputing that the party must decide the policy --

The Chairman: You see, when I stop you, you get annoyed. Are we not going off the track?

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: No, I am making a comment. If we are going to manage properly we have to stop this distortion of paramountcy to suit P.N.C. purposes. Ask the Vice President, Cde. Chandisingh, how paramountcy works in socialist countries. In our country we are supposed to have independent Commissions, Service Commissions. Etc. But things are failing in this country because the ruling party is dictating who the people must be, who must get the job, who must be promoted. That is why so many people are leaving this country and we have to spend so many millions to import people from Sri Lanka and all over the place. That is why we are failing in management and we will continue to fail. The Glass Factory is one of them. He said so. He said it was managerial and technical.

I move to the last point quickly, Consultancy Services. I want to know whether this consultancy firm is the same one which owes over \$13 million to the Guyana National Co-operative Bank and does not have any assets. Please investigate it. A lot of money is going to the big boys, their friends, and you will find there is no money to back it up.

The Chairman: Cde. Parris, I do not know if you want to say anything to those observations.

Cde. Parris: Cde. Chairman, I do not understand them.

The Chairman: Pages 6 and 7, items 43, 44 and 45. Pages 6 and 7, items 41 and 42, 48 and 49.

Mr. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 42, Ministry of Housing, Rates and Taxes and Subventions to Local Authorities. I would like to make a very strong appeal to the Government to set the example. Here is it we are talking about rates and taxes and subventions to Local Authorities. We are asking for \$163,000 approximately, to meet payments of rates and taxes owed to the Mayor and City Council Georgetown for the years 1984 and 1985. Time and time again the Mayor and City Council have been begging citizens to pay up their bills. They tell us that they are operating on an overdraft, this is costing them money. They have to take people to court and they are levying on property. Here is a clear indication that the Government is not setting the example. Why didn't the Government pay the rates and taxes on time? Why they did not pay for 1984 in 1984 instead of in 1985. Assessments are there. All you have to do is go to the Mayor and City Council, get your assessments and pay what is owed and set the example so that John Public will not say the Government is not paying its rates and taxes therefore we are not going to make any great attempt to pay our rates and taxes.

Under the circumstances, I would like to ask why the Government did not pay, why they did not provide for that, and will they please do so in future and set the example.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, the Local Authority's rates and taxes are paid under this vote. As the learned speaker on the other side is well aware many of the Local Authorities labour under financial stringencies. Very often they are unable to raise the amounts necessary to satisfy the expenditures that are needed. One other aspect is that they are unable to reconcile the accounts on time. The difficulty often arises in relation to the reconciliation of these accounts and what we are trying to do is to ensure that the various agencies bring themselves up-to-date. This is part of that exercise. So the request by the speaker on the other side to have these rates and taxes paid is one that we share and this vote here is part of that exercise.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I think it is the place under this head to make the general point that the Central Government is not doing enough for Local Authorities. There is no systematic level of subventions or grants to Local Authorities at all and this means that the bulk of the burden is cast on people largely with low incomes and with houses that are no longer of the value they had when they were built. I wish that the next budget and before that time when the whole question of Local Government is being re-examined – I know the patriotic Coalition of Democracy has invited the President to negotiate the terms under which Local Government elections will be held.

This is at the root of the matter because then many minds will come together and decide --

The Chairman: Mr. Kwayana, I think you are being very irrelevant in respect of this. This is rates and taxes not paid for 1984 and 1985.

National Assembly

16:10 hrs

The Speaker: I think you have got to confine yourself to that please.

Mr. Kwayana: The item also includes subvention ---

The Speaker: That is not the item, that is the head, the item deals with that.

Mr. Kwayana: Yes Mr. Chairman, but under the Standing Orders what we are guided by is the service rendered by the Agency and this is subvention.

The Speaker: This is not subvention this is replies and it was unpaid.

Mr. Kwayana: Secondly, I have made that point anyhow. We should like to know what is the policy of the Government with regard to the sale of these Houses? Nothing has been said publicly about the prices of the houses and the lands.

The Speaker: That is irrelevant.

Mr. Kwayana: It is not so irrelevant.

The Speaker: Mr. Kwayana, I have given my ruling. Capital estimates page 1, item 2 and 3.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 3 – Georgetown Hospital, \$1-1/2 m supplementary being asked for, the legend says to provide payments for the final design of the Public Hospital, Georgetown. Mr. Chairman, I don't think I need to tell this House or persuade this House about the conditions at the Georgetown Hospital. I don't think I need to tell them that from the time of the coalition Government it was the intention that a new hospital should be built and that is why the lotteries was started by Peter D'Aguiar, to raise money for the building of a new Hospital. I don't know where the money is but the lotteries is still going on.

In respect of this Georgetown Hospital it has been twenty two years we have been talking about a new Georgetown Hospital, at one time we talked about a teaching hospital on the East Coast, we talked about so many things. Basically what we talked about was that there was need to improve the facilities at the Georgetown Hospital or to build an entirely new hospital. I think it is time for this honourable House to be brought up to date as to what is now happening. Here we are talking about final design for the Public Hospital, are we going to rebuild the existing hospital, are we going to build a new hospital somewhere else, what are we really going to be doing and how soon are we going to be doing it and what stage are we at at the present moment in respect of the hospital facilities which are no terrible?

Cde. J. Jagan: Item 3 which the last speaker already dealt with, I want to find out about this question of a design for the Public Hospital. I think a lot has to be done before one just goes and pays an architect for a design. There are already designs for a public hospital, when I was Minister we had a design and we did not pay an amount like this. This is the first question that has to be dealt with before you start spending \$1-1/2 m to design are: what are the possibilities of building a new hospital, how much

would be the anticipated cost, is it possible to raise such funds, is it possible to build a hospital there? In fact, I remember when I was Minister of Health the original intention was to build the new hospital on what is now the grounds which the GDF took over, that was considered really the best site, but already GDF took it over. I don't really think they know what they are going but to rush in and spend money on a design before you work all the aspects of building a new hospital, I think this is just another waste of money. I would like to ask the Minister who are the architect involved, when was the commission given to design a hospital? How much money can the Government raise for the building of a hospital? I think that is most important before we plunge into other expenses and does this Government really think that it can build a new public hospital. My personal opinion is, particularly after listening to the long misery and weak and sad explanation about the Glass Factory that it is incompetent and capable of taking on such a task.

