

**THE
PARLIAMENT DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT
[VOLUME 7]**

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

187th Sitting

2 p.m.

Thursday, 29th March, 1979

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., Speaker

Members of the Government – People’s National Congress (46)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S Burnham, O.E., S.C.,
Prime Minister

(Absent – on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
National Development

(Absent – on leave)

Senior Ministers (12)

Cde. H.D Hoyte, S.C.,
Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. S.S Naraine, A.A.,
Minister of Works and Transport

Cde. B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
And Leader of the House

Cde. C.V Mingo,
Minister of Home Affairs

*Cde. H. Green,
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

*Cde. H.O Jack,
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)

*Cde. F.E Hope,
Minister of Finance (Absent)

*Cde. G.B Kennard, C.C.H.,
Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

*Cde. M Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C.,
Attorney General and
Minister of Justice (Absent)

*Cde. V.R. Teekah,
Minister of Education, Social
Development and Culture

*Cde. R.E. Jackson,
Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A.,
Minister of Trade and
Consumer Protection (Absent)

Ministers (2)

Cde. O.E. Clarke,
Minister – Regional
(East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent – on leave)

Cde. C.A. Nascimento,
Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)

Ministers of State (10)

Cde. F.U.A Carmichael
Minister of State – Regional (Rupununi)

***Non-elected Ministers**

Cde. P. Duncan, J.P.,
Minister of State, Ministry of
Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. K.B Bancroft, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional
(Mazaruni/Potaro)

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P.,
Minister of State – Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)

Cde. J.R. Thomas,
Minister of State, Office of the
Prime Minister

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. R.H.O Corbin,
Ministry of State, Ministry of
National Development

(Absent)

Cde. S. Prashad,
Minister of State – Regional
(East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)

Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman,
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. L.A. Durant,
Minister of State – Regional
(North West)

*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell,
Minister of State for Information,
Ministry of National Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

Cde. M.M Ackman, C.C.H.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the
Prime Minister and Government Chief Whip

Cde. E.L Ambrose,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

***Non-elected Ministers**

Cde. M. Corrica,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Social Development
and Culture

Cde. E.M. Bynoe,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade
and Consumer Protection

Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic
Development and Co-operatives

Other Members (15)

Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H.

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley

(Absent – on leave)

Cde. E.H.A. Fowler

Cde. J. Gill

(Absent)

Cde. W. Hussain

Cde. K.M.E. Jonas

Cde. J.G. Ramson

Cde. P.A. Rayman

Cde. A. Salim

Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.

(Absent)

Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S.

Cde. H.A. Taylor

Cde. L.E. Williams

Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

Cde. C. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition

(Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran,

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Cde. Narbada Persaud

(Absent)

Cde. C. Collymore

(Absent)

Cde. S.F. Mohamed

Cde. I. Basir

Cde. C.C. Belgrave

Cde. R. Ally

Cde. Dalchand, J.P.

Cde. Dindayal

Cde. H. Nokta

Cde. P. Sukhai

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham

OFFICERS

Clark of the National Assembly – F.A. Narain, A.A.

Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - A. Knight

29.3.79
2 p.m.

National Assembly

2 – 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to the Prime Minister, Cde. Clarke and Cde. Thomas for today's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following paper was laid:

Guyana Tourist and Workers Recreational Facilities Development Board Order 1979 (No. 24), made under section 46 of the Public Corporation Act, Chapter 19:05, on the 22nd of March, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 24th March, 1979. [**The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House on behalf of the Prime Minister**]

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 1979.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Pages 38 and 39.

HEAD 16 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of \$13,637,859 for Head 16, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stand part of the Estimates.

The Leader of the Opposition (Cde. C. Jagan): Cde. Chairman, I wish to refer to subhead 1, items (4), (8), (9), (14), (21), (24), (25), and (27) and on page 39, subhead 13.

We note that the total vote is now approximately \$13??? million. This is quite a significant increase from what was spent under this Head nottoo long ago. I do not mean the immediate three-year picture which is presented in this Budget but comparing, I would say, the early part of the 1970s.

The question we have to ask ourselves is whether we are getting value for money and whether it is necessary to spend all of this huge sum of money which has more than doubled in less than 10 years.

The Chairman: Cde. Jagan, are you dealing with all of these items consecutively?

2.05 p.m.

Cde. C. Jagan: The ones on page 38 dealing particularly with the Personal Emoluments section. There is an increase, for instance, in item (4), Foreign Service Officer Grade III category. In item (8), Foreign Service Officer Grade I, there is an increase from 18 to 23. There is an Assistant Accountant being employed now. Presumably, if the bureaucracy gets bigger, we have to have a bigger accounting staff to check up on what they are doing. Then in the case of Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Accredited Representatives, item (14), we have 9 now from 10 last year. We would like to know what is the reason for this decrease in

number at that level. Perhaps the Minister will be able to tell us why this was done and what was the reason.

Cde. Chairman, the point I was making on these expenditures is that when we look at the direction of our trade we find that only about one per cent of the total trade of Guyana is with the Socialist countries. All you have to do is look at the Bank of Guyana statement; we find the decrease in that direction. If you look at our foreign policy you will see that in the previous period 1975-1976, the Government had an anti-imperialist position in foreign affairs. We see now a definite shift to the right. This was demonstrated in the Government's statement, for instance on China's aggression in Vietnam. We saw a vicious attack by the Minister of Economic Development on the Soviet Union, spreading a lot of lies. **[Interruption]**

The Chairman: Cde. Hoyte, please allow the member to speak.

Cde. C. Jagan: The Soviet Union did not have a representative, they broke off relations with the Lon No1 regime and after that they had nothing there during the time of the Pol Pot regime. Pol Pot is your stooge at the moment. At the moment, who is it that you are backing?

The Chairman: Comrades, could we have some order, please.

Cde. C. Jagan: You are U.S. puppet, China puppet. That is what I am talking about.

The Chairman: Cde. Jagan, I am not going to allow a general debate.

Cde. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, the point I want to make, and I made it at the very beginning, is that expenditure in foreign affairs can be justified if it is in the national interest and if it is in the interest of the whole revolutionary movement in the world, because as a nation we must play a progressive role in the whole international structure. That is my point. In the same

way we do not question money allocated here under this head for liberation struggles in Africa. We do not question that because we feel **[Interruption]**

The Chairman: Comrades, if this is the behaviour I am going to get, I am going to adjourn the Assembly. Cde. Hoyte, may I ask you to refrain from making statements which will upset the Leader of the Opposition.

Cde. Hoyte: I apologise, sir.

The Chairman: You may have that discussion outside.

Cde. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, our nation must play a progressive role not only in terms of domestic politics but also in the international arena. Both are interlinked and react on one another. If we see what is going on today in terms of the Government's policy, we will see that this expenditure is not justified and this Head should be reduced by half of what it was five-six years ago. We do not need all this burden which has to be met by the people; burdens placed on their backs by increased taxes and cuts in subsidies and so on. That is what I am talking about. This is demonstrated in the pro-imperialist position which is now taken by the Government and in that sense we do not need so many Embassies, so many High Commission offices and such a large paraphernalia of personalities all over the place. And, indeed, living quite luxuriously. I see under entertainment allowance there is \$658, 468. If you divide that by 9, call it 10, what it was before to use a simpler decimal figure, ten of these big boys with an entertainment allowance of \$658,000 works out to roughly \$66,000 per year per person.

What are we trying to do? Why do we have to spend all this money? Of course, it can be said that we don't have to live the style which the P.P.P. want, that we have to live at a style becoming the dignity of this nation. This is the angle which is generally put out. Cde. Chairman, it is one thing to live in a dignified way, it is another thing to live in extravagance. I remember having lunch with a high figure in the political committee of the Labour Party in England and he

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2.05 – 2.15 p.m.

told me and a member of Parliament that for the first time he was sent an invitation from the Guyana High Commission and it was an invitation to a luncheon in one of the most expensive restaurants in the United Kingdom. At the same time the Deputy Prime Minister was returning from Korea and had gone to London and this big thing was put on. And the comment made to me was that if they think this is the way they are going to impress the British Government while looking for more aid, they are certainly mistaken. That is what was told to me by a person who is high up in the Labour party.

Cde. Chairman, we see the Cadillac style of living demonstrated when Ministers and others go abroad. They have big allowances, but we are not at that point; we are talking now of those who are permanently abroad, the Cadillac, style, which the people of this country have to sweat to pay. This is why we question these amounts.

2.15 p.m.

Item (24), Outfit Allowance. The amount to be voted is \$88,414. I see this figure seems to be constant. Last year it was exactly the same and this time it is estimated to be the same. Does this mean that we are paying every year outfit allowance for the same people or do we give them once and for all? Do we have to give warm clothing allowance as we gave to some Ministers and their wives when they were going on a tour recently? We have to have clear answers for all these questions.

Item (21), Overseas Allowance. Over \$1 million is to be voted. What is the rate on which this overseas allowance is given? What is the basis of it? The Minister must tell us.

On the next page, page 39, subhead 13, expenses for the Printing and Distribution of Information Material. Cde. Chairman, I have seen material which was distributed in England, in Canada and in the United States through the Government offices. It was P.N.C. propaganda printed abroad. Is that the role of public funds, for doing P.N.C. propaganda work? We would like the Minister to be very specific on this question, whether he agrees that personnel paid from

public funds in the foreign service, posted abroad, can distribute P.N.C. party propaganda and, in so doing, help the P.N.C. to stay in Government by unconstitutional means, by disseminating information which is loaded with a lot of half-truths, information which does not inform the public generally about the realities of Guyana. I would like to know from the Minister whether he considers that such partisan work by the staffs of these embassies and High Commission offices should be done and indeed whether the printing of that kind of information material, the P.N.C. propaganda material, is justified. Those are, Cde. Chairman, the points which are bothering people in this country and I would like the Minister who has been attending many conferences abroad, particularly non-aligned conferences, whether he considers that at the present moment the foreign policy of the Government ...

The Chairman: No, Cde. Jagan, we are not dealing with foreign policy. We have passed that. We had a long go at it in the general debate.

Cde. C. Jagan: The Minister did not answer that.

The Chairman: That is not my problem.

Cde. C. Jagan: All right, Cde. Chairman. In the general debate we did not get any answers. What might be important in the future is that we have a general debate on the separate heads so that the Minister could answer.

The Chairman: They might still not answer.

Cde. C. Jagan: It is no use making - -

The Minister of Foreign Affairs_ (Cde. Jackson): In the first place, I think I would like to make the observation that it was rather unfortunate that the Leader of the Opposition was not present during the general debate when I made my statement and also when the Minister of

Economic Development summed up at the end of the debate on behalf of the Government. If he were here, two things would have been clear. The first thing is that in relation to general orientation and conduct of our foreign policy, it remains anti-imperialist; it remains in pursuit of our national interest. Secondly, if he were here, he would have appreciated that the Minister of Economic Development never attacked the Soviet Union. What he attacked was a self-confessed puppet of the Soviet Union. As you so rightly observed, the general debate has been concluded and even though I might be personally inclined to trade ideas with the Leader of the Opposition on some of his more general fulminations, I think I will do him the honour of sending him a copy of my speech.

But to turn more specifically to the estimates before us, he did ask some specific questions and I propose to give specific answers. In the first place, I think he did recognise that in relation to item (14), there has been a decrease rather than an increase. In looking at this item one must take it together with item (2), Principal Foreign Service Officer, and the purpose of this device is to ensure that there is flexibility so that persons on the Permanent Establishment can be appointed to the rank of Principal Representative as well as persons from outside of the Public Service. Therefore, there is going to be a constant change between these two items depending upon the appointments. One of the reasons for the decrease and the corresponding increase in item (2) is to ensure that there is a sufficient number of posts to take care of all the people who hold that rank.

