

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, 13th April, 1951

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. John Gutch, O.B.E., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. J. Gutch, O.B.E.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. D. J. Parkinson, O.B.E. (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney General, Mr. F. W. Holder, K.C.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.

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

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

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River)

The Hon. W. J. Raatgever (Nominated)

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated)

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

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E. (Nominated)

The Hon. Capt. J. P. Coghlan (Demerara River)

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

The Hon. J. Fernandes (Georgetown Central)

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

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

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

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

The Hon. G. H. Smellie (Nominated)

The Hon. J. Carter (Georgetown South)

The Hon. F. E. Morrish (Nominated)

The Hon. L. A. Luckhoo (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 12th of April, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

MORTUARY AT MAHAICA

Mr. DEBIDIN gave notice of the following motions:—

WHEREAS the village of Mahaica-Helena-Supply has always been and is still one of the Colony's largest villages, and is central to a very large number of other populated areas, namely La Bonne Mere, Cane Grove, Mahaica Creek, Chelsea Village, Vygeval, DeHoop, Manilla,

Strangroen, Content, Columbia, Glazier's Lust, Rebecca's Rust, Broek-en-Water-Land, Lancaster, Unity, etc., etc.;

AND WHEREAS since the closing down of the sugar estate at Pln. Cane Grove the hospital at Cane Grove has been closed;

AND WHEREAS there is no mortuary in the aforesaid districts, and the nearest mortuary used in respect of any cases from the aforesaid districts is at Pln. Enmore, East Coast, Demerara;

AND WHEREAS this results in the greatest hardship and inconvenience to those in the aforesaid districts;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommend to Government that steps be taken immediately for the erection of a proper mortuary at some convenient place at Mahaica, East Coast, Demerara.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL AT MAHAICA

WHEREAS the village of Mahaica-Helena-Supply has always been and is still one of the Colony's largest villages, and is central to a very large number of other populated areas namely La Bonne Mere, Cane Grove, Mahaica Creek, Chelsea Village, Vygeval, DeHoop, Manilla, Strangroen, Content, Columbia, Glazier's Lust, Rebecca's Rust, Broek-en-Water-Land, Lancaster, Unity, etc.;

AND WHEREAS these districts have been served before, when the population had not been as great, by a medical officer residing at Mahaica;

AND WHEREAS since the closing down of the sugar estate at Pln. Cane Grove the hospital at Cane Grove has been closed;

AND WHEREAS the above districts are served by a Government Medical Officer residing at Belfield, East Coast, Demerara, about ten miles distant from Mahaica, and in the case of some of the abovementioned districts about twenty miles distant;

AND WHEREAS the sick, injured, maternity cases, etc., suffer the greatest inconvenience one can imagine to obtain quick and adequate medical attention, relief and treatment, and having regard to the growing importance of the growing population of the area covered by the above districts;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommend that Government take steps—

- (a) to establish a cottage hospital in the Mahaica Village aforesaid;
- (b) provide for a Government Medical Officer to be resident at Mahaica; and
- (c) that pending the establishment of the Cottage Hospital aforesaid a Government dispensary with full first-aid facilities and a whole-time Sick Nurse and Dispenser be established immediately at Mahaica.

U.K.—CUBA RECIPROCAL TRADE PACT.

Mr. RAATGEVER: Sir, before we proceed to the Order of the Day I crave your indulgence to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rule and Order to enable me to move a motion of vital importance to the welfare of the people of our Colony.

The PRESIDENT: What is the matter?

Mr. RAATGEVER: Copies of the motion have been circulated to Members and I have handed a copy to the Clerk of the Council, but I will read the motion for your information. The motion reads:

WHEREAS this Legislature is disturbed by persistent rumours of a contemplated Cuba-United Kingdom reciprocal trade pact which might result in a reduction of preferential market especially for sugar;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature enter a strong protest against conclusion of the pact without prior consultation and agreement with the British West Indies Sugar Association and the British West Indies and British Guiana Governments.

Mr. LUCKHOO seconded.

Dr. JAGAN: I am opposed to the motion being taken at the present time. I do not see why the Standing Rules and Orders should be suspended in order to deal with the motion now. We are not apprised of all the facts relevant to this matter, and I do not feel that this Council is constitutionally competent to deal with this matter. Not very long ago I gave notice of a motion seeking to ban the importation of goods of South African origin into this country, and I was told

by the hon. the Attorney-General that that motion was not within the scope of this Legislature as it dealt with a matter beyond the bounds of local problems. In fact it dealt with Commonwealth problems. This matter about the Agreement between the United Kingdom and Cuba is still being discussed, and we do not know what conclusions will be reached. I therefore do not see that any useful purpose would be served by discussing or passing such a resolution. I do not consider the matter urgent, and therefore I am opposing the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders.

If it is the feeling of the Council that the motion should be taken early, I think that notice of it should be given, and that the hon. the Attorney-General should advise whether this Council is competent to deal with such a motion. If it is in order then it should be put on the Order Paper early, and Members would then have an opportunity to express their views on it. On several occasions I have attempted to speak on questions of Empire preference, tariffs and so forth, but on every occasion it has been said that they were big questions and should be left for future discussion. However, from time to time we have had motions such as this discussed in this Council without giving Members an opportunity to go into the subjects comprehensively. Consequently I do not feel that it is right for this Council to discuss this motion until we have gone into the matter thoroughly.