Cde. C. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I understand that some years ago a miniature hospital design was put out at the Forgartys Building, in the lobby of the Parliament too. What has happened to that design? Cde. Speaker, let us go back to the Mazaruni project, they went and spent millions and millions to build roads to Mazaruni on the understanding that there will be a big hydro electric project there and the millions wasted, it never materialised because the money did not come for the project. We want to know, where in the estimates, when has it been told to this House, this nation that we will get a new hospital and where is the money coming from?

The Speaker: Cde. Jagan, Mr. Feilden Singh asked all those questions.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know how this architect services were recruited. Was there an invitation to all architects to tender or did the Government arbitrarily select an architect. There is some talk about an architect monopoly in this country and that is what I am getting at.

The Prime Minister: Mr. Speaker, the standard procedure for the recruitment of architects took place, in fact this particular aspect of what is part of a general massive project which the Cde. Minister of Health described in some detail in this House last year during the budget debate is to be founded by IDB and is part of a project where we receive technical assistance from PAHO and WHO two reputable international organisations who are assisting here and it is part of a new thinking in terms of the Georgetown Project because there was a time when we thought of removing the hospital from its present location we rethink the matter and we are now clear on the present design formally. Our whole concept of regional hospital is fitting in to the Georgetown Hospital. Originally we saw Georgetown as the big centre for medical attention but you know Cde. Speaker, if you go just a few miles across the river we have already completed the first and second phases of rehabilitation and reorganisation of the Best Hospital which is now a general hospital.

National Assembly

16:20 hrs

The Prime Minister: And those of us who are interested in health should go over there and see the substantial and significant improvements that have taken place. There are doctors there and health personnel, there is a new kitchen and it is a hospital that we should be proud of. This hospital will serve Region 4 specifically and this is part of a well thought out project which was debated here by the Cde. Minister during the last Budget debate.

The Chairman: Page 2, items 11 and 13.

Cde. Ferose Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, on Item 12, without denying the need for adequate security for Government property, state property, I would like to find out from the Cde. Minister whether the increase security that the legend speaks about is for the consequence of thefts and vandalism at the Film Centre? Should I be right, perhaps the Minister would tell us the extent of the losses that the Film Centre may have suffered. After all, we have to take into consideration that the film Centre is not a new entity as such and one would have thought that they would have had adequate security long before.

On Item 13, could the Minister say what is the Distant Learning system that was created and what it was all about? I would be grateful if she could give the value of the system in other circumstances at this time when our economy is so run down.

Mr. Feilden Singh: Cde. Chairman, I would like to ask a question under Item 11. The request is for \$364,000 to meet increase cost of publishing the Official Gazette. I would like some explanation on the ramification of the publication of the Official Gazette. Not so long ago there was an astronomical increase in the cost of the Official Gazette. I think all Members of the Assembly used to get a Gazette. That is no longer the situation. I thought that the Official Gazette was sold by the Printers to cover the cost of printing the Gazette. That is why I wonder why there is this increase. The Ministry of Information seems to be subsidizing the cost of the Official Gazette. For example, the Official Gazette goes to Members of Parliament and Government Departments and I would think that they would pay the Printers for the Gazette under the particular vote, services purchased or whatever it is. They sell the Gazette, where does the money go? In view of the significant astronomical increase why is it necessary for the Ministry of Information to subsidise this printing. What is the procedure? Let us know.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, Item 11. I would like to say that I am surprised that there seems to be some difficulty. I am getting the Official Gazette and I am surprised that Hon. Members on my right are not getting it. On Item 18, Mr. Speaker, I hope you can now see the link between services purchased and I remember earlier you ruled me out of order and of course, I accepted your ruling as a matter of discipline.

One can do nothing else here. May I ask under Services Purchased which is mentioned in the notes, Increased Security, what did the Film Centre pay for security last year and from whom did they take this service? Perhaps this would give you a little insight into the whole arrangement to the National Guard Service which is carefully protected by the entire estimates.

The Chairman: When you ask proper relevant questions they will not be disallowed. Cde. Benn.

Cde. Harewood-Benn: Cde. Speaker, on Items 12 and 11, we continue to subsidise because it is a responsibility. When it was being sold at 25¢ the cost had to go up in response to the printing cost. Guyana National Printers are behind us right now because we still owe them. Printing cost are very high, the cost of material and labour and we have never been able to cover all the cost. The printer recognised that. We have to do it and we will continue to do it. The increase we had before was not adequate and therefore we had to ask for some more. I believe we might have to ask again next time because we continue to provide it and some people, which is another part of the Estimates. We are not benefiting from an economy of scale because we have to produce a certain amount. If you were getting more people to buy it might have helped them, but it is our responsibility to produce and we will continue to do so.

As far as the Film Centre is concerned we had to in fact, increased the infrastructural work. We had to put in wrought iron. It was as a result of many many thefts over a prolonged period. It seemed as if, according to the police, a gang was working and almost every other night they would empty and steal. We had to put in expensive wrought Iron work all over in order to help with that situation. Clearly we have had to put on more security in order to cope. With the acquiring of a lot of very expensive equipment, we could not allow that situation to continue. We recently got a set of video equipment valued at a tremendous amount of money. We would have thought it very responsible seeing what is going on is something which is regular and it clearly seems to be organised and we had to do something about hence the expenditure. The Distance Learning System, I would have thought --

The Chairman: Before you go on there I think Mr. Kwayana raised some questions which you did not answer or which perhaps you do not want to answer.