Generally, on the question of the increases in the estimate progressively over the years, I think one can explain that there has been a balanced development in terms of the establishment of overseas missions, the last one being in Moscow last year. These missions operate not within the context of the domestic environment in Guyana but they operate within an environment within which we have no say on the movement of prices and the cost of goods within that society.

Dr. Jagan himself has considerable experience of the movement in prices in several countries and he would know that over the years the cost of basic services in those countries has increased astronomically. This Government has been modest in terms of the proportionate increases which have been asked for for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On the question of item (9), Assistant Accountant, simply and specifically this is to make provision for an appropriate office in the mission in Moscow. As regards to the Outfit Allowance that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned, I would say he started from a false assumption. These allowances are payable not only to the Heads of Missions but to all officers posted from Guyana. Therefore, this \$658,468 for Entertainment Allowances would be distributed to all the officers in all our overseas missions who are posted from Guyana, and the conclusion that this can be distributed on a *per caput* basis of \$65,000 is erroneous.

2.25 p.m.

The last specific question that was raised by the Leader of the Opposition related to subhead 13, Expenses for the Printing and Distribution of Information Material, on page 39 of the Estimates. This item has been on the Estimates from the beginning and has always been used judiciously and properly. We will continue to operate in the manner in which we have been operating because this is in the interest of the Government.

As far as I can recollect, those are the specific questions that the Leader of the Opposition raised, and those are my answers.

Cde. C. Jagan: On the question of subhead 13 on page 39, I did not question the sum. The Minister dealt with the sum. I was talking about the content of the information and he has not replied to that. I should like to ask him again to give a specific reply: Is he aware that Government offices abroad during the time of the Referendum were distributing P.N.C. propaganda?

The Chairman: You are introducing a new element by alluding to the Referendum. Before, you were talking generally.

Cde. C. Jagan: I have the folders and the envelopes and everything to show that packages were sent from the High Commissioner's Office in London, for instance.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister

Cde. Jackson: I merely wish to repeat what I said: Expenditure under this item, in my judgement, has been judicious and proper.

Head 16, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - \$13,637,859 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Comrades, when I am speaking I do not wish to hear anybody else speaking. When your colleagues from the other side are speaking you may have dialogue, but not when I am speaking. Page 203.

DIVISION IX – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Question proposed that the sum of \$380,000 for Division IX, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stand part of the Estimates.

Division IX Ministry of Foreign Affairs - \$380,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 27.

HEAD 8 – TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

Question proposed that the sum of \$207, 219 for Head 8, Teaching Service Commission stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: May I ask the Minister what is the reason that prevents the filling of vacancies which exist at the moment in many secondary and primary schools. This is a long-standing problem and was raised several times before but so far we have not received any reasonable answer and although it is a long-standing problem, we have many deputy headmasters and many senior masters, many of whom have been acting for a long time, many of whom are qualified, still they have not been confirmed. I wonder if the Minister is aware that the failure to fill these vacancies contributes immensely - -

The Chairman: Under what item or subhead are you speaking?

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 1 (1), Secretary, Teaching Service Commission.

The Chairman: Up to now I do not see the relevance of what you are saying.

Cde. Mohamed: I should like to ask the Minister whether he is aware that the failure to fill these vacancies contributes immensely to the demoralisation that exists today within the teaching profession. I wish to observe - -

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed, I wish to observe that this is the Secretary to the Teaching Service Commission. What has this to do with that?

Cde. Mohamed: It is a section of the Teaching Service Commission. I should like to know about the work of this Commission, one of whose duties is to appoint teachers. There are

several vacancies right now where there are acting teachers who have not been appointed and I should like to ask the Minister what is being done.

I should like to ask further of the Minister whether he can say how soon these vacancies can be filled. I ask this because I understand that notices were out for some time now and although reasonable time has elapsed I am unaware of any appointments being made.

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed, is the Minister responsible for the functioning of the Teaching Service Commission? This is not under ministerial control. I am trying to be as helpful as I can to you, if you cut down the question very short, I shall allow it but if you are going to dilate, I shall not allow it.

Cde. Mohamed: There is one observation I should like to draw to the Minister's attention before I take my seat. I should like to observe the speed with which the Teaching Service Commission handles dismissals and the long delay on the other hand to make appointments. I wish the Minister to make some clarification on this because it is a vexing question for the teachers.

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Cde. Teekah): If I were to be specific I would say in my answer that the Teaching Service Commission, as you so rightly pointed out, Cde. Chairman, is outside ministerial control. However, I want to be a bit generous to Cde. Mohamed by saying that the Teaching Service Commission has been appointed less than a year ago. I should like again to inform this House that since 1977 Government has been speaking about appointment of a Teaching Service Commission. This Commission was appointed only last year. The Commission is now in its initial stages of setting up its structure, its offices and so on, its whole system of functioning and therefore one could not expect in this early stages that the T.S.C would move as rapidly as it would do, for instance, two or three years from now.

I am satisfied, however that the T.S.C., given the constraints before it, is doing the best it can in circumstances.

Head 8, Teaching Service Commission - \$207, 219 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 112, 113, 114, and 115.

HEAD 41 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
Question proposed that the sum of \$16,171,497 for Head 41, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: I should like to touch on subhead 1 (18), (21) and (29) and then on subheads 2, 5, 18, 22, 26, 29, 37, and, 40.

2.35 p.m.

In my possession, Cde. Chairman, is a letter from the Chief Education Officer to a headmaster of a high school in Georgetown, dated September 1978, and this letter refers to a case of a transfer of a student from the People's Temple Secondary School. I should like to enquire from the Minister what was the relationship that existed between the Ministry of Education and the People's Temple Secondary School. How is it that children, particularly from Santa Rosa School and Mabaruma, were allocated places at the People's Temple Secondary School? Is the Ministry satisfied that the People's Temple Secondary School –

The Chairman: How has that got to do with the Chief Education Officer? That doesn't justify it, this is a post created for the Chief Education Officer. If he has done anything which does not justify his position as Chief Education Officer, surely, but the question of placement of students has nothing to do with the Chief Education Officer.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, if you recall I spoke about a circular from the Chief Education Officer and I would like to speak on that where he is asking for a transfer for a student from the People's Temple Secondary School and I just simply want to talk on this.

The Chairman: You can talk on the transfer which he has signed.

Cde. Mohamed: Based on this letter and this transfer, what was the relationship between the People's Temple Secondary School and the Ministry? There is a definite relationship there. We would like to know whether the People's Temple School fell under any particular structure, whether they were carrying out the curriculum of secondary schools in this country, whether we were paying teachers and in fact whether there were children who went to that school allocated by the Ministry. I hope the Minister will be able to answer some of those questions which I have posed.

Item (21), Chief Guidance Officer. Here again, Cde. Chairman, I would like to enquire about the state of the guidance programme. My understanding is that it has proved to be a dismal failure. The original intention of this programme unfortunately in the process of time were not fulfilled. A lot of money was spent for the promotion of this guidance programme, much work was done, we continue to spend money but although guidance activities were included in the time tables of several schools, unfortunately the programme is not being carried out. Very few schools continue with this programme and I would like to ask the Minister what is being done. Is it the intention of the Ministry to revamp this programme, to re-organise it, will the Ministry seek to promote a programme more in keeping with our needs and take out the elements of foreign orientation from it? We would like to know what is the state of this programme at this moment and what the Ministry intends to do with respect to this programme.

Item (29), Education Officer II/I. It is my understanding that the Education Officer for Science was not doing his work properly and as a result, for the coming Secondary Schools Entrance Exam, pupils will be required to take a test in science education, some 60 questions will

be posed to them whilst all along they were not prepared for this examination. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to say whether it would be fair to ask children to do science tests at the S.S.E.E. level when they were prepared all along to take those tests. If this is the truth, I wonder if the Minister can say whether the performance of a student or a pupil at that examination will determine his participation at a high school.

Subhead 2, Transport and Travelling. Here I would like to ask the Minister whether there are plans afoot to better the transportation system which exists and as it relates particularly to students. This is a problem affecting students throughout the country, particularly in the Corentyne, on the East Coast –

The Chairman: No, Cde. Mohamed, I think this is really out of context. This is transport and travelling in relation to the Ministry of Education. This has nothing to do with students. I have been allowing you to get away with quite a lot but not this one.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead No. 5 Telephones. I know that in 1978 over \$325,000 was requested from the House, only \$233, 932 actually was spent. I am told that this is a pruning measure but I wonder why having spent \$233,932 in 1978 again the sum of \$325,000 is being requested. I wonder whether the Minister will not be able to keep the 1978 level which is the 1977 level virtually and we would be happy to see some pruning done there and a saving of \$90,000 of the amount which is now being asked for.

Subhead 18, Adult Education Classes. I wonder if the Minister can say whether the Adult Education Classes are fulfilling their objectives. My information is that large numbers of students, people presently enrolled in schools, are taking advantage of the Adult Education Classes. The reason for this is that they are not satisfied with the teaching they receive in schools and therefore they seek supplementary lessons at these adult education classes. Now, a problem arises here. Cde. Chairman. Only these young people who can afford it can go to these adult education classes and it works at a disadvantage to a large number of young people who would

like to attend these classes for supplementary education in view of the dissatisfaction with the teaching during the normal school hours, but not many of them would be able to afford it.

Perhaps the Minister may be conscious that within recent times there has been a resurgence of afternoon lessons. Many young people presently going to school are called upon to pay from \$10 to \$15 per subject and whilst one cannot stop these lessons from going on, still I would ask the Minister to take note of the situation because it is not working really to the advantage of all the young people who need these supplementary lessons at this moment and only those who can afford can really get them. For the poor, I suppose they will have to be content with what is being taught during normal working hours and I do not know whether the Minister can give this question some thought to see how supplementary lessons can be given to all young people who would like to have them and not leave it open for only those who can pay. We would like to urge him to give some thought to that.

2.45 p.m.

Subhead 22, Contribution to University of West Indies. I should like to ask the Minister whether he is satisfied that we are getting the proper returns for this huge sum of money we are contributing yearly to the University of the West Indies. For the 1,800 students at the University of Guyana we will be spending this year \$9.5 million whilst we will be making a contribution of \$1 million to the University of the West Indies. I understand from previous answers that this money is given particularly to assist medical students. We have long had the view and the opinion that that we can do here in Guyana with a medical faculty. We have not since changed our view nor our demand for a medical faculty in Guyana. We would like to find out if in the long run we cannot do better to set up a faculty in Guyana and utilise that money for that purpose. We would like to know how many students from Guyana will be benefiting from the contributions we will be making.

Subhead 26, Grant to University of Guyana. Here you will recall that I mentioned the several problems that today affect the University of Guyana. They constitute a wide range. I would like to inform the Minister that this \$9.5 million requested here is an unrealistic figure and will not resolve the problem today at the University – staffing, stationery, construction and the various things that today affect our University. I would like to urge that more money be given so that the problems that are affecting the University can be resolved in the interest of the young people of our country, particularly at this time of our expansion in different fields, economic sectors and the different projects we are resorting to. One would naturally see the need to put out more students to man these different projects. I think this one field particularly where money can be well spent, more money can be channelled into the University for the resolution of the problems there. Perhaps the Minister may consider half a million dollars more for a start.

Subhead 29, Examinations. I should like to refer to some of the problems which I think exist with respect to examinations. We are spending quite a bit to attain certain objectives. We may not necessarily agree with examinations like the S.S.E.E. We have some reservations about that examination. I will not deal with those reservations but would simply like to inform the Minister that there is a distinct impression which one gets that we are really able to fulfil the objectives of that examination. For example, that examination deals with a cut-off point but very often one finds that many pupils who are below the cut-off point are in schools.