Mr. ROTH: We are well aware that the word "sugar" is like a red rag to a bull to the hon. Member who has just taken his seat.

Dr. JAGAN: I object to the statement made by the hon. Member.

Mr. ROTH: I repeat, on facts which are well known to us, that the word "sugar" is like a red rag to a bull to the hon. Member, despite the fact

that he owes his present success in life to sugar.

Dr. JAGAN: May I interrupt again? The hon. Member is quite wrong when he says I owe my present status to sugar. Perhaps he owes his rights and pensions and everything else to sugar.

Mr. ROTH: The hon. Member refuses to see or to recognize the great importance which this matter bears to this country, and I certainly think that what the mover has said is correct—that we should proceed with the discussion of this motion at the earliest possible moment.

Mr. MORRISH: I would like to support the hon. Member who has just taken his seat, in urging that the motion should be dealt with immediately, because it is of vital importance to the Colony.

Motion for the suspension of the relevant Standing Rule and Order put, and the Council divided and voted:

For—Messrs. Luckhoo, Morrish, Carter, Smellie, Phang, Fernandes, Debidin, Coghlan, Farnum, Ferreira, Roth, Raatgever, Wight and Dr. Nicholson—14.

Against—Dr. Jagan.

Did not vote—The Financial Secretary and Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—3.

Motion carried.

Mr. RAATGEVER: Hon. Members will recollect that as their representative I had the honour of assisting in the presentation of the case for an increased quota on behalf of this Colony to H.M. Government last year, and that an Agreement was reached which was issued in a joint statement by the U.K. Government and the British West Indies Sugar Delegation, and published on July 7, 1950. In that announcement it was stated that—

"If consumption levels in the United Kingdom prove higher than has been estimated, the United Kingdom Government will offer to increase the quantities to be purchased under guarantee. The increase will be at least in proportion to the amount by which actual consumption proves to exceed the present estimate. For example, if consumption proved to be 5 per cent. above the estimate the offer would be to increase the guaranteed quantities by at least 5 per cent."

It is clear, therefore, that any increase in the U.K. purchases of foreign sugar would materially reduce the markets for Commonwealth producers, and it is not difficult to foresee the hardship which that would cause not only to the producers but to the economy and welfare of this Colony and the British West Indies. I have read in the newspapers recently that H.M. Government proposed to conclude a pact with Cuba with regard to taking sugar from that country. It has been stated that negotiations are proceeding with the Cuban Government, and that the Commonwealth Sugar Producers have protested vigorously against the policy of the British Government in not taking Empire suppliers into their confidence. Unless the U.K. Government contemplates some special arrangement of which we are not aware, any agreement for the purchase of sugar from Cuba is bound to have a serious effect upon the sugar industry in British Guiana and the Welfare of the people of this Colony.

A further and even more serious aspect of the matter is the Canadian market. It has been stated that negotiations are proceeding between Canada and Cuba which threaten to cut the British West Indies and British Guiana out of a large share of the Canadian sugar market. It has been rumoured that the tonnage involved is something in the vicinity of 75,000 tons annually, and if any figure in that vicinity is contemplated the effect upon the British West Indies and British Guiana markets would be very great, not only from the point of view of sugar exports but also on the whole question of trade relations with Canada. Canada's imports of sugar during the 12 months—Sep-

tember, 1949 to August, 1950, were as follows:

Barbados, 66,239 tons (metric); Jamaica, 120,673; Trinidad, 56,333; British Guiana, 111,132; Mauritius, 50,737; Fiji, 78,815; Australia, 46,533; Other countries, 20,441; total 550,903 tons.

In the U.K.—Commonwealth negotiations and Agreement it was made abundantly clear that the Dominions and Colonies would have to dispose of 550,000 tons of sugar in an unguaranteed market outside the United Kingdom. The British West Indies share of that quantity was placed at 175,000 tons, which would be dependent upon a market being found in Canada at competitive prices with the aid of preference. Members will thus realize the serious position the workers and the people of this Colony would be placed in if any agreement is concluded with the Cuban Government to the detriment of the Colonies in this part of the world. It should be remembered that when the delegation saw H.M. Ministers last year, they impressed on them that the whole of the output of sugar in this Colony and the West Indian Colonies should be purchased by H.M. Government at a guaranteed price. In other words, that the sugar producers in these Colonies should be assured of a guaranteed market for their entire production, so that the people of the Colonies may be assured of more work and more money—in fact more prosperity and an improved standard of living to the people in this part of the world as a result of the Agreement concluded with H.M. Government. Members will thus realise that if this Legislature does not take any action in the matter the people of the Colony would be in a very bad way, because sugar is still the mainstay, the sheet-anchor of the Colony, and until we can increase productivity in other ways, which I fear will take a very long time, we must depend upon sugar and give the sugar industry all the support necessary. I am asking you, sir, if this motion is passed, to be good enough to transmit a copy to H.M. Government in the United Kingdom. I now formally move the motion.