Cde. Harewood-Benn: Well, Cde. Chairman, all that I have answered is information at my disposal. I know somebody asked about numbers. I would not be in a position to give numbers now. Any additional information I will give later on.

Now, on the Distant Learning System, not every child has access to a radio, we have Broadcast to School, we have Education programmes from time to time on the radio, and because our population is so scattered, we thought that we would get organised with the Ministry of Education to get a system whereby we ensure whatever the town children benefit from, we would organise programmes that would ensure that

the children in the rural areas will also benefit from them. That in essence is what the Distant Learning System is all about.

National Assembly

16:30 hrs

(Cde. Harewood-Benn continues)

We had somebody who understood. We had him working with us for a period of time. He did surveys, went all over the country, and found out areas that needed emphasis. We have got a good survey. We have done a lot of research. We had to pay him and others like him. We did this in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and I can assure the honourable Member over there that it will be extremely worthwhile.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, as you correctly observed, my questions have not been answered.

The Chairman: The Minister said why, she does not have the answers.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, on this question of distance learning, is it distant from the Film Centre or distant from Georgetown? You see it is a sort of mentality. You look on the rest of the country as distant, but distant from where. I hope we can revise this description. Rupununi is distant, but from where. The people in the Rupununi do not feel distant.

Cde. Harewood-Benn: I believe the hon. Member is using a different kind of yardstick to measure distance. Clearly the Rupununi has time and time again said he cannot reach us or we cannot reach him. It is in an effort to correct that kind of thing that we are introducing the distance-learning system.

The Chairman: This completes consideration of the items. I will now put the question.

Question –

"That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1986 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$33,056,388 for the period ended 1985-12-19."

Put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has approved of proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1986 and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in its said resolution.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

The Speaker: The Sitting of the Assembly is suspended for thirty minutes.

Suspended accordingly at 16:34 hrs

National Assembly

17:00 hrs

On resumption –

FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2 OF 1986

"Be it resolved that this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1986 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling 4100,705,322, for the period ended 1985-12-31. /The Minister of Finance/

The Chairman: The Assembly will resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 2/1986.

Assembly in Committee of Supply

The Chairman: We will consider the Paper as usual, that is, the items will be taken from both the Capital and Current Estimates in the order for which the Ministers are responsible.

Pages 1 and 2, items 1 to 5 and 6 to 9. Pages 1, 2 and 3, items 1 to 10. Cde. Jagan.

Cde. J. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, I want to speak on item 1, Head 1 – Office of the President. I am speaking about the large amount of expenditure for the repairs of the residence. For 1985 a total of \$508,000 was spent for the upkeep of the residence and Guyana House. I should imagine that when the provision was arranged, when the figures were computed for the Budget of 1985, you would have had a fair idea of what it would cost to up-keep the residence. Instead, we have had two supplementary amounts, far more than the original amount provided. I would like to know why it is costing more to up-keep the residence and, particularly, in view of the fact that it was unoccupied during the latter part of 1985.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, I have a short question on item 3. This legend states to maintain the Complex, D.I.E.C., Residence and Villa etc. Where is it and for what purpose is it used? Is it more than one building?

National Assembly

17:05 hrs

The Prime Minister: Cde. Speaker, I think I need to explain that I believe that the honourable member assumes that this – first of all we are not talking about repairs, we are talking about upkeep. The honourable seems to assume that we are talking about the Residence in Vlissengen Road. This head covers the Residence and the two Guyana houses, there is one in New Amsterdam and there is a State house in Georgetown which was occupied by the former Government. As you know these are beautiful and old wooden buildings and they relate both to repairs and maintenance in terms of the cost. It is amazing how upkeep for a building ... and the very nature of the building and in one case we have had to do over the swimming pool and provide two additional things to make the building habitable.

Question three, the DIEC is the Department of International Economic Co-operation and that is in Homestretch Avenue where I used to be.

The Speaker: Pages 4, 5 and 6, items 21 and 22, 29 to 31 and 32. Capital estimates, pages 1 and 2, items 1, 9 and 10.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Items 9 and 10 Cde. Chairman, before that item 6, there is a provision of \$706,365 to liquidate outstanding claims owing to Reid and Malik Limited in respect of Tapacuma Irrigation Project. What is the status of this project, is this the final sums or there will be further claims in this project? Whether this firm is still involved because our information is that Reid and Malik is no longer here.

The Speaker: Let us read the legend again, it says to liquidate outstanding claims owing to Reid and Malik Limited.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: My understanding of that legend is it can mean that there will be further claims, not the final claims, we have had questions of this kind so I would like to know if there will be further claims, what is the status of the project?

The next item is 10, this one Cde. Chairman, I wish to question because I am sure that Cde. Prime Minister would be disposed this afternoon to answer because it is one of priority because we are using the sum of \$4.8 m it would appear to me on roads in this region and \$1.8 m is going to be used for the access road to the Presidents College. We have got roads that are linking farming areas that should have been given priority and if my information is right I think the access road to the Presidents College is reasonable, it is better than those that need immediate and urgent repairs. If we talk about places like Leguan and Wakenaam, areas that can produce, the Ruby Back Dam road, the Haig Back Dam road, only to mention a few, I think these areas should be given priority and they need immediate attention. It is not for want of advocacy because on so many previous occasions we have called on this Government to give

attention to these roads and when the Government decides on their priority we are really puzzled to see eye to eye with them on occasions like these, hence we feel that this sum would have been serving a better purpose if it was used at least to build one of the roads to the farming community because the farmers are put at a great disadvantage. Imagine the people living in Haig back dam, when rain is falling it is impossible to get in and out of that place. It is not only a question of producing but other facilities like illness and so many other things. Cde. Chairman, if you go to the back dam and you see that way farmers are working and living there and when you look at the road that those people have to use and I think Wakenaam and Leguan and literally scandalous. I want on this occasion to condemn this vote and to move a reduction of it to one dollar.