I refer particularly to one school, the Patentia Secondary School, where a special form had to be created for several students who fell below the cut-off point. It is not a question that this school had space to take on extra students. Had that been the case probably it would have been reasonable. In this case it was not so. The school is overcrowded to the tune of 250 students, yet several young people are pushed into these schools when they do not really qualify to enter these schools, thus creating hardships for young people who really qualify and who are eligible to enter. I understand that comrades' children do not want to go to the Community High but prefer Patentia, and because accommodation is made for them even though they do not qualify, young people who have been successful at the S.S.E.E. examination cannot find space at

Patentia presently. I understand some 20 persons right now who were successful at the S.S.E.E. cannot enter because of overcrowding and because it is open to young people or students who do not really deserve getting into that school and who perhaps could do better streamed into the Wales Community High. We have reservations about that examination. We think it would be a better thing for young people to go on to free secondary education. But even within the structure of the Government, I think certain problems exist and we ask the Minister to look into it, particularly where I made that remark.

With respect to subhead 37, Contribution to Caribbean Examination Council, we are in the year where we are going to have the Caribbean Examinations. After several years of promotions, after several years of encouraging people and arguing about the benefit of this examination, we are entering this examination very much unprepared. This, to my mind, represents some lack of foresight by the Ministry. They knew we were going to move into the Caribbean examinations and unfortunately they had not prepared the ground properly for us to send students to take this examination. I make this point because at the moment although students will be presented to take modern mathematics and integrated science, the situation is such that we do not have enough text books nor do we have enough trained teachers preparing those young people to take the Caribbean examinations.

I think some blame ought to fall on the Ministry of Education. They knew about this long before. They ought to have provided the necessary trained teachers for these examinations. Now a number of our students will be entering the examination room with a degree of uncertainty. Many of them will have to pay examination fees and take the chance that they may not pass this examination. This is an unfortunate development and we think that the Ministry ought to have done a lot more preparing young people for the Caribbean examinations, providing text books, preparing teachers and so forth. I take this opportunity to warn the Ministry again that in 1981 we will be venturing into social studies and unless work begins at this stage, preparation of teachers and provision of text books, then many of our young people will have to enter the examination room to take that subject unprepared, without text books and without trained

teachers. Already, we do not have enough trained teachers for teaching social studies so that students can take the Caribbean examination.

2.55 p.m.

We therefore urge that special course be conducted so that we can prepare teachers to acquire the skills to teach modern mathematics. More courses should be planned for training teachers in the field of integrated science so that they may acquire skills for teaching it and also for teaching social studies. In addition to that, we should provide the necessary text-books and avoid what most likely will happen – the wastage of poor people's money. They will have to high examination fees.

With that in mind I move to subhead 40, Expenses – Emergency Teacher Education Programme. Here again there is a problem which I touched under subhead 37. This cannot be helped in view of the shortages that exist for the preparation of teachers who will have to prepare thousands of children to take the examinations before them, the Caribbean Examination. We would be happy to have more centres, for example, more teachers encouraged to be trained to acquire skills so that they will be able to handle this problem better from May next year.

I understand that Essequibo is not one of the eight areas where there is a centre for the integrated science programme. I think we would do well if we have centres in areas like Essequibo where teachers can be trained and where we would probably fit our teaching staff to take care of the problems of education with respect to examination, particularly the Caribbean Examination.

Subhead 46, Contribution to UNESCO National Commission. I should like to ask the Minister whether this contribution to UNESCO National Commission has any relationship to the International Year of the Child and what will become of its activities here in Guyana.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Singh.

Mr. M.F. Singh: I should like to speak on subhead 1 (37) on page 113 and on subheads 41 and 43 on page 114.

Subhead 1 (37), Supervisor, School Furniture Supplies. The sum allocated for this year is \$5,304 and the revised estimate for last year was \$2,436. Presumably there is an officer at present occupying the post. My question is: Is he in fact being provided with the materials to do his job? I ask these questions because recently a case was brought to my attention by a parent who stated that he had been asked by the school to provide a chair and a desk for his small child because the school and nothing like that to offer the child and if he did not supply it the child would have to sit on the floor. I shall not give details because I do not want to run the risk of the child being discriminated against, but I say this in all honesty: this was brought to my attention and I know because I happen to be one of the people who gave some help to the parent to supply the desk and chair.

This raises the whole question: How free is this free education that this Government boasts about? This is not the time to talk about it but I am sorry I was not here to talk more fully on that. We know that in the final analysis, it is taxpayers' money that pays for the free education. How free is free education? The money paid for it is the money raised by the Government from taxation.

I move to page 114, subhead 41, University Course for Teachers of Deaf. It is very laudable that there should be a University course for teachers of the deaf. There should be teachers for the deaf. We noted that in 1978 the sum of \$8,200 was provided for this project but nothing at all is shown in the revised estimates column for 1978. Obviously the programme never got under way. Obviously it did not start because there is no money reflected in the revised estimates column for last year. I should like the hon. Minister to give us some details about the proposals for what I consider to be very laudable project. Surely, if they voted the money for 1978 they must have

conceptualised what was involved, exactly what they would do. Why did it not get off in 1978? How many people are involved in this? How many people will be training? What will be the length of the training? Give us some details. Where will the people be placed when they are trained? Why did it not get started in 1978? Will it be started in 1979? The year has started already: we are at the end of March. Has the programme started? Are there people there? A quarter of the year has gone. If we are voting money one would expect that the programme would be started.

Subhead 43, Grant to Amerindian Project – University of Guyana. I see that this is a new subhead and the legend reads: “New subhead – National budgeting for Amerindian language Project. I think that some time ago I read that Minister Duncan had some special responsibilities in respect of the Amerindian Language Project. Again I want some details. This is a new subhead. We have never been told of it before. It is appearing for the very first time in the Estimates and it seems to be attached to the University of Guyana. I was under the impression that there was a special something going in one of the Government departments dealing with this and handling this. Now it seems to have been transferred to the University of Guyana. Could we have some details of what is involved? I am not questioning the amount of money being spent. I think again that this is a very laudable project and I want to have some details as it is the first time it is appearing in the Estimates.

Cde. Nokta: Page 114, subhead 7, Maintenance and Operation of Land and Water Transport. I raised this question last year when I brought to the attention of the hon. Minister that the Education Officer stationed at Mabaruma no longer had the use of the launch “Cecilene B” which he was using at one time. Is he mobile? The “Cecilene B” is not there. I should like to ask the Minister if anything has been done during the period from last year to now. This Education Officer has no river transport at the moment.

Land transport problems affect the Education Officer stationed in the Rupununi. As you know, Cde. Chairman, the Rupununi covers hundreds of miles in the Savannahs. This gentleman

has to beg for passage, as far as I am aware. Sometimes when he gets a passage the vehicle is stuck and he is delayed for a day or two. It is very inconvenient for him.

I should like the Minister to say what is done to provide these interior areas with adequate transportation.

Cde. Teekah: I start with Cde. Nokta first. Concerning subhead 7, Maintenance and Operation of Land and Water Transport, the Ministry does not have the money to have its own facilities in every single area. What we are trying to do is to share the facilities of other Government Ministries. It is not the best way to do things. It is not the ideal way to equip our officers but I suppose this is the best we can do in a poor developing country like ours because if each Ministry were to have a large fleet of vehicles – land, water, air, etc – I am sure that we would be criticised for that.

In sharing facilities with other Ministries, I think we should be commended even though it is not the ideal.

3.05 p.m.

Now, the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh asked about subhead 1, item (37). He spoke about a parent being asked by a teacher or teachers to contribute a desk and chair for his or her child to be enrolled in a particular school. I will tell you what happens. There are certain schools which most parents bombard officers, bombard teachers to have their children enrolled at. I know for a fact that when you explain to the parents that there is no accommodation, there is no place, the school is filled, they beg, they beg, they beg, they beg and I have learnt that in some cases – I don't really know if it is the best thing – the teacher may say, "Well look, we are full to capacity, we have more than we could take. But look, I could probably squeeze somebody in here but I don't have more furniture because we are really at full capacity."

I think I know one school where the parent was in fact asked to assist the school by contributing to some of its furniture. Now, I really don't know if I should discourage or encourage it in that if I encourage it, we are faced with the criticism that look, how free is free education, we are asking people to bring chairs, furniture, and so on. Now, if I don't encourage it we also stand the hazard of being criticised by the parent saying that: I really want my child to get into St. Margaret's or to St. Agnes or to Stella Maris or to St. Gabriel's and here now the Minister, the Chief Education Officer, the Assistant Chief Education Officer, Secondary Education, the Headmistress, everybody is so heartless and wouldn't even make an accommodation, try to compromise with me so that I could get my child in. That is the problem we face. I will discuss it certainly with the officers and take into consideration both sides of the story and then perhaps we will have to give a ruling on this question because you could be criticised either way.

The hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh went on to discuss about the University course for teachers of the deaf. He commended us for having commenced it. I thank him. He is always acknowledging the work of the Ministry and I have had the best of relationships with Mr Feilden Singh. He queried, however, whether the course started last year, whether in fact the programme was mounted. Now, there was no actual expenditure started here in the estimates because the academic year began in September and these estimates were prepared at the end of last year, so therefore we did not know how much would have been spent for the 1978-1979 academic year. That is why nothing has been started here. And it is not because we do not want to say anything but I would imagine by the time the next Budget Debate will have taken place, certainly the figures will be here. However, the specific questions he asked, I am sure as a former Minister he will know that it is not possible for one to know at the moment in circumstances like this how to answer them but if he should give notice of all those questions, certainly I will be the first person to answer the questions.

Concerning the Amerindian project at the University of Guyana, again we were commended by Cde. Feilden Singh – rather Mr. Feilden Singh, but I suppose being my friend I could even

call him Comrade, he would not object – and he has asked about what is being done there. Cde. Chairman, we are preparing a dictionary, among the things being done by U.G., for the Amerindian language. We are preparing a dictionary of the Arawak language and we are now preparing certain materials to run courses in more than one Amerindian language. And there are many things involved in this project; I don't wish to burden the House because I have a long list of the plans, the programmes of things already done. As a matter of fact I could give him some copies of some of the handouts, some of the booklets prepared on some of the languages. Minister Duncan is not here, but Arecuna is one. I am trying to remember some of the names now, I cannot remember off hand now, unfortunately, but we have produced some and I will send some to him. I make my promise and I will keep it.

Detailing with Cde. Feroze Mohamed, he started off with subhead 1, item (18), Chief Education Officer and asked about the relationship between the Ministry and the school which was run by the People's Temple at Jonestown. Briefly, the People's Temple organised the school in that area, the officers of the Ministry went there. I myself also, when I heard about the school when I was visiting the schools of that area in the North West area, went there and I told the people there including Jim Jones that the school has to be integrated within the national education system in our country because, I explained to him, I explained to the people who ran the Temple and ran the school, that it is against the laws of Guyana to have a private school. They sent down the following week their people and we discussed with them and the school was gazetted. I cannot remember off hand now what was the date on which the school was gazetted, but, as we all know, certain events which followed destroyed that school. The whole idea was to involve and integrate that school within the national education system and to get it to carry our curriculum generally and take our exams and to integrate, not to have it as a separate school. That was the relationship.

Item (21) Chief Guidance Officer, under that item we were asked about what is happening to the guidance programme. Much is happening in terms of it making progress all the time. We have been putting out materials on guidance, our guidance officers are very active in the schools

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National Assembly

3.05 – 3.15 p.m.

and we are at this moment involving the University of Guyana in terms of orienting our guidance officers who will rather consequently go on to orient teachers and assist the students and pupils of learning institutions. I have materials but I have already demonstrated some of them during the general debate. I do not think I ought to do so again. I do not particularly like to get into fourth gear in this slow debate. First is just enough.