Mr. LUCKHOO: May I second the motion so ably moved by the hon. the Second Nominated Member, and in doing so I would like to reiterate his closing remark that sugar does play a very important part in the economic structure of our Colony. I say so from the point of view of the workers because, except we are assured of markets, it means that the amenities which they enjoy will no longer be provided for them, but necessary restrictions must follow. The prosperity of sugar, the obtaining of good markets, are things inalienably bound up with the prosperity of the workers, and because the Unions representing the workers on the several sugar estates are aware of those things and view the situation with grave concern and much trepidation, one of the recognized Unions, the Man-Power Citizens' Association, through its General President, sent a cable through His Excellency the Governor to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 2nd of April. With your permission, sir, and because I feel it is relevant, I would like to read the text of that cablegram as being pertinent to this debate. It reads:

"Please convey to H.M. Government Man-Power Citizens' Association's deep concern over bilateral sugar negotiations between itself and the Cuban Government. This organization reminds H.M. Government that as a great trading nation and trustee of British Colonies it cannot at the one and same time rightly do business with other nations contrary to the best interest of such Colonies held in sacred trust. Furthermore, such action would be construed by Colonials to mean complete disregard by British Socialist Government of its moral and contractual obligations towards them. M.P.C.A. therefore most respectfully beg to enter and place on record its solemn and humble protest."

These bilateral trade discussions taking place between representatives of the United Kingdom and Cuba are causing much alarm among the Unions concerned with the interests of the ordinary workers on the estates, and one feels that where the Colonies have been co-operating so readily with the United Kingdom in so many respects, where

today we are importing goods from the United Kingdom which, maybe, can be obtained from Canada and elsewhere, we are doing so to show our willingness to co-operate at a time which is unusual and grave. We feel that the United Kingdom should, in like manner, consult us before they enter upon any agreement which might prejudice our claims as a country producing sugar.

The hon. mover gave many figures. I would just like to add one set to them. The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement of 1950 was based on the assumption that the unrestricted requirements of the United Kingdom would be 2,550,000 ton, and it was understood then that that amount would be made up as follows:—

Dominions and Colonies—	
—guaranteed	—1,550,000 tons
—not guaranteed	250,000
United Kingdom Beet Sugar—		500,000 "
Foreign Sugar	— 250,000

I feel that any agreement entered into between the United Kingdom and Cuba must of necessity prejudice our particular markets. I understand, sir,— I do not know how true it is—that there is also a threat to cut the British West Indies and British Guiana market in respect of the Canadian purchase. It may not be relevant to the motion but I feel that it does pertain to it, because at the moment we do enjoy a certain market from Canada, and if there is a threat to cut or reduce that particular market, then it means that our supply, difficult as it was before, becomes even more difficult. Sir, I feel sure that this motion will have the unanimous support of every member of this Council, because it is something which vitally affects every individual in the Colony. I can do no better than end up by quoting the motto of the Colony *Damus Petimusque Vicissim*.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : (Mr. D. J. Parkinson, acting) : Sir, with your permission I would like to read a statement from the Secretary of State for the Colonies which has a bearing on the subject matter of this

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motion. The statement reads as follows:—

“Bilateral trade discussions are taking place between representatives of United Kingdom and Cuba. They are taking place at Torquay, although outside the formal scope of talks under General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Purchases of sugar from Cuba by United Kingdom during years 1951 to 1953 inclusive are part of subject matter of these discussions. Until they are concluded a detailed statement cannot be made, but no agreement with Cuba will be reached which would prejudice undertaking given to Commonwealth Sugar Producers by United Kingdom when Commonwealth Sugar Agreement was negotiated last year.

“Nevertheless in order to reassure Commonwealth Sugar Producers, H.M. Government announce that if an agreement is made with Cuba which includes an undertaking on the part of H.M. Government to purchase Cuban sugar in 1953, they are willing to give an undertaking to find in that year a market for exportable surplus sugar for Commonwealth countries concerned up to full limit laid down in Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. They will be very ready to discuss with representatives of Commonwealth Producers the most acceptable method of giving effect to this undertaking.”

Arising out of that statement, and with reference to the first part of the motion which has been moved, it appears that it is not the intention of H.M. Government to make any agreement beyond the year 1953, and furthermore, that if an agreement is made which covers the year 1953, then they will guarantee to find in 1953 a market for the exportable surplus sugar up to the full limit laid down in the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. It does not, therefore, appear there are any grounds for apprehending any reduction in the preferential market, or any danger that British Guiana or B.W.I. sugar will not find a market in 1953 by reason of any agreement for the purchase of sugar from Cuba.

As regards the second part of the motion, I have already said that the negotiations have not been concluded,

and the British West Indies Sugar Producers' Association has certainly been consulted and has certainly been very active in London making representations. So the suggestion in that part of the motion, that the British Guiana and British West Indies Sugar Producers' Association has not been consulted, is entirely incorrect.