Cde. Basir: Cde. Speaker, I want to raise some observations on item 9 in relation to the claim to Reid and Malik for the amount of \$706,365. For the benefit of this House Cde. Speaker, the Reid and Malik project is not working and I feel that this money should not be paid to them because the whole project is a total failure. The seven pumps that were installed into that project is a total failure. The seven pumps that were installed into that project has never been put into operation and the area has been recently flooded out, even the Bridge that were constructed by Reid and Malik has deteriorated much quicker than expected because of the Essequibo coast might be allowing the seawall to collapse in that project and therefore I want to ask the Government and the Minister concerned to re-examine whether we should pay this money.

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, like my friends, we too are concerned about some aspects of the Tapacuma Project and indeed both from an engineering standpoint and a legal standpoint we have and are continuing this examination. It is as a result from the advice from the two sectors, both the engineering people and the legal people that this part of the alleged debt that has been settled. In fact, Reid and Malik claimed very very large and substantial sums which this Government has no intention of paying at all, so we share that concern we have no difficulty with that but we feel this amount which was owing in 1984 is a proper charge and therefore it has been brought into the estimate here.

With respect to the construction of the road to the Presidents College – in development one is always faced with this kind of choice, dilemma and problem as to where one would place an emphasis. I have no quarrel with the remarks made by my good friend Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, I like him are aware of the need of the farmers but then you can go on in terms of development and deal with current problems and ignore as we have tended to do in developing countries, ignore the real developmental aspect of society and the nation, that is developing the young people,

ensuring that they have the facilities so that the next generation would be able to produce and offer them opportunities that we did not have and to permit them to compete in a new world and a hostile environment and therefore when the Presidents College was conceived it was intended to provide a school of excellence and consistent with that objective we need to ensure that they have certain facilities that will allow the young people selected to go there, the cream of the crop so to speak and we hope that we will see those returns both in tangible and intangible ways in the not too distant future, so very often it is not a question of priority, it is having to use the little money you have and one has to attempt to find a mix when we are talking about serious development. One can go on always dealing with current events and ignore the preparation for the future and this is one of those in preparing our young people for the future.

National Assembly

17:15 hrs

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I just want to ask the Prime Minister about this consultancy charge here. Why is there this charge? I remember way back in the 1960s our engineers in the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics were able to do the consultancy work for the first stage of the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary scheme. Why is it that we need to have consultancy charges for a simple road like this when there was a road already there? How much was it? Who was it? Would the Prime Minister us who was the Consultant? How much did we pay him for this job? I think we have to stop wasting money not only in the priority which we were discussing a little while ago. Why was this kind of consultancy work carried on within the Ministry of Works? This is not such a big complicated engineering project that we need to have consultants to do that. Or is it just a means of giving a job to your friend?

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, if my friends would ask simple questions then we would have no problems. The Ministry of Works as you know, was digressing in functions and a number of parastatal entities were created. This happened about eight years ago. In fact the consultants were Ayangana Consultants who was from the Ministry of Works. They are not foreign consultants. You know, Cde. Speaker, if you are going to do work of a particular kind you have to have two sets of engineers. Those who are going to do the construction and those who will do the supervising work and to say that it is a simple job, I agree that it is simple. I have myself come down very hard on the question of consultants. We have not yet solved the basic problem of construction, a pattern of giving a clear formation of our cost. We are not dealing with the building of roads on sand loams. It is a very particular problem where you have canals parallel to and contagious to the roads and so you need consultants and engineers to cope with this type of problem and this is the type of thing that will account to what we consider best in the given circumstances.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: We are taking bureaucrats of the Government who are working for salaries and we are allowing them to set up little companies of their own. A kind of parasitic capitalism is developing in this country. This is very bad and the Government has to stop this type of thing. A lot of people are starving, Cde. Speaker, the Prime Minister is irrelevant. That has nothing to do with bureaucrats of the state and parasitic existence on the side. So a state capitalism is developing here. The state is giving jobs to the boys who are already getting big salaries and so on. They must do their work as state employees and not give them opportunities to get lucrative contracts on the side and set up little companies. Hammie, I thought you were building Socialism.

The Speaker: No, Dr. Jagan, there is no Hammie here. You are addressing me.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I said the Prime Minister, only the other day was talking about building Socialism. How are you going to do that and develop parasitic capitalism?

How? Jobs for the boys? And not only jobs, frecks on the side. Big frecks.

The Chairman: I would prefer if all questions are asked at the same time so one response could be made.

Mr. Kwayana: I am interested, Mr. Chairman, in the cost per mileage of this road into the President's College. I would urge too that the question be answered about how much was the construction and consultancy which is in the context of other roads that needs to be done, whether it is a first class road or second class road or a fair weather road or what. You cannot put everything into one road in a certain area and leave others totally neglected.

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, I would be delighted to do the research and provide the necessary answer if the Hon. Member puts that question properly.

The Chairman: I would like for us to go down to the Ministry of Health which the Prime Minister is responsible for and we will deal with pages 3 and 4. Current Estimates, Items 11-20.

Cde. J. Jagan: I would like to speak on Items 12 and 15. On this item there is almost \$1,000,000 to meet electricity arrears and this was for last year. I would say that others said that the Government is delinquent. They should pay their electricity charges. When the small man does not pay his electricity is cut off and he pays a lot of money to restore it yet this Government is allowed to get away with \$1,000,000. They should look at this and stop putting pressure on the small man.

Item 15, says \$1.4 million to meet the cost of medical supplies for districts. If the Government was programming its needs properly it seems that we would not be in the ridiculous and embarrassing and distressing situation where our doctors and nurses do not even have the most elementary things with which to do their vital work. I have certain absolute information that doctors do not even have sterile gloves when they have to assist internally in delivering babies. There was a recent case because there were no gloves available for the doctor in helping a delivery, the mother had severe infection as was bound to happen. In the same case there was excess of bleeding and there was not even cotton wool available for the doctor to attempt to stop the bleeding and the money was available, because there they said we have already spent \$1.4 million to buy the necessary drugs and necessary supplies. What is the problem? It has to be very poor management because it does not seem to be lack of money.