3.15 p.m.

Concerning Education Officer, Science being one of the subjects to be taken by the students next month, the House was told that not enough preparation was being done. That is not true. Science is an integral part of the primary school curriculum. I have a child also who is taking that examination next month. I have no fear about the children of Guyana taking that examination because the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Since free education has been given to the Guyanese people, we have been achieving better results almost at every examination. I quoted figures here during the general debate and I am saying the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Wait until the examinations are taken and the results are known and all will see. In the process of this debate I intend, when we discuss the New Amsterdam Technical Institute, to tell you about the results of that Institute because we have beaten the world at the particular examination. So I am not worried about that.

About transport and travelling, as you, Cde. Chairman, correctly observed, that has to do with the Ministry's personnel. With respect to telephones, we were questioned about the amount being spent. There are two things. One is that the system is expanding. We are having more schools, more departments, more units and therefore we have to have more telephones and proper communications in departments and units. The second thing is that last year we put in an order within the Corporation and that order is now in the process of being fulfilled. Naturally, we would not have paid for those telephones during the calendar year of 1978, therefore, again in 1979 we would have to put enough money to cover that order when those telephones will have been installed.

On the question of adult education, there is no fee charged for the repeaters' class which the Adult Association holds from time to time and there is no charge by the A.E.A. in the hinterland areas. But I think we are really asking for Utopia when we expect every single thing to be free. Soon we will be asking for a car for every teacher. We were asked for a free house for every teacher. We might be asking for clothing, shoes, a watch for every teacher. We cannot go on like that *ad in finitum*. At some point we will have to make charges. The amount of \$5 per term is not a large sum in some areas like the urban areas. In a country where we receive free education, primary, secondary, and university, if outside that framework another body is to assist adults, who have passed through the system but who want to improve their qualifications, and it asks for a token amount, is that too much?

We were questioned about the contribution to the University of the West Indies. We were asked who are benefiting from the U.W.I. programmes and its contribution. My answer would be brief, crisp and to the point: the students in medicine, engineering, law and the students who are doing agriculture.

With respect to the University of Guyana, Cde. Feroze Mohamed, a member of the Council of the University and now in his capacity as a Member of Parliament, is asking for \$1/2 million more. The University of Guyana did ask for a \$1/2 million more. The Vice-Chancellor himself told me, "We can manage with the amount allocated by the Government" – he did tell me that Cde. Feroze Mohamed asked him, and he said I can quote him – "because we understand the constraints in which we are functioning."

Concerning subhead 29, Examinations, Cde. Mohamed took two bites at the cherry when he was discussing the S.S.E.E. I think Cde. Mohamed should know that prior to the S.S.E.E. – I do not want to be sarcastic or cynical – we had the British Examination, the Common Entrance Examination. We have replaced that examination by our own local examination so that now we can get subjects like social studies discussing Guyanese history, Guyanese environment and Guyanese goals and objectives. Is he sincerely criticising such an examination? Really, I

wonder! At one time he said S.S.E.E., and then he said S.S.P.E. I really do not know what really he was trying to get across. But if it is an administrative matter, I have a very efficient Chief Education Officer, and if he should bring that tomorrow, he would deal with it.

Concerning C.X.C., we were told that the students were not prepared. First of all, 54 per cent of the teachers in secondary schools of Guyana are trained teachers. We have been carrying out pre-tests. In many cases, we have been carrying out evaluation exercises in many schools. We have been having seminars with teachers, workshops with teachers, course with teachers. Name it; we have been having it with teachers, with the Education Officers in the various institutions concerned with C.X.C. To say that we are not fully prepared for the examination really is speaking without being informed on the subject.

Concerning subhead 40, Expenses – Emergency Teacher Education Programme, more money was being canvassed by the Opposition. But I think Cde. Feroze Mohamed made a mistake. This is not the subhead which covers centres. There are other subheads which cover teacher training centres.

The Chairman: Answer it so that when he comes to this subhead I would not allow him to ask it again.

Cde. Teekah: Yes, there are other areas where teacher training is carried out. First of all, there is the Lilian Dewar College of Secondary Education in Georgetown, there is the Cyril Potter College of Education at Turkeyen for primary teachers and then we have the In-Service Training Programme which has three centres, one in Georgetown, one in New Amsterdam, Berbice, and one at Linden. For the Essequibo Coast, Anna Regina, we carried out surveys from time to time but we found it very expensive to have a specific centre in that area because the teachers who will be involved are too few. We found it a more convenient and less costly exercise to bring them down to Georgetown and to have them, if they are secondary school

teachers, at the Lilian Dewar College of Education and, if they are primary school teachers, at the Cyril Potter College. That is how we are handling teacher training on the Essequibo Coast.

Finally, Cde. Mohamed asked about UNESCO, subhead 46, and its relationship with the International Year of the Child. The contribution to UNESCO that is stated here has, not International Year of the Child, as its top priority. We have another Commission that deals with I.Y.C. The I.Y.C. Commission, of which Cde. Minister of Health, Housing and Labour and I are Co-Chairman, Cde. Viola Burnham is Patron, and Cde. Rhoda Pollard is Secretary-General, is another Commission. This Commission has the Minister of Education as Chairman and Dr. Rudolph Grant as Secretary-General. They are two different things.

Head 41, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - \$16,171,497 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 116 and 117.

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

Question proposed that the sum of \$1,386,533 for Head 42, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Culture, stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 1, item (32), Director, Institute of Creative Arts. I think some explanation is needed here from the Minister. I understand there is no Institute of Creative Art. I wonder how we can have a Director. Maybe the Minister can give some explanation on that item. I understand that land was allocated for the establishment of an Institute, but so far there has not been the beginning of construction of that Institute. I would like to get some clarification there.

3.25 p.m.

Page 117, subhead 10, Maintenance of National Cultural Centre and Regional Cultural Centres. Here again I should like to ask the Minister to inform us about the activities of the Regional Centres. We know quite a lot about the National Cultural Centre. We know that it has been very much in use but we have not been able to hear much about the Regional Cultural Centres and we wonder whether these are not white elephants or, if not, what are the activities being engaged in at the regional level. The Minister may give us an explanation about this.

Subhead 20, School Materials and Maintenance, Burrowes School if Art. It is my information that students of this school are seriously at a disadvantage because of the absence of the appropriate tools, the necessary tools, to further the work here. We should like to know whether the Minister would not consider giving to the school full supplies to benefit the young people attending school.

Since I am on this point perhaps you will permit me, Cde. Chairman, to make a general statement that there is a general shortage of art supplies in this country. We cannot get the necessary tools – carving tools, tools for working leather, canvas. The substitutes that are used outside of the school by people who are interested in art are not the correct substituted. We would like to ask the Minister, for the promotion of art, to ensure that enough supplies are brought into the country not only for use by the school but for persons outside of the school.

On subhead 21, Music, Drama and Creative Writing Work-shop (Regional) Programmes, I understand that Cde. Seymour has recently resigned. I should like to ask the Minister what efforts are being made for the filling of the position and how soon will this be done?

Mr. M.F. Singh: Page 116, Subhead 1 (6), Instructor II. I shall take together items (8), (9), (10), (13), (15), (18) and (21). Then on the same page item (32). This is supplementary to what the last speaker said. On page 117 I shall take together items (38), (43), and (45) and then on the same page subheads 5 and 12.

Page 116, subhead 1 (6), Instructor II. There are supposed to be three instructors in 1978 and three in 1979. The sum provided in the 1978 Approved Estimates was \$4,752 for those three instructors. The revised estimate shows that the sum of \$13,955 was spent and the 1979 estimate is \$4,752. Obviously something has to be wrong. I do not know what the explanation is. I should like the hon. Minister to tell us. If we are going to revise \$4,752 to approximately \$14,000 in 1978, how is it that you are asking for the same sum of \$4,752 for 1979? Something has to be wrong. There are only three people involved.

In respect of the Cultural Centre, all these items have provision of \$1 – item (9), Business Manager; item (10), Production Manager, item (12), Executive Assistant; item (13), Chief Electrician, item (15), Sound Engineer – that is a very important person – item (18), Accounts Clerk III and item (21), Sound Operator II. All that is provided is the token \$1 for each of the three posts of Executive Assistant. Three officers - \$3. If these are to be realistic estimates, then the money that is proposed to be spent should be reflected here. If you put down only \$1, my deduction is that it is not proposed to fill these posts in 1979. I am wondering how this Cultural Centre will be staffed and managed when in the 1978 revised estimates amounts are provided there for every one of these posts. If the amounts are provided in the 1978 Estimates one would expect that the people were in the posts and money was being spent on these posts. What is happening in 1979? Having made provision in the Revised Estimates column for 1978 you are merely putting \$1 for 1979. What has happened to these posts? What will be the position with respect to this Cultural Centre?

With respect to item (32) Director, Institute of Creative Art, the last speaker made a categorical statement that there is no Director. I do not know if that was true but I do know, reading from these Estimates that the sum provided for 1978 was \$60,000 for the five persons in the position of Director of the Institute of Creative Art. The revised figure was \$25,200. If the figure was revised, are there people who are occupying the positions? When did they start occupying the positions? We are at the end of the first quarter of 1979. The sum of \$60,000 was

approved in 1978 and a similar sum is being asked for in 1979. Is it that we have all these people and that is why the sum of \$60, 000 is being sought for this year? If that is so, then the last speaker could not be correct when he said that there is no Director. I should like to have some explanation on that.

3.35 p.m.

Turning over the page, page 117, items (38), (43) and (45), again I do not want to elaborate. There is only \$1 to be voted; the revised estimates have figures voted for those three items. If there are revised figures for 1978, obviously people must have been paid in these posts. How come then you have got only \$1 in 1979? What are you going to pay them with? Are you going to redeploy these people, or “proper placement” or whatever they call it? I am not sure what it is but it seems as though no money at all is being asked for in 1978 to pay these people.

Now, sir, in respect of subhead 5, Telephones, I know I have always harped on this before, but this is the first time I am talking here on it so that I would not speak again on it. The sum provided for 1978 for telephones was \$15,000; the revised amount is only \$5,121, something obviously has to be wrong. If you estimate that \$15,000 would be required by telephone, how come the revised amount is only \$5,121 yet in 1979 you are asking \$17,500 and the legend says increased costs. I get the impression – I may be wrong, I may be answering the question for the Minister – that there are a lot of unpaid bills. I happen to have been talking to an official of the Telecoms Corporation and he tells the fact of the matter is that Government owes millions of dollars in unpaid telephone bills. I want to make a plea to the hon. Minister that if there unpaid telephone bills in his department, then he make every effort, send out a circular to all the people in his department, who are in charge of telephone bills, to see that those bills are paid. I think it is scandalous that you should estimate \$15,000 for 1973 and then revise it to \$5,000 and then come back in 1979 and ask for \$17,500. Something has to be wrong.