Mr. MORRISH: To a point of correction! The headquarters of the British West Indies Sugar Producers' Association are in Trinidad.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I am sorry if I am confusing the British West Indies Sugar Producers' Association with the West India Committee. Possibly I am doing so, but the representatives certainly of the West India Committee, including Mr. Campbell, Mr. Barton and Mr. Kirkwood, have taken part in discussions at the Colonial Office. So much for the negotiations between the United Kingdom and Cuba.

As regards the negotiations between Canada and Cuba, the position is naturally more obscure. We have had less information, but we are aware that such negotiations are in progress. Whether any agreement has been reached I do not know, but before he left the Colony the Governor cabled the Secretary of State for the Colonies expressing his apprehensions of the possible effect of any agreement between Canada and Cuba. We are also aware that both H.M. Government and the other Dominion Governments affected, particularly Australia, have made representations to Canada on the subject, but I am not in a position to give any detailed information, and we are not in a position to make representations to the Canadian Government in the same way as H.M. Government. The position appears to be that as far as the United Kingdom-Cuba negotiations are concerned there is no threat to B.W.I. sugar. So far as the Canada-Cuba negotiations are concerned, we cannot say, but we have pressed the

Secretary of State for the Colonies to make representations, and other West Indian Governments have done the same.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I am very glad I have to speak after the explanation given by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, because I still feel that this motion should be supported. I do so because, whatever might result from the United Kingdom—Cuba negotiations might affect the sugar workers of British Guiana. In supporting this motion I am merely being consistent with my stand on behalf of the sugar workers of this Colony. It must be very patent that this Colony still has to depend very largely—at least I should say a large number of our people have to depend—on sugar, and not only this Colony may be affected but the British West Indian Colonies as well. I know that they, even more than British Guiana, and probably Trinidad and Jamaica, which have subsidiary industries, depend very largely for their economic salvation upon sugar. I have had knowledge, too, that Britain had confined the B.W.I. Colonies to 640,000 tons as their quota on a long-term agreement, and it was only by strong negotiation, perhaps afterwards, that some slight relief in words—I should call it—had been given. We must not be unaware of the tremendous struggle that had to take place to get a political deputation to go to Great Britain subsequent to the Conference, in order to emphasize and impress upon the United Kingdom Government the necessity of getting a larger sugar quota for the B.W.I. Colonies. It is true there was an additional amount which lifted it to 900,000 tons at that stage, but the guaranteed amount Britain had to sell to Canada—I am speaking subject to correction—was being sold on some aided preference.

It is a strange thing to note—and I must comment on it at this stage—that reflecting against that tremendous struggle which the B.W.I. Colonies had, Britain is able to negotiate for large purchases from Cuba. Those of us who

read have read in the Press what Lord Lyle said on the question. I, too, share that view. If Britain were to utilize and give to the people of Britain the full amount of sugar ration to which they are entitled, they could have guaranteed to the British West Indies the full amount of 900,000 tons. To my mind that would be one of the greatest reasons why the motion should still be moved. Not that I think it would make much difference. We cannot just take a mere undertaking to the Government of British Guiana, as shown by the letter read by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, for I feel that the United Kingdom Government has been juggling quite a great deal on this question of sugar quota to the British West Indies and elsewhere. It is for us to show a few things to them by this motion. First of all, that is why I support this motion very heartily. We are not sleeping upon our rights in a matter of this kind. Secondly, whatever is being done we expect to be consulted, and it seems to me that whatever has to be done Great Britain must ever be willing to discharge her trusteeship to the fullest advantage of the peoples of the Colonies. I am not satisfied in so far as that trusteeship is concerned, but I am not going into details about that.

To come to something nearer home which arises out of this motion, the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member referred to the question of prosperity to the people of the sugar industry. We certainly look forward to that. But it seems to me to be very important to consider the effect of mechanization of the sugar industry. In my speech at the Conference in Grenada I made this point, and I repeat it, that if the Colonies are going to mechanize the sugar industry, the more they do that the more it is necessary to extend the industry in order to avoid the unemployment which would result from mechanization. That is cold logic, and that is why I feel that any agreement with Cuba or anywhere else, which might tend to hamper future quotas for the British Colonies, should

be considered with a great deal of alarm as the motion seeks to suggest. I do add as a corollary, as one who has always been asking for favours and consideration for the workers in the sugar industry, that I do trust that when we stand here and ask for those benefits for the sugar industry, the workers will share in the prosperity or whatever may come from our representations on this side of the Council.

There is one other point that arises out of the debate, which has been touched upon by the hon. Member for Central Demerara who referred to the fact that he had moved a similar motion. That is news to me. I take this opportunity of saying that had I been present when it was moved I would have been one with him in condemning the opinion given by the hon. the Attorney-General in refusing that motion. What is good for one is good for another. I cannot see that anything having to do with the trade relationship of this Colony is *ultra vires*. I regret to think that such action had taken place in so far as a similar motion by me is concerned.