National Assembly17:25 hrs

(Cde. J. Jagan continues)

Cde. Speaker, what I am speaking about applies to the most elementary drugs, elementary supplies and equipment which are needed to keep our medical institutions going. If it is not many, then I say that the Health Ministry must pull up its socks and get down to the task of programming its imports of the things needed so that our patients in the hospital will get proper care and would not have to suffer indignity. I say that the Ministry of health are not doing their business and it is time they got down to the task of having an efficiently run health service.

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, I wish to assure this honourable Assembly that G.E.C. has cut off electricity from Government Agencies which have been delinquent and they do not discriminate.

The \$1.4 million is to meet increased cost of drugs. As you know the drug trade is a very complex one and it depends on where you order and get your supplies from, and based on the foreign exchange flow, very often you have to shift from original sources. That has been creating some problems. In fact, in 1985 we saw a dramatic increase in the cost of certain basic items of medical equipment.

The Chairman: Capital Estimates, page 1, items 2 and 3. Current Estimates, pages 4 and 5, items 23, 24 and 25. Capital Estimates, page 1, item 4. Current Estimates, pages 5 and 6, items 27 and 33.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, item 27. It says here \$29 million to meet 10 percent increase in salaries to the Public Service and some public sector agencies. I do not understand why it is that the sugar workers have not been paid this increase which has been paid to every single category of workers. I would like the Minister to tell us how it is. This matter was taken up with the T.U.C. It was taken up with the Minister of Finance and he, I understand, said that he was looking into the matter and an answer will be given very shortly. As I said, all public sector employees have been paid the amount but sugar workers in factories and so on have not been paid. Why? Maybe we can get an answer now because as I said the T.U.C. delegation along with the sugar workers union met the Minister or somebody in the Ministry and they were told the matter would be settled very shortly. It is still going on and on.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, I think the way the Leader of the Minority has put this particular problem is somewhat unfortunate. It is not true that the sugar workers have not been paid their salary revision. The sugar workers' representatives have brought to our attention what they regard as a failure to fully apply the rules that were circulated to the public sector agencies and as has been indicated we looked at it centrally and have made a response to the General Secretary of the T.U.C. We are prepared to conduct further discussions in the matter.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: I do not think the Minister is giving a correct impression to the Assembly, Cde. Chairman.

The Chairman: Either he or you.

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, there are two sections of workers in the sugar industry. There are the job workers who work by job, and it is agreed that you cannot assess productivity for time rate because they either work or they do not get anything. They have to produce. So far as the job-rated workers are concerned, they had agreed to give them a certain percentage, I believe it was 6 percent, and the rest to be paid on the basis of assessment of their productivity. But since in the case of those employees there was no record from the past to assess them on what would be the performance from last year, it was agreed to pay them all the full amount and beginning probably in the future they would then keep records of their performance so as to see whether they merit the additional percentage which brings it up to 10 percent or whatever it is. I am saying, Cde. Chairman, that in the case of all other – that is the information which was given, I heard it in front of the T.U.C. A delegation from the sugar workers' union went to the T.U.C. I was a member of that delegation and they tried to get in touch with the Minister. Let the Minister tell the Assembly whether it is true or not that for all other public sector employees it was agreed to pay them the full 10 percent, and whether for the time-rated sugar workers they have agreed to pay them 10 percent. Cde. Chairman, let me repeat. There is a certain percentage, I believe it is 6 percent, and the rest has to be based on merit. It was conceded, as I understood it, for all other public service employees because there was no record-keeping, of how to assess the workers but it is not being done for sugar workers. This brings me to the fact that as is always the case in the distribution of food and so on, sugar workers are always discriminated against. So let the Minister say if it is true or not that all other public service employees are given the full 10 percent and why the time-rated sugar workers are not given the same 10 percent.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I wish to support the request for a clear answer to that question now that it has been clearly put. I hope the Minister would be in a position to say what the position is.

Cde. Greenidge: I really would prefer not to get involved into the dispute as to the details. I would restate that it was somewhat unfortunate for the Leader of the Minority to have claimed that the sugar workers were not paid. I am glad to hear now not that the answer is not clear but that the allegation has been refined or reformulated. It is not true that sugar workers were not paid. It is not true that the time-rated sugar workers were not paid. What has happened – you will see from the document here, it makes reference to 10 percent – the sugar industry has been identified for 12-1/2 percent in excess of the rest of the economy. So the point about discrimination is blatant nonsense.

1986-06-12

17:25 – 17:35 hrs

Discrimination is in favour of the sugar industry. As far as the case that the distinguished Member raised, I have spoken to the T.U.C. myself. The T.U.C. and the representatives of the industry have not made the allegation that the comrade has made. They were more specific, they were more careful, and we looked at that matter and have given them a response.

National Assembly

17:35 hrs

(Cde. C. Greenidge continues)

We will await any further reactions that they have to that with a view of trying to solve the matter amicably but I would like to stress that the allegation that they were not paid or they were discriminated against in any manner is false.

Cde. C. Jagan: Let me just make this last point. The question of discrimination against sugar workers and bauxite workers for some time now has been given an extra percent, because they are workers who if they do not produce in this country, nothing will happen. I am talking now of discrimination in the implementing that decision.

The Speaker: Before you go on, what I understand is going on is there is a misunderstanding in the interpretation of what was decided and they are now seeking clarification both from Guysuco and from the Trade Unions hoping to have an amicable settlement.

Cde. C. Jagan: Guysuco is saying, sticking to the letter of the law – the letter of the law says you will get certain percentage, the rest would be paid on your merit, as merit increment. Guysuco is sticking to that, whereas the Government has waved that part for the rest of the public service, that is all I am saying.

The Speaker: Dr. Jagan, I am not answering for the Minister but what he is saying is representations have been made, the matter has been discussed, clarification has been sought and it is now back to the Trade Union he cannot give a further answer to that.

Cde. C. Jagan: I am saying please expedite that, it has been going on for too long and other workers have been paid, why it is taking so long?