The same argument would apply in the case of electricity under subhead 12. The sum approved for 1978 was \$96,000, then that was revised down to \$35,257. It was revised to less than 50 per cent and then in 1979 the sum being asked for is \$105,000 and the legend says, increased cost. How can it be increased cost if your expenditure in 1978 was so much way down from the approved amount in 1978. I suspect there are unpaid electricity bills. In fact, the Luckoo Export did say that there are lots and lots of unpaid bills in respect of Government Departments and agencies owing to the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

Here again I would make a plea. I believe in running things as a business on a proper business basis. Government is a big business, corporations are businesses, they are meant to supply essential services but they are also meant to be run on good business principles and they need to be paid their bills. After all if I do not pay my telephone bills or my electricity bill I get cut off but the problem when you have a society like the society in which we are living, is that officers are scared to cut off the lights or the telephones from Government agencies and that is where you have the problem. That is what the problem is and that is why Sir Lionel Luckoo - I think he still retains the "Sir" in the socialist society he is still "Sir" – Sir Lionel Luckoo made the comment in his report that it really is scandalous that so much money is owing by Government departments.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, on the last two points about telephones and electricity bills, I agree with most of the remarks made by my friend the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh about the whole idea of being more efficient and so. As a matter of fact, the Ministry is striving, the whole Government is striving to achieve this greater efficiency so that better accounting systems could be worked out and kept. I agree with him so he is preaching to the converted.

On the point about the cultural centre and a few other areas where posts are not filled and where we have a token vote of \$1, the whole idea is to have these posts filled during this year.

We have not identified all of them but we are trying to identify them and as soon as we will have identified them we will have those posts filled this year. But people were acting before. Concerning this year, we have not identified them and therefore if a person is not there at the moment we could not put an amount to cover him between January to March because there is nobody drawing anything during that period. But for the months ahead when we will have got that person, then the posts will be filled and the estimates will either be revised next year, which most likely will happen, or we come for a supplementary, one of those two things. And again as I said, as a former Minister he knows how everything works.

Now, to get on with the business of the committee, Cde. Chairman, both Cde. Mohamed and the hon. Member Mr. Singh asked about the Department of Culture, Institute of Creative Art. Actually what we have there is a confusion which arises because it is wrongly put, it is not put in the best way. The Department of Culture has five institutes. You have music, drama, art, dance and creative writing one director, so we have five directors. You have one director of creative writing stated and then you have five. There are really five areas – music, dance, art, creative writing and drama. The five are there so that is how you have the five directors.

Regional Cultural Centres, Cde. Mohamed enquired how they are going. They are a new input into the Guyanese society. We are constrained by many things, we have problems of transportation, we have problems, first of all, of identifying personnel, housing, office accommodation, equipment. These are now being introduced in Guyana, as a matter of fact, we have just identified some for the Rupununi area and we have identified someone for West Demerara. We are now in process of getting along with these things because it is not so easy to do so many changes at the same time. I think a greater appreciation should be shown by the Opposition for what the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, which is a large Ministry, is doing all at the same time. So many things, so many changes are taking place and therefore we cannot have magic no matter how hard people in the Ministry work, we cannot have miracles, or have anything done overnight, or perfection achieved. It takes some time before these regional cultural centres get going at top gear.

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3.45 – 3.55 p.m.

3.45 p.m.

Concerning the National Cultural Centre, I want to say how happy I am – and I hope the media will carry the statement – that at least Cde. Feroze Mohamed, speaking officially as Member of the People’s Progressive Party in Parliament, has said that the National Centre is functioning well and is in use. I thank him for that acknowledgement.

Head 42, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Culture - \$1,386, 533 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 118.

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE IN-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Question proposed that the sum of \$370,081 for Head 43, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – In-Service Teacher Training Programme, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: There is just one question I would like to pose to the Minister. Item (1), Supervisor, In-Service Training. I have received reports that in the New Amsterdam Centre, the tutor for National Policy during the latter part of last year posed a question thus to the students: Question – “State the first, third and fifth objectives of the Party.” The result was blank papers from all the teacher trainees. I want to ask the Minister whether this is part of the programme, to carry out this type of propaganda within our national institutions. How does this question fall within the curriculum of the In-Service teacher training programme? We do not think this is correct. If they want to promote the party propaganda, they can do it, but do not use the In-Service Teacher Programme to do this. I would ask the Minister to investigate it, and whoever is guilty should be directed not to pursue these things. That should be done at Party level.

The Chairman: On the next occasion you will have to identify the items under which you are speaking. These are all very irrelevant questions you are asking.

Head 43, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – In-Service Teacher Training Programme - \$370,081 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 119.

**HEAD 44 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Question proposed that the sum of \$49,742,679 for Head 44, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Primary and Secondary Schools, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 1, item (1) Head Teacher. Under this item I would like to draw the Minister's attention to the growing complaints with respect to funds being raised and left in the keeping of headmasters of several schools. There are several complaints about funds being raised by students - -

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed, you said all of that in your general debate. You made an allegation about the collection of money by teachers and headmasters. What does that have to do here?

Cde. Mohamed: I want to not only ask this question but to put forward some ideas for the Minister to consider. Can the Minister therefore tell us, in view of that problem which I raised in the general debate, what is being done to prevent a recurrence of such things. I have here a set of schools. Doesn't the Minister think that there should be democratic control of the funds that are being raised by teachers and students? Wouldn't he set up committees –

The Chairman: This is dealing with Personal Emoluments – Head Teacher. This is for the payment of salaries of Head Teachers.

Cde. Mohamed: Can I leave it at that? I think he got the message. I am sure the Minister would respond to the matter.

With respect to item (1) to (5), there is a question here that I think can reasonably fall under these items. I would like to ask the Minister if he is in a position to tell us how many teachers have been seconded from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of National Development throughout the country.

Subhead 6, Courses for Teachers. My information is that under this subhead teachers are being given allowances, travelling and nightly allowances, to attend the Cuffy Ideological Institute. I would like to know what type of allowances are given to teachers. I would like to know how many teachers benefited from this and I would like to know whether the Minister thinks it is right to use Government's funds to send teachers to the Cuffy Ideological Institute. If I am wrong I stand to be corrected. I would like the Minister to say whether that would be legitimate expenses falling under that subhead.

3.55 p.m.

At the same time, while funds are being used for that purpose, there are many teachers I know of who have legitimately attended courses and have not been paid for a long time. Allowances are being given in one direction but teachers who have attended legitimate courses have not been paid. I think the Minister should look into this matter to find out what is happening and to ensure, assuming that I am right, that teachers are being paid for going to the Cuffy Ideological Institute, that those teachers who have attended legitimate courses receive what is their due and do not suffer. Money is wasted here.

Subhead 10, Maintenance of School Building. I have taken the opportunity again to look into several school buildings that are in need of repairs. Again I have a list of schools needing repairs and there are many schools suffering because of disrepair, no proper maintenance of buildings. Because of the number of schools needing repairs at this stage, I must say, with respect, that \$275,000, bearing in mind the high cost today of materials, cannot be enough to properly conduct this type of maintenance work on school buildings. If the Minister likes I would give him the information I have with respect to schools needing repairs, but I insist that there has to be more effort made by the Ministry on this question to concentrate on repairing many school buildings that are in need of repairs. I shall not itemise the schools unless the Minister would like to have the names of the schools called but I think he will agree with me that many schools need repairs and that some greater effort has to be placed there.

Subhead 12, Supplies to Schools. Here again the situation is very grave and I have taken the opportunity to prepare a list of various schools that are short of supplies from furniture to chalk, black boards to toilet paper, desks, chairs,. An endless mount is needed and again I wish, as I urged in the first place, that more money, more effort, more concentration be given to provide school supplies in sufficient quantities to satisfy the needs of our school population. We have more children now going to school. The Minister said so. We have to spend far more money to provide the necessary school supplies. Many schools are short of them.

On subhead 13, Upkeep of Schools Recreation Grounds, I simply want to use this opportunity to make one point and urge the hon. Minister to say what is being done with respect to the Greenwich Park Recreation Ground. Once it was used as a rice field. I understand that it is no longer used as a rice field but there is no playground there. I should like to urge the Minister to pay attention to that particular ground because it is in a very deplorable state and efforts must be made to put it back into a playground for the benefit of Essequibo.

Subhead 18, Purchase of Exercise Books for Distribution to School Children. We have heard quite a lot about this and I have not forgotten what the Cde. Minister said about how much

is being spent and what is being done to provide exercise books to children but I must submit that a survey indicates that in spite of what was said before not enough exercise books have been distributed to the schools.

At Tain and Port Mourant, for example, they received some exercise books in September/October last year and up to last week they had not received more supplies. Schools in that area are badly affected. The schools are Tain/Port Mourant Primary, Port Mourant Community and Corentyne High School. I understand also that the Rupununi schools are badly affected by the absence of school books and I have here a series of schools, primary and secondary, where young children do not have enough exercise books in spite of what the Minister said, namely that efforts are being made to give them. These areas should be properly serviced and whoever is in charge of distribution of exercise books ought to do the job in a more serious manner. Not all schools suffer from this problem but there are certain schools in need of exercise books at the moment.

The same arguments I put up with respect to the distribution of exercise books in schools, both primary and secondary, can be used with respect to textbooks. I have taken the opportunity to look into 31 schools, 18 secondary and 13 primary, and without exception in not one of these schools have I found satisfaction with respect to basic text-books. Some of the text-books are very seriously, particularly those relating to modern mathematics and science. I listened to some complaints where children are to take examinations and these books are not there. I agree with Minister that not everything can be done. The Minister said that you cannot expect Utopia, you cannot expect that everything would be given freely, but the essentials are short, for instance, text-books that are needed for children to take examinations in June, the C.X.C. and G.C.E or the 31 schools I visited, particularly the 18 secondary schools, none expressed satisfaction that they had a full quota. I do appreciate that you cannot do everything.

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed, you said that already. Let us move on to the next point.

Cde. Mohamed: The Minister should look into this question and see how best it can be resolved for the benefit of young people.

Subhead 8, Recruitment of Educators on Contract from Overseas. I wish to ask the Minister what is wrong, what has happened to those educators who came here on contract some time ago. I notice that he is asking for \$90,000. Does this mean that we are continuing the policy of recruiting educators from abroad? My understanding is that several of those who were previously recruited left in disgust and frustration. I understand that some of those who remained are given a hardship allowance. If so, how much? If there is a hardship allowance will the Minister also consider giving Guyanese, similarly qualified, a hardship allowance?

Now that we are asking for \$900,000 under this subhead, I want to ask the Minister whether he will not consider the employment of Guyanese who have qualified in History and International Law and who are here and cannot find jobs. I refer in particular to six comrades.

The Chairman: I have heard all of that before. I am not allowing that. You have asked that. Somebody else raised it. A list was given and all of that was discussed.

Cde. Mohamed: I wonder if the Minister can re-state Government's position with respect to students now returning from abroad, not before 1978 but since 1978. What is the Government's position with regard to comrades returning from studying abroad? They are properly qualified and come from Lumumba University.

Cde. Ram Karran (The Deputy Speaker): I merely want to ask one question on subhead 15, Grants to Hindu and Muslim organisations, page 119. The sum of \$5,000 was requisitioned last year and passed. From what I see in the Estimates the sum was not spent, yet we see the same amount stuck in there again. Obviously it is a mistake. Obviously there was no need for the sum last year. Why do you stick it in here?

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, that grant is to be given to Hindu and Muslim organisations, to wit, the Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha, the American Aryan League, the Gandhi Youth organisation and the Guyana United Sadr Islamic Anjuman for the teaching of Hindi and Urdu languages in Guyana.

I want to respond very briefly to a few things that Cde. Feroze Mohamed said concerning the allegation that teachers who are attending what he described as legitimate courses are not being paid. If that is so, if any teacher has not been paid for any services rendered to the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture or to Government, that teacher can come and see me tomorrow and I shall have that teacher paid by the Accountant General by 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

The Maintenance of School Buildings, Supplies to Schools. We have been asked for more. More money will be given if there is greater production and productivity in the country and if people like Cde. Feroze Mohamed were to help to inspire the Guyanese people to produce more so that the nation could have more in its coffers and so that we could be in a position to give these very people about whom Cde. Feroze Mohamed is pleading so apparently sincerely.

The Greenwich Park Recreation Ground is on our agenda for this year.