Very properly there is one other point I would like to make before I take my seat. The undertaking which has been given to the Government would not be sufficient, inasmuch as we should be aware of the terms of any agreement before they are effected or actually signed, sealed and delivered at Torquay where these talks are concerned. It seems to me that we should regard the undertaking given to this Government as being a pious desire to do well to the Colonies, but probably that is just a vain hope of the effectiveness of that pious regard. I say that in the hope that this motion will find favour with this Council, regardless of whether it will have the desired effect or not, and so remind H.M. Government that the British Guiana Legislature is not a dumb, sleepy concern.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I do not propose to enter into the debate so far as this particular motion is concerned, but in view of the remarks

made by the last hon. speaker I would like to inform this Council that this is not a question of a trade matter. It is something totally different from a trade matter, as the hon. Member for Central Demerara would bear me out. It is a question of certain relations in the Colony which, from another point of view, it is not desirable to introduce in this debate at the present time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: With the permission of the Council I would like to add one thing which is rather important, and which I omitted, but which this Council should be aware of, and it is that H.M. Government has informed the London representatives of the Commonwealth Sugar Producers that it is willing to extend the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement to 1958. The original term was from 1953 to 1957, and H.M. Government is now prepared to extend it to 1958.

Mr. MORRISH: Sir, on the point just made by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, that is more or less automatic and subject to annual agreement. Under the original terms of the Agreement it was part and parcel of that Agreement that the period of time the Agreement should last would be reviewed from year to year, and it has each year been extended by one year. I regard that particular piece of information as being of no great merit. I think that most of what can be said has been already said on the subject of these negotiations between H.M. Government and Cuba. But I do not know whether it is altogether fully realized—it strikes me so—the full implications and dangers attached to the possibility of Canada purchasing so much sugar from Cuba. As I see it at the present moment it is well known, I think, that the sugar is produced is taken over by the Ministry of Food, and they sell it to Canada for dollars. This Colony, unfortunately, does not get those dollars which accrue. They go into a common pool somewhere. We are paid the United Kingdom price under the Agreement, and the United Kingdom gets the benefit of the dollar exchange.

As I see it, there must be resentment in Canada owing to the fact that more sugar from the British West Indies and British Guiana is going to Canada, and less and less of our business is going to Canada. I am trying to place myself in the position of the Canadian. I would be inclined to say "Do not buy from this source at all. We are sending our ships down to these parts half-empty and are trading with them at a loss. If we trade with Cuba instead we would get cargo for our ships both ways. We will buy Cuba's sugar and Cuba is willing to buy what we produce." To support this with figures, I would point out that in 1949 Canada imported from the British West Indies and British Guiana some \$63 million worth of goods but only exported to us \$43 million worth of goods. It therefore seems to me that the full dangers and implications of Canada no longer taking our sugar are not fully realized. First of all it means that much more sugar than she gets from the Imperial Government under the Agreement will be obtained from Cuba, and that much less of the additional sugar which we can produce will be lost to us, and the benefit will go to a foreign country.

Dr. JAGAN : One Member referred to the fact that sugar plays an important part in the economy of our country. Certainly no one will deny such a statement. Another Member said that sugar is like a red rag to a bull so far as I am concerned. It seems to me the implication is that I do not appreciate what really is the place of sugar in the economy of this country, and that all I want to do is to destroy the sugar industry, or some such thing. Other Members referred to the fact time and time again, that on the one hand we have to sell our sugar to the United Kingdom and on the other hand, as the last speaker said, we do not even get the dollar exchange for the same sugar sold in turn to Canada, and possibly other areas. We also know as a fact that presently we sell a limited amount of goods to the United Kingdom. I believe the figure for last year was in the vicinity of \$14 million, whereas we buy

from the United Kingdom in the vicinity of \$27 million. Obviously, from those figures it would appear that we are buying much more from Great Britain than we are selling to her. From that the conclusion can be reached that this Colony stands to lose because we have in the long run to pay more for those goods imported into this country, because the first cost of goods originating from the United Kingdom is in many cases higher than that of goods from other areas.

Let us, sir, take the U.S.A. and Canada. Last year we sold to them and earned as much as \$13½ million, but we only purchased from those areas about \$14½ million worth of goods. Obviously it would be said that if we have to buy from the United Kingdom goods which originated from there at a very expensive price, then we must be given guaranteed prices and protection for a long period of time, and larger quotas for the things we sell to the United Kingdom. By that I mean particularly sugar. It seems on the face of it that that is logical argument, and the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member referred to our motto "*Damus Petimusque Vicissim*"—We give and we seek in return. In other words, if we are to buy from the United Kingdom at very high prices when we can buy those same goods at cheaper prices from other places, then the United Kingdom should reciprocate and buy our sugar at a higher price even if they can buy cheaper from Cuba. On the face of it such an argument would convince anybody.

But if we analyse the situation and do so very carefully, we would find it is that very policy which has been keeping this country in the backward state in which it has been for years. It is that policy of buying from there and with preferential tariffs we are allowed to pay low duty rates for goods originating from Commonwealth sources. But I do not feel that that policy has been in the interest of the people of this Colony as a whole. It is true that we are speaking of the sugar workers, and

when we think of the sugar workers we are always thinking that the more money they get the better it is for their welfare; but at the same time we have to keep in mind that this country is being run, not only for the sugar workers, but for the benefit of the workers of the whole Colony. While sugar plays an important role and is the keystone anchor in the economy of this country, we must not stop to consider whether sugar must continue in the years to come to play the same role it has been playing all these years.