The Speaker: Capital estimates pages 1 and 2, items 5 to 8. Members do not want the work to go on, members are talking and nobody is listening to me.

Mr. M. F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, item 6 on page 2, the supplementary provision being sought here is \$45m as I read here and the legend says to pay increased wages and salary to public corporations as well as payments to rice farmers. Mr. Speaker, let me make it pellucidly clear, I am not against increased wages, we all know that the ordinary workers in Guyana is not being paid a living wage, the cost of living is so high his wage cannot make two ends meet. I am not attacking that. What I want to refer to is I got the impression within recent times from government ministerial statements that public corporations would as far as possible not be subsidised by the government. They will have to pay their way. They will not be made to sponge on the tax payers. I don't know how many public corporations are involved here, whether this sum refers to all public corporations or not, I do not know for sure, perhaps the honourable Minister will answer that, whether it is all public corporations but this appears to me, I may be wrong in the nature of a subsidy to the corporations. Am I right therefore in saying

that this \$45m would have to come out of the taxpayers' money? I am reminded, I did not do my reading closely, it is loans to public corporations, I would like to have the assurance that it is really a loan and like so many public corporations that I know and I can call some of the loan will not at some later stage be transferred into equity or just written off and that will be an expense to the taxpayers. We are aiming towards making all these corporations operate like private enterprise, they must make profits or excesses or whatever you call it, they must and they must not be subsidised by the taxpayer. Therefore if this is a loan we must get the assurance that the loan will be repaid.

The second part is, I am not sure, I want clarification on this – is it increase wages or salaries to public corporations as well as payments to rice farmers. I wonder what this means – payments to rice farmers. I wonder what this means – payments to rice farmers. I will leave it to the honourable Minister to give me an explanation on that.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, we are concerned with the second part of the legend. I wonder how this bit found itself under this head. How much of this amount will go to rice farmers? Secondly, for what purpose, is it payment to rice farmers, I would like to know why because we know that there is a problem in the rice industry where farmers are complaining that they are not being paid, they are being paid later, particularly at Burma, they have to get ten thousand dollars, when they go they are given two and they are told to come three or four other times before they can get their money. In fact on so many occasions they have to go without getting their money and again I want to criticise the way. The other thing I want to criticise is the way this sum is put. I don't think it is fair to this Parliament, rice has always been treated in a different way and we would like that to be clearly put on the estimates so that in assessing what is being done in the rice industry there will be no ambiguity in reaching conclusions. I am reliably informed, in fact many rice farmers spoke to me that when they tender their cheques particularly from Mahaicony Creek those cheques bounce. We want the rice farmers to produce, we want them to produce adequately and our production figure is so ridiculously low as I said and I repeat production last year was less than production in 1964 and 1965. So Cde. Speaker, on this occasion we would really like to know why this sum has been put this way and exactly how much will be given to the rice farmers and for what purpose.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman, I was very pleased to hear that our colleague, when he reflected more clearly on the subhead noted that the question was perhaps not informed by more careful reading. It is a pity that the other questions, especially the ones that are passed could not be treated in the same way when they were wrong for example to admit that admission, anyway the specific questions, this item, the legend refers to loans, a loan that was made to Guystac on behalf of the public corporations that fall within its preview.

1986-06-12

National Assembly

17:45 - 17:55 hrs

17:45 hrs

Thirty million of the forty million goes to the public enterprises and the remaining five goes to the GRMA for the purchase of paddy. It comes under this head because it is a loan to the enterprise. Both of them are loans to the enterprise. It is not necessary for us to show the amount anywhere else because it does not concern rice per say. It concerns a government loan for an entity that has cash flow problems. In relation to the GRMA. The fifteen million appeared because of the difficulty with Trinidad and Tobago as you know. The institution is purchasing paddy but it was not selling rice at the end of last year, consequently it had a cash flow problem. So the Government facilitated them by way of a loan which would ensure that whilst they had spent money on paddy and they were not able to recoup it by rice sale, they were able to purchase for the additional crop. As far as the comments about the viability of enterprises are concerned I would say that one either has a national minimum wage or you do not. You cannot complain on one hand and say that the viabilities are as such that they cannot pay the wages. The workers in those industries cannot be paid. I am afraid we have not been working a system like that and it is doubtful whether we will be able to manage that so when the enterprises as a result of a national minimum wage negotiation enterprises including Guysuco which is currently making a loss when such enterprises are unable to meet the wages bill we look at the cash flows and we will render them whatever financial support that is necessary from the schedule. In this case we think the appropriate mechanism is a loan.

The Chairman: Page 5, item 26.

HEAD 53 - MINISTRY OF MANPOWER

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, I am sure you will recall some time ago I appealed to this Parliament to let this particular Item transcend political consideration. I had asked on that occasion that we treat our senior citizens and those who find themselves incapable of making the naked necessities of life with some degree of compassion and concern. Unfortunately, Cde. Chairman, that appeal fell on deaf ears. Or if the fault is elsewhere I think this is an excellent opportunity for the Government to seriously bear my appeal for these people and if necessary set up for the first time in

this Parliament, I do not know what they should call it, A Commission of Enquiry or a watch dog committee for those people who are not receiving old age pensions, whose applications are not being processed and who are in a serious state of dilemma I speak to countless people everyday. They have been writing us constantly. I want to really convey to the Government that in my presentation of this matter there is no political consideration save and except consideration for those who are really in a bad way. And moreover, the officers who should be trained people - Social Assistance Department is a special area in that they require mature people, people who can treat these people with some degree of affection and love. They just take away their books and give them no explanation. We had alluded this Government before to facts and evidence of fraud wherein not only the Government was being robbed but these pensioner are being robbed. I know of a particular woman not very far from me. They owe her money and they are not paying her. They have her running all around. I myself have spoken to the officers but nothing is happening. Let me say on behalf of the People's Progressive Party that we are not opposed to this sum. We support an increase in the sum so far. \$12 million has been voted and it is a reasonable sum. I am not saying more could not be added but what seems wrong more than anything else is that the money is not reaching the people who are entitled to it. I am not saying nobody is getting. I would not make that bold statement, but I say there are a lot of genuine cases which are not being investigated, processed and those people are suffering greatly.