Book distribution. We are told that essentials are short. It is not contradictory that if those things are short, even the essentials, according to Cde. Mohamed, that we are doing so well? How is the performance of the schools of Guyana improving so rapidly over the years? If they are deprived of the basic essentials how is it that they are doing so well and I will quote later, as I did earlier, some of the results.

4.05 p.m.

Cde. Chairman, finally concerning the query made about the recruitment of educators on contract from overseas, when Cde. Feroze Mohamed spoke I was inclined not to reply. If he should make the same error again, I will refuse to reply because he is making a serious error and

I understand that he literate because that is a qualification for membership of the House. He speaks about a hardship allowance being given to these people when in fact it is a hard-lying allowance, not a hardship allowance. Doesn't he understand the difference between the two words, doesn't he understand English Language?

Head 44, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Primary and Secondary Schools - \$49,742,679 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 120.

HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE NURSERY SCHOOLS

Question proposed that the sum of \$8,156,000 for Head 45, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Nursery Schools stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 3, Dietary. The legend says “Expansion of Nursery School Feeding Programme.” I assume by that that not all those at nursery school will be receiving milk which is what we understand is being distributed here. May I ask the Minister at this point how many schools, if he knows, at this level are receiving this facility and what criterion is being used to dispense such a facility to our young people at the nursery schools.

Subhead 4, Courses for Nursery School Teachers. I wonder whether the Minister can explain why it is that last year only \$14,314 was spent to carry out such courses. It appears to my

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4.05 – 4.15 p.m.

mind that there is need for a lot of training for teachers in this field and although \$50,000 was approved, only \$14,000 plus was spent. I would like to know what prevented the full use of this money which obviously would have meant more of the number of nursery school teachers being trained.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, we did not spend all that was budgeted for because we were fortunate to get assistance from UNICEF and we mounted several courses during the year at the expense of UNICEF.

Head 45, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - Nursery Schools - \$8,156,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 121.

**HEAD 46 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION CENTRES**

Question proposed that the sum of \$3,110,966 for Head 46, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Practical Instruction Centres, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 46, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Practical Instruction Centres - \$3,110,966 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 122 and 123.

**HEAD 47 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
CYRIL POTTER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Question proposed that the sum of \$1,111,976 for Head 47, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Cyril Potter College of Education, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 1 (1), Principal. I understand that on 16th February an emergency assembly was called at 3.15 p.m. at this college where students are informed that due to the shortage of gas - -

The Chairman: I am not allowing that. This is dealing with the band for salary, the Principal's salary. Let us confine ourselves to the principal's salary.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, I was simply asking here –

The Chairman: To ask that same question which you were talking about just now about gas being short at the Potter School. Please deal with the man's salary, if not, we proceed to the next item.

Head 47, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Cyril Potter College of Education - \$1,111,976 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 124.

**HEAD 48 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, GEORGETOWN**

Question proposed that the sum of \$1,053,936 for Head 48, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Technical Institute, Georgetown, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 48, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Technical Institute, Georgetown, stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 125.

**HEAD 49 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CULTURE CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF HOME ECONOMICS**

Question proposed that sum of \$194,755 for Head 49, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Carnegie School of Economics, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 49, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Carnegie School of Home Economics - \$194,755 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 126.

**HEAD 50 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
QUEEN'S COLLEGE**

Question proposed that the sum of \$573,428 for Head 50, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Queen's College, stand part of the Estimates.

4.15 p.m.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 8, Education Supplies, Equipment and Apparatus. I would like to draw the Cde. Minister's attention to shortages that exist in this Institution. These shortages, I understand, particularly affect lower sixth form and not only books but also lab equipment. For the first time in the history of that school I understand that tests are given orally to students. This is very awkward and it is improper. I would like to inform the Minister of this problem so that they could look into it and correct the situation there.

I understand efforts are being made by the schools to raise funds, as a result of these shortages, to provide adequate amounts of these things. But in raising these funds I understand that certain practices are occurring which should not be encouraged. For example, students are told that if they do not assist in raising funds that that will be put in their transcripts later on. This is, in a way, a sort of intimidation. I also understand that students are being given slips of paper to take home to their parents saying that they must indicate on these slips whether they are prepared to give a contribution to the school or not. It is one thing to ask for voluntary contributions, but the Minister should look into these skilled ways of threat. I do not think that is fair and right. This has come to my attention and I thought this is the best place in which to draw the Minister's attention so that he could look into it.

Cde. Teekah: Like a broken record, I wish to remind Cde. Feroze Mohamed that there is a shortage of thanks and appreciation and congratulations in this world.

Head 50, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Queen's College - \$537,428 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 127.

**HEAD 51 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
BISHOP'S HIGH SCHOOL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$460,660 for Head 51, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bishop's High School, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 51, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bishop's High School - \$460,660 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 128.

**HEAD 52 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
ANNA REGINA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$2 for Head 52, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Anna Regina Secondary School, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 52, Ministry of Education, Social Development Culture – Anna Regina Secondary School - \$2 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 129.

**HEAD 53 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CULTURE BERBICE HIGH SCHOOL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$281,772 for Head 53, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Berbice High School, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 53, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Berbice High School - \$281,772 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 130.

**HEAD 54 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
NEW AMSTERDAM TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

Question proposed that the sum of \$759,407 for Head 54, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – New Amsterdam Technical Institute, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 54, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – New Amsterdam Technical Institute - \$759,407 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 131.

**HEAD 55 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
LILIAN DEWAR COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Question proposed that the sum of \$313, 665 for Head 55, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Lilian Dewar College of Education, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 1, item (4), Lecturer II/I. May I ask the Minister how soon the vacancies that exist here will be filled? I understand we have only one lecturer out of three teaching psychology. In Natural Sciences, there are only two out of three lecturers, and in Social Studies, there is one out of three. We would like to ask, in view of the fact that these shortages affect the students here, what efforts are being made for the filling of these vacancies at the moment.

Subhead 4, Library. I am sorry, but I think I must insist here on referring to the shortages because it is an important point. This is not the first time I am raising it; it is the second time. There are not enough science books here in this school. We need people trained in science and one would have thought, since this matter was raised before, serious efforts would have been made to resolve this problem in this institution. It is no point raising these problems all the time when we hear it is a record. But they are important and I would ask the Minister to ensure that books are supplied to the library of this institution.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, I have given a general answer to the question of shortages. To the question of how soon the vacancies will be filled, the answer is, soon.

Head 55, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Lilian Dewar College of Education - \$313,665 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 132.

**HEAD 56 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

Question proposed that the sum of \$874,966 for Head 56, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Curriculum Development Unit, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 56, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Curriculum Development Unit - \$874,966 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 133.

**HEAD 57 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
GUYANA INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE**

Question proposed that the sum of \$229,703 for Head 57, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Guyana Industrial Training Centre, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 57, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Guyana Industrial Training Centre - \$229,703 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

4.25 p.m.

The Chairman: Page 134 and 135.

**HEAD 58 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
PROBATION AND WELFARE SERVICE**

Question proposed that the sum of \$863,054 for Head 58, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, Probation and Welfare Service, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Reepu. Daman Persaud: Just a short contribution on subhead 1 (26). I wish to ask the Minister whether this department is being de-emphasised. We are voting money and I think it is a useful department and in view of so many things we have been talking about – I am talking about Probation Officers. How best their services can be used.

The Chairman: You are speaking on item (26) Probation Hostel Cook?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I am speaking on item (7), Probation and Welfare Officer 11/1, where there is provision for 26 Probation and Welfare Officers.

The Chairman: I am only allowing you to deal with the salaries. This is a question of salaries, whether the positions are filled or not filled, whether the payment is too much or too small or something like that.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I should like, with respect, to ask you if it is not – I shall comply with your ruling – the function of Parliament to question the type of services that the country gets for the money expended. It looks to me like a very legitimate approach to the work of the Parliament.

The Chairman: This is merely payment of salaries, if they are paid or if they are not being paid. You must find some other head under which to ask your question.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: If you do not want to permit me – I think it is a legitimate question – I would be grateful if you would allow me to deal with the probation service. This has not been spoken of. Nobody said a word about it.

The Chairman: Is that my fault?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I shall deal with a particular head. I want to move to the Essequibo Training School. That is the heading. I am sure that you will permit me to ask what type of training is being given to the people who have been sent to Essequibo Training School. Years ago it was the Essequibo Boys School.

The Chairman: This deals with the payment of the Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Senior House Master.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: If you will allow me to ask what kind of service is being offered by the school --- That is the head, in my humble submission.

The Chairman: Find a subhead.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: That is the head.

The Chairman: That is not in my rules.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Matron, Essequibo Training School, item (17), if I cannot deal with the school at all under that head. If not, I have to go to subhead 15 on page 135 which deals with Grant to Discharged Prisoners Aid Committee and subhead 21 which deals with Supplies and Equipment – Rehabilitation of Youths on Probation. I think those will offer me the right scope to make my contribution.

On subhead 15, the contribution I wish to make is ---It is very useful contribution because I think modern thinking does not permit offenders, particularly first offenders and young offenders, to be given punitive punishment. Indeed, the concept at the moment it to rehabilitate particularly young offenders and first offenders. In this respect the Probation Service can be of tremendous use. In my own experience in the courts in the past whenever a first officer appeared before a Magistrate, whether with counsel or without counsel, the Magistrate always ensured that the services of this department were utilised to ensure that it did not impose a penalty on someone who could rehabilitate himself. Indeed, the probation report can save imprisonment for prisoners, many of whom can become useful citizens in the context of today's thinking.

This being so, I do not think the Probation Services should be de-emphasised but I think better use should be made of it and in fact the type of approach in the services can be of great help both to the people concerned and, indeed, to the country as a whole, because the concept seems to be the general rehabilitation and welfare of the people.

I would wish, therefore, to call upon the Cde. Minister – he has been talking of many areas that he has been putting his fingers on – to say whether, since he has assumed office as Minister, he has examined the works, the functions, of the probation service to see if better use can be made of it.

I recall that in this very department there was talk of the children who should have been in school and were at the cinemas. Here again the probation service could be of some tremendous use.

The Chairman: I think all of that is irrelevant to subheads 15 and 21. This is Grant to Discharged Prisoners Aid Committee, that is, money being given to prisoners who have left the prison. Let us deal with that.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: The other subhead is Rehabilitation of Youth. Let me tell you how relevant it is and let me convince you that it is relevant. A young offender at a certain age is treated as a juvenile - I know that you were not exposed to criminal practice, Cde. Chairman. When he is treated as a juvenile, you have things such as suspended sentence provided for in our law. The Magistrate suspends the sentence on that individual and he directs the Probation Officer to keep a case report on that individual for a period of, say, twelve months and if that person should commit another offence within that period he can be brought before the Magistrate and sentenced for the offence on which sentence was suspended. I think that particular aspect is the one I must speak about.

Juveniles and youths need general rehabilitation and I want to urge very strongly and very sincerely in this House – and I hope that I shall succeed in persuading you to see the wisdom in it – that better use be made of the Probation Service so that we can try to arrest the deterioration in delinquency and crime. Young people have been deeply involved in various crimes of which the community has been complaining. I see that the Minister can utilise the department, as he said some time ago, in saving so many people who should have been in schools. Instead they were at the cinemas and what have you. Those are the points that undoubtedly occupy my mind as I use these relevant subheads to make my contribution before you this afternoon.