I am not satisfied that this motion is ultimately in the interest of the people of this Colony as a whole. We know that the West Indian Colonies are fighting for self-government. We want to rule ourselves, but when we go to the U.K. Government and say we want to rule ourselves they will ask: "Can you balance your budgets; can you do without our quotas; can you do without our protection?" I am not satisfied with this state of affairs. At the Conference which I had the pleasure to attend at Curacao dealing with this important aspect of agricultural economy in the West Indies, most of the experts expressed the view that the concentration on sugar is a **weakness** in the economy of the West Indian Colonies, and I cannot over-emphasize that statement. When one reads the statements of the F.A.O. experts, Dr. Nieumark, Prof. Arthur Lewis, and Mr. de Frampton, Agricultural Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, one must inevitably come to the same conclusion. It has been said from time to time, and it was said at the Conference, that we have to adjust our economy in order to grow the things which we are most capable of growing at the most economical cost.

I observe that some hon. Members are very forthright in championing the cause of sugar, but when we examine their views on the question of rice, we do not see the same degree of diligence. Why is it that in the case of sugar we have to go hat-in-hand begging the U.K. Government to buy our sugar at a higher

price than they could buy it from Cuba and other sources, while in the case of rice we find the same champions going to the West Indies and telling them how they can get rice cheaper?

Mr. MORRISH: I rise to a point of correction. I think the hon. Member will find that Cuban sugar has been selling at a higher price than that of the British West Indies.

Dr. JAGAN: We all know that the cost of production of Cuban sugar is lower than that of sugar in the West Indies. That is the only reason why the West Indies sugar producers are afraid of Cuban sugar competition—because they realize that having met its quotas, Cuba can dump its sugar at any time and glut the markets.

Mr. DEBIDIN. I have waited until the hon. Member completed his sentence in order to get the full context. He started off by remarking that some hon. Members have been very forthright in championing the cause of sugar and implying that they had not been so diligent in regard to the cause of rice. I wish to take strong exception to that remark so far as I am concerned, because his statement might also refer to me.

Dr. JAGAN: I said "Some Members."

Mr. DEBIDIN: There are three members who have spoken very strongly on this motion, and I feel that the hon. Member's remark might include me.

Dr. JAGAN: I was merely trying to show what is happening in the economy of our country. We grow rice but we find that the same effort is not being made to give to the producers of rice the best world price. Why is it we do not produce coconuts in abundant quantities in this country so that we could produce all the oil we want, all the soap we need, and export soap, copra and oil? Why is it that we have to import oranges into this country? Why do we

have to import jams and jellies? The reason is not, as one Member suggested, that sugar is like a red rag to a bull so far as I am concerned, but because sugar has too much influence in the economy of this country. That is the reason. The hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Debidin) said a moment ago that when mechanization does come into the sugar industry, many people will be put out of work, and if we do not get an increased quota what will be the lot of those people? That is how he put it, but I want to put it in other terms. I would suggest that those people could be put to do something else, but at the present time Government has no such policy.

I have mentioned on several occasions in this Council that in their housing programme, the sugar estate proprietors are attempting to tie around the estates a source of cheap labour. That is in the interest of sugar but not in the interest of the economy of this country. I wonder whether those Members who are so much interested in the question of quotas and long-term guarantees would, in the same way, champion the cause of the nationalisation of the sugar industry? We know that in the United Kingdom some time ago, there was a suggestion of the nationalisation of sugar, and it was Lord Lyle who carried out a campaign from house to house and shop to shop against nationalisation. It is the same Lord Lyle who is now championing the cause of Commonwealth sugar.

Mr. MORRISH: To a point of correction. The British sugar beet industry is nationalised, and that is why it is so heavily subsidized, I should imagine.

Dr. JAGAN: I was not talking about beet alone, but of the plans of the Labour Government for nationalising sugar. We know that many of those very people—Lord Lyle and others—who are today championing the cause of sugar have vast interests in the West Indies and British Guiana, and naturally they are interested in protecting their

investments and their profits. What has been happening to British Guiana throughout all these years? We have been passing Bills upon Bills seeking to encourage industries for the further development of this country, and as I remarked on one occasion, I think that while we are trying like a dog to grasp at the shadow we may lose the bone. We may lose even what we are getting at the present time by giving various concessions to industries which are already established in this country apart from encouraging capitalists from abroad to come here and establish industries. Sugar has been the sheet-anchor of this country for nearly 150 years, but what has been the progress of the people of this country? It is not my view but the view of the experts, that sugar is the greatest weakness in the economy of the West Indies and British Guiana, and the sooner we stop concentrating so much on sugar and using trade unions, Labour leaders and others to maintain this imperialism, the better it would be for the economy of this country. I am opposed to imperialism in the sense that we have to buy—

Mr. WIGHT: Communism!