The Speaker: Cde. Persaud, let us come back to the matter in hand, Having gotten an opportunity which I would not normally have given.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Speaker, I wonder if I could pose one question. What steps would the Government take in the light of the complaint I am making to see that the situation changes bearing in mind as I said, that the situation is there and the Government must be aware.

The Speaker: Let us ask questions that are relevant to this head.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: In view of what my good friend said I would like to ask whether the Government can consider having the means test abolished and the pensions paid at a pensionable age. If the Government give that matter serious attention, that is, whatever the pensionable age is be it 65 or 60 without any means test, because that is what is causing many of the problems. I am therefore, Cde. Speaker, suggesting to avoid all this problem and so the persons when they reach/automatically ^{qualifying age will} get their pensions. We have a lot of corruption and discrimination and all kinds of things going on.

Mr. Kwayana: I would like to ask, Cde. Chairman, that the Local Board of Guardians recently appointed should be made to work actively. I believe that sometimes they do not work according to the law. The Local Board of Guardians happens to do with the processing of old age pensions applications. What the H_on. Member said about the qualification is very important. You see there are heart cases and I do not particularly know how they are treated. There is a means test. I think it is still \$50 and if I am not mistaken if a person is one dollar below that then that person is entitled to receive that money plus \$67 pension. If the person is at \$50 or \$55 it is assumed that they can exist on that. I think that is a glaring anomaly which I think something should be done about very early.

Cde. Harewood-Benn: Cde. Chairman, I want to say that applications are being constantly processed. I have been assured of that and this is an indication that we are not forgetting our old people. We are aware of their usefulness, the fact that they have made a contribution to our development and nobody willingly abandons or discard them. We are processing applications to my understanding. In answer to the means test nobody can give an answer to that now. I think all of us would want to give as much as possible and one must be realistic. There is also a law that perhaps might have to be changed. Those things can come in for a lot of consideration. We certainly agree that old people need to be looked at. We are mindful of them and that is why, Cde. Chairman we have included them in all of this increase.

The Chairman: This completes consideration of all the items. I will now put the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

National Assembly

17:55 hrs

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, I beg to Report that the Committee of Supply has approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2 of 1986 and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in its said Resolution.

Question put, and agreed to.

"That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1986 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$100,705,322, for the period ended 185-12-31.

The Speaker: The Assembly is in Committee of Supply.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: We will consider the Paper as usual. Pages 1 and 2, items 1 to 16.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, if you permit me, I would like to make some general remarks on these items as it appears to me as if both in Region 9 and Region 10 these expenses are for the devolution of education responsibilities towards the regions. My observation is very simple. We are just a few weeks away from when we considered the budget and I am a little dismayed that in such a short period of time the budget did not cater for expenses on this score. I am sure the Government was not that short-sighted to know that immediately after the passage of the Estimates that there would be the need to set up the infrastructure and structures in accordance to what has been said here so often and for a number of years in terms of devolution of responsibilities towards the region in the field of education. I am a little dismayed about having this amount of expenditure coming here at this time. However, what I would like to ask is whether we are going to have this kind of expenditure only for Regions 9 and 10, and whether the other Regions which will also be expected to conduct these activities and take on these responsibilities already have the regional structures established and set to conduct educational work in those regions or is it just a start and we are going to from time to time receive requests for supplementary provisions for other regions.

The other question I wish to ask the Vice President is whether the personnel who will be sent to Regions 9 and 10 are persons who will be drawn from those already employed, or will they be totally new. If they are drawn from those already working within the education system, to what extent will the removal from the present occupation affect the education system or the Ministry of Education as it is presently operating. If some will be drawn and other will be added, I think that will emphasise the point that Members of the Minority have been making this afternoon about the bureaucracy that this regional system is going to establish. I am afraid that I get from speaking to certain people who should know that although these

measures are being taken, that the Government still is not sure about the steps they are taking in this direction and I also am aware that many people who are directed to go to take up these appointments are very reluctant to take up these appointments, they are very disenchanted by the degrees and instructions they are receiving, and I am afraid that if that is indeed the case as my information goes, then we would have been taking not the first step for a failure of the system conceived by the Government and a failure of the method they are employing at this state in terms of the regional programme. I would like to invite the Vice President to give comments and answers to these questions.

Mr. Kwayana: Mr. Chairman, I have one comment to make on this aspect of this afternoon's proceedings. I think you will remember that during the annual Estimates I made a strong point about the question of regionalization and ask for the number of persons at work and so on. I am surprised that we should have such a big presentation on Regions 9 and 10 without the opportunity being taken to show the number of persons involved. I am sure the information is available to the Ministry preparing these documents. The only place I have been really able to find any specific statement of persons transferred to regions is in a report we got last week from the Ministry of the Public Service where, I think, the figure given there for 1985 was 46. If that is so, how many are now being transferred because it is an estimate that I wish to use in making certain calculations.

Secondly, unless it was done before my entry into this Assembly, the Assembly needs some White Paper on regionalization to set what is the strategy Government has in mind. It seems to be going on in bits and pieces. Perhaps the Government knows what it is doing but it comes to us in bits and pieces. The point made by Cde. Mohamed of the P.P.P. is very relevant, that only a few weeks ago, on the 28th February, the Estimates were introduced and we have evidence that the Ministry of Finance prepared this Estimate in many areas without having full information. That is so. They have said that themselves and this is another case that on the 28th February the Estimates was brought forward almost a month before the final date they had for presenting it, yet they presented it early but with all these deficiencies and we are left to wonder what is the reason for that decision to present it in the absence of reasonable information.