If such a person is put under the charge of a Probation Officer – I am talking about the rehabilitation question – it is not simply for him to report a first time and report a second time. He has to be in touch with the young offender who has been put under his charge and keep an eye on him. I am talking about rehabilitation. In the case of those who may be sent to the Essequibo Training School, I think an aptitude test should be carried out to see in what particular area---

The Chairman: Do you see what subhead 21 deals with? It is Supplies and Equipment – Rehabilitation of Youths on Probation.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Supplies and Equipment for the rehabilitation of youths. Thank you, very much. You have helped me, in that whatever equipment is to be acquired that is equipment to be used in the training of those people who have been sent to the Essequibo Training School. You have to buy tools if they are going to learn crafts. It could not be more relevant. Thank you very much.

Since money is going to be expended, I am suggesting that they come out sometimes with a smattering of knowledge in a particular field. I think the training should be more vigorous because many of them when they come out of the Essequibo Training School are not even suitable for appointment as an apprentice to a skilled tradesman.

My contribution this afternoon is to save the young and this Minister is concerned with this particular area in the country. So I am suggesting that the equipment should be relevant. I am suggesting that tools, suitable to the aptitude of those who are at the Essequibo Training School, should be bought and proper training should be carried out so that when they leave the Essequibo Training School they can serve usefully in the country and the probation exercise should not come to an end when that report is placed before the Magistrate and the Magistrate directs or orders that the particular juvenile be sent to the Essequibo Training School.

The Chairman: You are intent on talking on what you have in your mind. We are dealing with Supplies and Equipment. What has that got to do with the Report?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: In the Probation Service. You have to read it in conjunction with the total head. That is for rehabilitation of youths on probation.

The Chairman: It is only for Supplies and Equipment.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I have made my point. I am sure that you understood me and I have no doubt that the Minister has seen my contribution and he has an opportunity for the first time to say what is the policy with respect to this particular department. We are talking about a grant to discharged prisoners.

There is such a committee in the Prison. When a prisoner is discharged he gets a sum of money to rehabilitate himself. If you do not know, for your information, sir, a first offender if he spends a number of years, he gets \$7 per year and this is accurate information. So if he spends three years in the prison, at the conclusion of his prison term he gets \$21 when he is leaving the prison.

4.35 p.m.

The thing is a disgrace, it is a scandal. It just shows that you will have to send that man as soon as he leaves prison, if it was for an offence or snatching or robbery, to commit the same offence again. And if we are going to talk about rehabilitation and if the Ministry is going to appoint a rehabilitation committee, if the prisoners are to be interviewed and if the intention is sincere to rehabilitate them, I am sure the Minister this afternoon will concede that \$7 per year is ridiculous, \$21 after three years. I am sure I would have been able to persuade not only you but the entire Government benches on this question. Therefore, I am not opposing this sum. I am saying that the sum is ridiculously low and the sum doesn't answer a serious problem, the sum doesn't answer what undoubtedly is the intention and the intention is rehabilitation.

More than that, Cde. Chairman. It is generally accepted that people who may have been trained in the prison – this is happening there too – in particular skills leave prison after they would have been there for several years. I am not necessarily dealing with short-term sentences, I am dealing with persons who have been there for several years. They would have lost contact, they might be leaving the prison with nothing. I think this Ministry should make provision so

that the particular area of interest like tools for carpentry, what they would be skilled in, would be bought so as to give them a start. We do not want to continue otherwise it would be a serious mistake in any country if you are attempting to arrest the rate of crime and to seriously rehabilitate people just to send them out of the prison after three years with \$21.

Cde. Chairman, let me tell you, a second offender gets \$6 a year so that he would be leaving with \$18 after three years. I want therefore to call upon the Minister to look at the department, to recognise the importance of this department. It has served a useful purpose in the past. Probation officers have been able to make a great contribution and to serve in many many areas of reconciliation and I have got no doubt that the department can continue to play an effective role in the particular area which I have been referring to this afternoon.

Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, page 135, subhead 2, Transport and Travelling. I think I have a moral obligation to ask this question here in view of the fact that I didn't intend to talk again but I am a practising lawyer and I am perturbed over the fact of what this legend says and what is involved in these figures. Let us look at the figures. We are talking about Probation and Welfare Services. We must bear in mind that all costs in respect of transport and travelling have gone up. Gasoline has increased in price tremendously, maintenance generally has gone up. What do we see here? In 1976, \$84,977 was spent; in 1977, \$104,392 was spent actually; in 1978, \$117,464 was on the approved estimates, but what do we see as the revised figures? We see the small sum of \$32,793. What sort of de-emphasising is being done in respect of this Probation and Welfare Service? I am alarmed about it because as a practising lawyer I also know that they are of invaluable assistance to the magistrates in the administration of justice in this country. I see \$117,000 voted and only \$32,000 revised, and then this year when the cost of travelling and gasoline and everything has gone up, \$105,000 is provided with a legend saying that there was an overprovision in 1978. In every other Ministry we have seen transport and travelling figures up and the legend always reads, because of increased cost for transport and travelling, yet in this one we see a lessening of the amount and the legend says, overprovided in 1978. I really am perturbed over the underspending in 1978 and wonder how it is that in 1977 when the actual amount of \$104,392 was spent, you could come down in 1978 to \$32,000. The

officers have not been doing their work? Have they not have the money and the facilities to go around and do their job? Look at it, it is clear; in 1977 \$104,000, in 1978 \$32,000 with the increased cost of gasoline and all the increases. I really would like to know what has happened in respect of their travelling around the country to the different courts and the different areas to do their jobs and why it is that the amount of money is less rather than more in the light of increased costs. I merely talk because I am perturbed about it.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singih is a practising lawyer. I happen to have done a degree in law. These estimates we are discussing are current and capital estimates of Guyana for the year 1979, Mr. Feilden Singh is talking about 1978.

Concerning the points made by Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, I have always felt that these are areas of disagreement between Hinduism and Marxism. I am convinced ---

The Chairman: You had better be careful in what you are saying.

Cde. Teekah: ---out of what Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud has said this afternoon that there are very many areas of commonality also between Hinduism and Marxism because a Pandit and a Marxist have also been able to see eye to eye and on the same question, to wit, Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and myself.

Now, he is preaching to the converted when he speaks about what should be done in the Probation Department because this is an area of great concern to not only the Minister but to all of us in the Ministry. We are working very hard and in a matter of weeks there will be public announcements about what we will be doing concerning those persons who ought to be rehabilitated. And without attempting to divulge on the secrets of the Cabinet, in order to make it more relevant at this point in time in Guyana, in order to get out what we seek, namely to better orient our young Guyanese, Government has in mind to re-organise that Essequibo Training School. The type of organisation for me to say now is not yet appropriate.

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4.35 – 4.45 p.m.

Head 58, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Probation and Welfare Services - \$863,054 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 136.

**HEAD 59 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
BYGEVAL/MAHAICA SECONDARY SCHOOL – MULTILATERAL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$522,800 for Head 59, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bygeval/Mahaica Secondary School, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 59, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bygeval/Mahaica Secondary School- Multilateral - \$522,800 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

4.45 p.m.

Chairman: Page 137 and 138.

**HEAD 60 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
ANNA REGINA SECONDARY SCHOOL – MULTILATERAL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$734,336 for Head 60, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Anna Regina Secondary School – Multilateral, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 60, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Anna Regina Secondary School – Multilateral - \$734,336 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 139.

**HEAD 61 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
BLADEN HALL SECONDARY SCHOOL – MULTILATERAL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$582,026 for Head 61, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bladen Hall Secondary School – Multilateral, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: I have just one little comment here. Subhead 10, Materials, Equipment, Books, etc. I notice we continue spending money for equipment. That is good, we welcome that, but we would also like to see proper security for this equipment, particularly in this institution recently where several items of expensive equipment were stolen in spite of the fact that we have four security guards. I would like to call upon the Minister to ensure that whilst we invest money to buy equipment and materials, he must also ensure that proper protection is given to these materials and let us not lose thousands of dollars' worth of expensive and important equipment and equipment which is necessary to promote education in this field. We call therefore for the Minister to pay greater attention to the security of what we already have in these institutions.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, we will protect, at all times, the equipment in our schools.

Head 61, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Bladen Hall Secondary School – Multilateral - \$582,026 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 140.

Question proposed that the sum of \$622,801 for Head 62, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – New Amsterdam Secondary School – Multilateral, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 62, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – New Amsterdam Secondary School – Multilateral - \$622,801 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 141.

**HEAD 63 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
CHRISTIANBURG/WISMAR SECONDARY SCHOOL – MULTILATERAL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$494,031 for Head 63, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Christianburg/Wismar Secondary School – Multilateral, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 63, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Christianburg/Wismar Secondary School – Multilateral - \$494,031 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 142.

**HEAD 64 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
RUIMVELDT SECONDARY SCHOOL – MULTILATERAL**

Question proposed that the sum of \$560,000 for Head 64, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Ruimveldt Secondary School – Multilateral, stand part of the Estimates.

Head 64, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Ruimveldt Secondary School – Multilateral - \$560,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 143.

**HEAD 65 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE
PORT KAITUMA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL – (RESIDENTIAL)**

Question proposed that the sum of \$577,700 for Head 65, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Port Kaituma Community High School (Residential), stand part of the Estimates.

Head 65, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – Port Kaituma Community High School (Residential) - \$577,700 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 221.

**DIVISION XXV – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND CULTURE**

Question proposed that the sum of \$7,543,000 for Division XXV, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: I do not want to ask much here. Under subhead 5, Teachers Housing, the legend states: “To provide for teachers housing in interior areas.” I would simply like to ask the Minister whether, whilst it is said interior areas, he would not consider also the construction of teachers’ housing at Moleson Creek where a recent problem developed, and also a house for the headmaster of Mahaica No. 10 Government School which is presently being used as a police outpost.

Subhead 28, Netherlands Aid Projects. Bearing in mind what the legend states, I would like to know whether that will include the continuation of the extension work of the Mabaruma school which was started but which has been held up. We would like to know now that we are getting this aid whether work would resume on this school. Does this include also the construction of a school at Karagrad in the Pomeroon River where I understand there is a community but there are no schools for the kids there. I would also like to know whether this would take into consideration the reconstruction of the Hobediah school which is in use but which is not very appropriate for a school at the moment.

Cde. Teekah: Cde. Chairman, we are endeavouring to provide teachers’ houses as far as it is practicable throughout Guyana. It is very difficult to provide all these houses at the same time. Everyone knows Guyana’s problem but the urgency to get some houses done is greater in

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4.45 – 4.55 p.m.

some cases than in others. I did not read during the general debate a list of the houses to be done under the Netherlands project, so I would not repeat this.

4.55 p.m.

Concerning the schools as asked for in other areas, some of them will be done under our normal programme because the Ministry has a development programme where we project in advance. Right here, for example, I have my Permanent Secretary and my Chief Planning Officer advising me. We look at what we have at the moment and then we try to anticipate what will be the problem in education next year and the following year and we try to project and see in advance what is happening and what is likely to happen. So we have a development programme and we follow very closely the development day by day of education in Guyana. Some of these schools mentioned by Cde. Mohamed will be taken care of in our normal development programme. In some cases some need repairs. In some cases work will be done by self-help. In some cases money will be taken out of the capital funds voted by Parliament. Many of these things will be taken care of.

Division XXV, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture - \$7,543,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE**

Cde. Teekah: May I crave your indulgence, as this is the last Head under the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture, to make an announcement relevant to the Ministry. I am sure you will be happy, as all Guyanese, that we have just been told, yesterday, that two Guyanese have topped the world at the June 1978 City and Guilds of London Institute examinations. They are Chandradat Jairam, who won the first prize and the City and Guilds Institute's silver medal Stage 11 in Agricultural Mechanics, and David Seepersaud who has also won the first prize and the London City and Guilds Institute Bronze medal in the plumbing craft. It is the first time that Guyana has brought first in the City and Guilds examination. We are all very happy and I am sure you will join all of us in this very happy moment. *[Applause]*

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4.55 – 5.05 p.m.