Dr. JAGAN: I am afraid the hon. Member who has referred to Communism does not understand all the facts relating to Communism. He, like others, is confused about the term imperialism and, consequently, associates everything with Communism. Nevertheless, this imperialist policy has been pursued for a long time. We buy from the Mother Country at high prices and encourage them to buy the goods we produce while the profits are being drained away from this country year by year. Hon. Members should read the report of Dr. Benham on the national income of this country, and they would realize that this Colony has not been developed because the same people who are today championing the cause of the sugar industry are the people who own the shares and are mostly absentee proprietors. They are the peo-

ple who are taking the profits away from this country. It is that policy that I am against. While we work for 20 cents per hour we have to buy goods produced by people who work for 60 cents to \$1 per hour. While we plant plantains we buy shoes and motor cars at exorbitant prices—prices out of all proportion to the wages people earn in this country. The reason why we remain poor is because sugar has been the sheet-anchor of this country for a long time. I am not denying the importance of the role which sugar plays, but I do not want to see sugar continue to dominate everything else in this country. That has been the policy in the past, and if we are not careful it will continue to be the policy in the future.

The time will come when all tariff barriers will eventually be removed. Because the people of the U.S.A. are able to produce goods more cheaply than any other country in the world, they are crying out for free trade today. They have forced the devaluation of the pound on the British people, and because of that we in the Colonies have to suffer. The Americans want free trade and open markets because they know they would be able to sell their goods freely in all parts of the world, and the time will come when we will also have to face up to similar conditions. When the gentlemen from this Colony signed the contracts for the supply of rice to the West Indies they were thinking of competition with Burma, even though their premise was wrong. In the same way we have to begin to think in terms of world competition.

We must produce things which we can sell at competitive prices abroad, and we must buy from the cheapest sources wherever they may be. That is the policy which this Colony must pursue. In Surinam there is no protection for sugar or any long-term guarantees or quotas. That is a blessing which the people of Surinam are enjoying today, because they

have no sugar barons or absentee proprietors on their backs. The profits of that country are not being drained away to Holland as ours are. They sell their rice and coconuts at world prices. Their delegates supported the views of the experts at the Curacao Conference, and today we find Surinam pushing ahead. They have a more rational economic policy which we will not have as long as we are governed as we are. Only when we get a greater measure of self-government in our hands will we be able to change the present set-up in this Colony.

In conclusion I wish to state that I am not opposing this motion because I do not realize the importance of sugar in the economy of this country at the present time, but as a long-term measure, and taking into consideration our trade relationship with other Commonwealth countries and their tariff rates, I am opposed to the motion.

Mr. LEE: I am glad the hon. Member has said that he is not opposed to this motion. I think we all realize, as the workers on sugar estates realize, that their whole existence depends at the moment upon the price to be obtained for our sugar. There is no doubt that the workers have been so trained by the sugar proprietors that they are entirely dependent upon the wages earned on the estates. It is essential that we should have a long-term guaranteed price for our sugar, and for that reason I do not think any Member of this Council would object to a protest being sent to H.M. Government in the strongest possible terms against the proposed agreement with Cuba. I admit that H.M. Government has to take into consideration questions of international agreements and so on, but it has been brought forcibly to the notice of the British Government by the delegation, how vital to the economy of the British West Indies and this Colony is a guaranteed market for our sugar.

In the absence of a guaranteed price for sugar, many sugar estate workers would have to seek other

avenues of employment, and perhaps Government might have to provide them with doles. I hope the necessity will never arise in this Colony, and I think this Colony and the West Indies should endeavour to adjust our economy so as not to be entirely dependent upon our sugar industry. I agree that most of the profits from the sugar industry go out of the Colony, but that cannot be avoided. My friend must realize that income tax is paid on the profits made in this Colony. There is no doubt that H.M. Government is doing its utmost to see what can be done for the sugar industry in the British West Indies and British Guiana, but in view of the statement made by the hon. the Sixth Nominated Member (Mr. Morrish) that there is a possibility of Canada reducing her imports from this Colony, I think a note of warning should be included in the cablegram to H.M. Government.

Mr. WIGHT: I think I should congratulate the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Dr. Jagan) who so ably opposed the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders because he was unprepared to put forward his case against the motion, but I do not think he could have done any better if he had prepared his case. He has argued and given us facts relating not only to the sugar industry but to other industries, but I think he strayed somewhat from the resolution of the motion which merely seeks to record this Council's protest against the conclusion of a pact between the U.K. Government and Cuba without prior consultation and agreement with the British West Indies Sugar Association and the British West Indies and British Guiana Governments. After all, if as the hon. Member has said, we are striving after self-government and have been promised a measure of self-government, surely one should find him in absolute sympathy with this motion.

The sugar industry is of vital importance to this Colony, whether or not the absentee proprietors are deriving profits which should come to this country. I find myself in agree-

ment with the hon. Member to a certain extent, but what we are protesting against is the fact that this agreement is being negotiated with Cuba without consultation with us as to the effect of the conclusions that may be arrived at. I suggest to the hon. Member, who appears to be the only opponent, that he allow the motion to be carried unanimously. As a Legislature we are protesting against any form of agreement being reached with Cuba without consultation with us. I feel sure that on reflection the hon. Member will agree with what I have said.