Mr. Abraham: Mr. Chairman, I note that under all the items 1 to 16 there is a term occurring on each legend, "education personnel." Just a few short questions I would like to ask. Who these personnel comprise of and how many are they? Where are these personnel posted to in the different parts of the region? Are these professional people, university graduates or ordinary teachers? What are the new portfolios? Lastly, I notice there is no indication of salaries for teachers in either Region 9 or Region 10.

In April of this year there was a great state of disarray in Region 9 because teachers were not paid on time and the report was that there was no budgetary allocation for teachers' salaries in Region 9. I want to know what will be the present situation where salaries are concerned at the end of this month in Region 9.

The Prime Minister: Cde. Chairman, this is a simple matter. First, we are dealing with the transfer from the centre to the region consistent with our policy and paying people in the region. There seems to be some administrative mix-up and the sums were removed from the Ministry of Education vote but not put in the votes and under the heads of Regions 9 and 10 and we are seeking to correct that obvious mistake. For Region 9 there were 252 persons transferred and Region 10, 742. They are primary teachers with the supporting staff, Educational Officers and so only. It is a very simple matter. There is nothing complex about it.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

18:05 hrs

The Speaker: Pages 3, 4 and 5, capital estimates, page 1, items 1 and 2.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Item 2 Cde. Chairman, the legend says to acquire mill, I assume it is to acquire one mill. I would like to know where and from whom and at what cost? Bearing in mind that it was reported that paddy was being transported from the Corentyne and other areas to Essequibo for milling. We seem to be in a serious crisis milling wise. It is clear that we need more than purchasing of a mill, we need to look at the whole question of the milling of our rice in the country. I wonder what would be the ultimate cost of that kind of process and exercise, so that will be the first question, the second one is rehabilitation of silos. My information is that most of these silos are not functioning properly and they are dismantling parts from some of them and putting into others, there is another crisis there. In fact, my reliable information is that part of the silo At Wakenaam is now moved to Somerset on the Essequibo coast. We would really like to get some information on this matter and what sum represents the acquiring of the rice mill and what sum will be used for the silos. The silo problem is major in the sense that rice farmers are compelled to wait two or three weeks before their paddy is received by the silos. The silo problem is major in the sense that rice farmers are compelled to wait two or three weeks before their paddy is received by the silos and on many occasions it is because of grave negligence, malfunctioning and what have you. I think we should have a positive answer this afternoon to this matter.

Cde. Basir: Cde. Speaker, on the previous paper which we have just finished it refers to loans from the public corporations and it is specified that that loans is perhaps pay to rice farmers and then this paper on item one I see here under the explanation to provide for payment to Bidco to clear part of overdraft in respect of Guymine as of such and such a date. It also has below, loans to GRMMA and then on item 2 on which Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud has just spoken is also another ... which also has to do with GRMMA. I was wondering why wasn't it possible to have all these amounts of money that has perhaps to do with the rice industry or a particular corporation to be placed under one head ... It seems to me that there is some duplicity in the preparation of this paper which gives me the impression that it is the intention to either hide some of the facts which are highly questionable and therefore from my little imagination I thought that this thing should have been placed under one heading and it would have been very clear for us. Cde. Speaker, when we leave this House here we have to explain to a lot of people what is taking place and I am very glad that Cde. Parris has explained about the Glass Factory so I

would be in a position to tell the people what it is about, therefore, when we are given proper answers we are in a better position to say what is going on because you know the People's Progressive Party has very powerful propaganda machine and we have to put it very correctly.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Chairman of the two hundred and twelve million and odd dollars under this subhead, \$174m pertains to Bidco and the remainder is for the GRMMA for the purchase of additional amounts of paddy. It is true that this particular item carries the same head but I would call upon my colleagues to look a bit more carefully at the documents before them.

This particular document that we are looking at says schedule of supplementary provision for period ending 23/05/86. As far as the previous one was concerned the date was different. The reason why there is now a difference within this document between loans to GRMMA and the other item is that one part of it is a loan. There is a loan and you also have a transfer to the GRMMA for capital expenditure and that item on capital expenditure is replacement to the Anna Regina mill and the rehabilitation of silos. I heard a very strange observation made by Cde. Reepu to the effect that, we are speaking here about the rehabilitation of silos when in fact the silos are in a bad state, that is why they have to be rehabilitated in this case. The amount is to facilitate the rehabilitation of the silos and the mill in the Anna Regina area. At a more general level the silos in general and the rice mills as well will be rehabilitated under the Inter-American Development loan which amounts to \$25m US. I think the rice mill portion of that comes into the region of \$10m US and therefore the call that he has made on us to look at the rehabilitation of this thing is something that we have already recognised, the funds have also been secured and it is a question of ensuring that on the ground the proper documentation are prepared and the monies are disbursed.

The Speaker: This completes consideration of all the item--

Question –

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1986 – Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$229,896.616 for the period ended 1986-05-23.

put, and agreed to

motion carried.

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has approved of proposals set out in financial paper no. 3 of 1986 and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the committee in this said resolution.

Bill – Second and Third Readings

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1985) BILL 1986 BILL No. 7/1986

A Bill intituled,

"An Act to provide for the authorization of the issue during the financial year ended on the 31st December, 1985 from the Consolidated Fund of moneys expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated for that purpose by the Appropriation Act 1985 or for a purpose for which no amount has been appropriated by that Act, a statement of excess whereof has been approved by the national assembly, and for the inclusion under appropriate heads of the sums in question, in conformity with the constitution. /The Minister of Finance./

Cde. Greenidge: Cde. Speaker, I beg to move that the Supplementary Appropriation Bill 1985, Bill 1986 be read a second time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Bill read the third time and passed as printed.

Cde. C. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I wrote a letter to the Minister today about the sitting of the House copied to you and to the Prime Minister and I hope that the Minister in adjourning the House will keep the fact that I raised to see if there is no business early next week or anytime that we meet on Wednesday to deal with members' motions.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn to Wednesday 18th June, 1986. /The Minister of Information and Public Service on behalf of the Leader of the House./

Adjourned accordingly at 18:15 hrs