The Chairman: Page 223.

**DIVISION XXVII – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
CULTURE**

**IDA PROJECTS
SECOND EDUCATION PROJECT**

Question proposed that the sum of \$10,000,000 for Division XXVII, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – IDA Projects, Second Education Project, stand part of the Estimates.

Division XXVII, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture – IDA Projects, Second Education Project - \$10,000,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Assembly resumed.

Sitting suspended at 4.57 p.m.

5.28 p.m.

On resumption ---

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Pages 44 to 47.

HEAD 20 – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that the sum of \$3,716,921 for Head 20, Ministry of Information, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Subhead 9, page 47, Photographic Supplies. I see we continue to spend quite a bit on this subhead and I should like to call upon the Minister to ensure more judicious spending with respect to money voted under this subhead. I have information that several films have been produced but unfortunately they are not of much use to the public, for example, the

one with respect to the Referendum. I understand that because of too many revelations, it has been shelved. I think money was not correctly spent on that production. I should like the Minister to clarify that.

I understand, too, that, as a policy of the Ministry, a lot of 35 mm films are being produced in the hope that these films will be shown in cinemas. Unfortunately not all the cinemas are able to accommodate these films and therefore the expenditure on production of these films may not be well worth it. It may be better for the Ministry to produce 16 mm films so that if the cinemas are not able to accommodate them they can be used by projectors to any audience. This, I think, would be more judicious spending of the money and better use of the photographic supplies.

Subhead 10, Maintenance of Equipment. I should like the Minister also to pay some attention to how the equipment we are purchasing is maintained. I understand that the equipment at the Film unit section, because of improper temperature, is generally affected. We do not have proper air conditioning and this results in equipment not being properly maintained. I think if we are going to spend money on these things, they should be properly maintained. We ask the Minister to pay some attention to the maintenance of equipment in this department.

Subhead 14, Preservation of Archives. I do not recognise that the Minister is new, but based on the information I have received, I should like to invite the Minister to visit the Archives to find out about the preservation of our documents. My information is that the building is in such a state of disrepair that the documents are affected. The documents are not properly preserved and one would like to urge the Minister to pay attention to this factor and also to look at the relationship that is existing within that section. I understand that warring factions are developing in that area and even fights are occurring between members of the staff. If the Minister has not as yet visited that area I suggest that he visit it to look at the relationship existing there, a relationship that extends sometimes to the public, the people who make use of the Archives, and also to look at the preservation of the documents in that very important institution.

5.30 p.m.

On subhead 20, Expenses – Film Censorship, I would like to once more speak on this subject. We are spending a little more in this area. I have had cause to criticise the type and quality of films coming into this area. I particularly appeal to the new Minister because he has recently returned from a Socialist country where he had the opportunity to see Socialist morality and I am sure he took the opportunity whilst being there to find out about the influence and where films can shape the Socialist morality. I am sure when he looks at the type and quality of the films coming into our country he will not agree that these things augur well for the shaping of that morality because of that I would like to emphasise that the Minister himself should pay special attention to the type of films shown on our screens, coming to our cinemas, reaching out to our population, particularly our young population.

Very recently we heard that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Home Affairs are co-operating to end truancy. Perhaps one of the areas that should be tackled in trying to end this truancy is not only to pick the children off the streets but to change the films being shown. I am sure the present Minister would agree with me based on his experience in Cuba. But apart from that I would like to know what steps are being taken to implement the Laurie Lewis Report. I understand that certain very good suggestions were made by that committee with respect to cinemas and I think the Ministry or the Minister would be able to explain what steps have already been taken to better our cinemas at this moment.

Sports and Games. There is a visible increase in sports particularly in the city. We understand that there is going to be even an emphasis on the development of sports and introduction of new games. We welcome this, it is a good exercise, a good activity. But when I look at the expenditure I see that there is no increase and in wonder to what extent are we serious in promoting and developing sports and games activities. Perhaps more funds channeled in this direction would have been useful and it could have meant that instead of more or less a concentration in the city we would have seen more sports being developed throughout the country. Not that there are no sport activities in the country, but I think the Minister would agree with me that there is need for more emphasis on sport activities outside of the city.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

The Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development (Cde. Campbell): Cde. Chairman, even though the subhead to which the hon. Member made reference does not relate at all to films but rather to photographs, I shall nonetheless try to respond to his question.

It is true that the expenditure under that subhead has increased over the years but I am sure the hon. Member is aware of the fact that photographic supplies, whether they be paper or whatever, are not produced in this country and the cost of this type of equipment is fixed beyond our shores and therefore the prices are beyond our control. The fact that we have been able to maintain in 1978 the same figure which was approved in 1978 is, I think, a very clear indication of the Ministry of Information to exercise the greatest possible efficiency in the utilization of funds in this as in other areas.

On the question of the 16 mm and 35 mm films, it is true that there are more facilities for the showing of 16 mm films but clearly Cde. Feroze Mohamed has contradicted himself when he goes on to say that the cinema should show a different type of film, because if we are asking the cinema to show a different type of film, then to some extent we should aid in the production of the film which could be used in the cinemas and the cinemas would use 35 mm films. What our film centre in fact does is to produce a number of 15 mm films for showing by mobile unit etc, and also a certain number of 35 mm films for the showing in the cinemas.

I wish to thank the hon. Member for his invitation for me to visit the Archives. I also wish to inform him that I have already paid two visits to the Archives since my appointment, the second of those visits being only a few hours ago. I wish to assure him that I and the Ministry and the Government share his concern about the difficulties being faced by the workers at the Archives, the difficulties of running proper archives under the conditions which prevail at the present time. I wish to assure him that we are taking all possible steps to deal with that situation not merely in terms of trying to find the funds to erect a new building but also in terms of some short term measure. It is precisely that kind of concern which resulted in my visit there this morning. I feel very confident, that when the time comes to incur expenditure to make the

facilities better, to put into effect what the hon. Member desires, that he will have the full support of his party for this type of expenditure.

On the question of quarrelling factions within the Archives, I really do not think the honourable House needs to be burdened with problems of conflict which might arise in one workplace or another. Hardly could there be a social grouping without some form of conflict. And while I have received no reports from the quarrelling factions or about fights, during my visits to the Archives, I have received a very clear impression that the staff is trying to work to the best of its ability and under those difficult conditions to make the Archives as useful as possible to the people of Guyana. While this is my impression, I have no doubt that as in any other social group there must be some sort of conflict from time to time. Even in this honourable House we do occasionally have evidence of conflict.

Cde. Chairman, I could not agree more with the hon. Member in his comments about the need to change and to improve the quality of films available to the viewing public in this country. Right now I am in the process of preparing for publication a new list of films censors and the Party to which the hon. Member belongs will be represented on that new Board of Film Censors. I hope and I am confident that through that representation that party will make some contribution to the resolution of this problem.

I could not agree more about the need for and the value of showing Socialist films in the cinemas. My information is that there are such films available, and that the Ministry has for quite some time been trying to persuade cinema owners that they should include Socialist films among the films which they show. Any help which the hon. Member and his Party can give to persuade those cinema owners, with whom they would have some kind of relationship, to show Socialist films would be greatly appreciated.

With regard to the implementation of the Laurie Lewis Report, I would like to notify this honourable House that Cde. Laurie Lewis is in fact Chairman of a Committee which is looking into the question of improvement of conditions at cinemas on an on-going basis.

5.40 p.m.

Head 20, Ministry of Information - \$3,716,921 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 205.

DIVISION XI – MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question proposed that the sum of \$796,000 for Division XI, Ministry of Information, stand part of the Estimates.

Cde. Mohamed: Cde. Chairman, there is just one little question I would like to direct to the Minister. I direct this question particularly in view of the manner in which he has answered the previous questions. I note here at subhead 10, National Library, what will be given for its extension. We welcome this very much.

I would like to propose to the Minister that it should not only be an extension but he should look again at the programme of the library to see whether more people should not be encouraged to utilise the facilities of the library. I say this particularly with respect to extending the time for the opening of the library. Perhaps we can have it opened now up to 8 o'clock at night. Perhaps he will want to consider opening the library on Sundays so that more people, when they have leisure time, can utilise the facilities of the library. I would also like to ask the Minister to look into the expansion of library services throughout the country because I am sure we would all be interested to have more of the Guyanese population reading, studying, learning and utilising facilities of a library within these areas.

Cde. Campbell: Cde. Chairman, with regard to the possibility of extending the opening hours of the library, I can assure the hon. Member that I am prepared to give some consideration to his suggestion. But representing, as he does, a party which he claimed, especially in recent times, some kind of consideration that workers should participate in deciding on their lives and their destinies and activities in their workplaces, I am sure he would agree with me that in considering this suggestion I should have to take account of the point of view of the workers in

the library services. On the other hand, I am sure the hon. Member would himself take into account the increased expenditure which this would incur.

It is worthy of note that the expenditure, which this honourable House is being asked to approve for the library services under Current Estimates, indicates an increase of \$100,000 over the approved figure for last year, that is to say, an increase of about 25 per cent. Clearly, this indicates some determination, some interest on the part of the Government that the library services should be improved and expanded and that determination on our part includes an interest in the rural library facilities. Indeed, as I said to this House on an earlier occasion, the rural library is an important element of the work of the library and moreso of its future activities.

Division XI, Ministry of Information - \$796,000 – agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Comrades and hon. Members, this completes consideration in Committee of Supply of the 1979 Estimates of Expenditure. The Assembly will now resume.

Assembly resumed.

The Speaker: Cde. Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives.

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Cde. Hoyte): Cde. Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply considered the Estimates of Expenditure for 1979 at six meetings held on 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th March, 1979. The Committee made changes to four Heads: Head 1, Office of the President was increased by \$46,540. Head 28, Ministry of Agriculture – Agriculture – was increased by \$47,567. Head 30, Ministry of Agriculture – Hydraulics – was increased by \$81,684. Head 32, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources was increased by \$183,375. The total Estimates were therefore increased by \$359,166 and were passed at \$620,630,118. The Motion for the approval of the Estimates would therefore have to be amended accordingly.

The Speaker: I will now put the amended Motion, that is:

“That this National Assembly approve the Estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1979, a total sum of six hundred and twenty million, six hundred and thirty thousand, one hundred and eighteen dollars, net of appropriation –in-aid, and excluding two hundred and forty-eight million, three hundred and ninety-three thousand, five hundred and seventeen dollars, which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the undermentioned schedule, and agree that it is an expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.”

Agreed to.

Motion carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 12

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House (Cde. Ramsaroop): Cde. Speaker, now that the Estimates have been approved, it is necessary under paragraph (2) of Article III of the Constitution for the Appropriation Bill to be introduced in the Assembly to provide for the issuance from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet expenditure as approved and for the appropriation of the amount required. I have consulted Members and there is full agreement that the Bill be disposed of this afternoon. Consideration of the Bill under our Standing Orders, as we all know, is a matter of mere formality. The Bill has been published and copies have been circulated to Members.

As we have passed the item on the Order Paper for the Introduction of Bills, it is necessary for Standing Order No. 12 which sets out the order of Business to be suspended to enable the Bill to be introduced at this stage. I therefore seek your leave to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 12.

The Speaker: Leave is granted.

Cde. Ramsaroop: Having obtained your leave, I now move that Standing Order No. 12 be suspended to enable the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives to introduce the 1979 Appropriation Bill at this stage.

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5.40 – 5.50 p.m.

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Order No. 12 suspended.

5.50 p.m.

BILLS

APPROPRIATION BILL

Presentation and First Reading

A Bill intituled:

PAGES ARE MISSING FROM THE TRANSCRIPT