As I have said, I find myself in a large measure in agreement with what he has said. In Surinam, the country to which he referred, the present trend is for the Dutch proprietors to invest their money in the Colony. The people of Surinam were in the same position as we are until recently when, because of circumstances of which he is well aware, and the fear of being deprived of their sovereignty by a larger power, capitalists from Holland are now investing their money in Surinam. Unlike Barbados, this Colony has been unfortunate in that the proprietors of our sugar estates have not thought it fit to reside here and spend more of their money in the Colony. I do trust that they will change and adopt the policy which is being pursued in Surinam.

I do not propose to traverse the various points made by the hon. Member, but I think this Council endorses his suggestion that we should produce and export such things like jams and jellies. It seems that nobody, whose loyalty is to this country, especially one born here, and whose allegiance is to the Crown which sits over our heads, would find himself or herself in disagreement with this motion. One can very well see that if one's allegiance or loyalty is to a foreign community then one would automatically oppose a motion couched as this is. There is one point on which I would like to attack the hon. Member, and that is the phrase he used. I do not like it, and I do not think the people of this country, to

whom he referred, would like it. I refer to what he said in reference to a remark by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara—that we must put the workers to do something else. In other words, we must compel them to go and work where we want them to work and give them no choice. I hope that will never occur.

Dr. JAGAN: I did not imply force or compulsion. I think the hon. Member is misconstruing everything I said. I said the people must be moved into properly drained and irrigated lands so that they can produce, and I said that the estates are doing nothing like that.

Mr. WIGHT: Surely let them move-themselves to where they want. All we have to do is to give them the opportunity of avenues of employment, but let them choose for themselves. We know that in other countries they are moved about; they are told where to go and they have to go; they are given no choice. I hope that will not obtain as long as the Flag we have flies over us.

It seems that I can agree with the hon. Member on one point. I myself am at a loss, and the people themselves in England are at a loss as to the sugar position, as to why they cannot buy sugar. They are prepared to pay a half cent per lb. more so as to obtain all the sugar they want, and yet they cannot see that their own Government prohibits their obtaining their desires. Their sweets are rationed, and that is because the sugar is not there. They want to know why the Colonies cannot give them sugar. I also feel that while it may be incorrect—we have no grumble in regard to that—if England desires to take the opportunity of buying our sugar under a guaranteed price and shipping it to dollar countries like Canada so as to obtain their dollars against our dollars which can be put into this country let them do so; but at the same time one would expect them not only to have guaranteed the amount they have done but to tell us they are prepared to take whatever sugar we can

produce and to give us that guaranteed price as long as our industry is able to carry itself. One would expect that as a logical conclusion to any economic system. If we give them on the one hand the opportunity to make Canadian dollars, then it is only right on the other hand that they should take from us all we can produce, at a guaranteed price until the industry is able to carry itself and can compete in other markets. Hence I feel that this Colony should protest and protest strongly if there is a shortage of sugar in England regardless of price.

I agree with the hon. Member for Central Demerara when he says we are compelled largely to buy from the United Kingdom at their prices, at their increased cost of production and, therefore, they should have no cavil, no objection to reciprocating by buying from us at a higher price than the guaranteed price of sugar. That seems equitable. I cannot see why this Colony, or the Colonies, should contribute by not being able to obtain a higher price for their sugar in order to help to increase the standard of living of the people in England, because by the standard of living there, they are sending up the cost of production and thereby causing us to pay more for their goods. It must be remembered that we are not in a position to carry out large schemes of social welfare, and they are in a position, by virtue of their wealth, to carry out such schemes for the benefit of their own people.

There are several points that one can make, but I think there is only one question I would like to address to the hon. the Colonial Secretary. That is, he has read the despatch, or communication, or whatever term may be ascribed to it, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, but there seems to me an omission and a pertinent omission, and that is: when did the United Kingdom Government contemplate the purchasing of sugar outside the Commonwealth? Was it before we had our discussions in regard

to the question of sugar under a guaranteed Commonwealth price? What are its terms, etc. It would be really interesting to know whether those who sat around the table discussing with our representatives from the Commonwealth—and I particularly refer in this instance to the Colonial Commonwealth, if I may so distinguish them—were in possession of the knowledge that they were going to negotiate with interests outside the Commonwealth, when they were negotiating with us with regard to price. If so, I have no hesitation in feeling that there and then a disclosure should have been made as to that fact.

Mr. FERNANDES: I rise to support the motion, because I feel that this agreement should not be made except this Government and the sugar interests in these parts were consulted. The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Dr. Jagan) very ably proved correct the statement made by the hon. the First Nominated Member (Mr. Roth) about sugar being to the hon. Member like a red rag to a bull. He ably proved that in his speech. I would like to mention a few things and to correct some of the things he stated. He had me all dizzy by using the same argument to prove one thing, and then later on to prove the direct opposite. It is a very easy matter for us to say "Buy from the cheapest market and sell to the highest market." If everybody in the world did that we would find the price of that market becoming higher and higher until it becomes the highest in the entire world. Not being able to sell what it produces it would have no money to buy from the people who desire to sell.

The particular statement I am thinking of is when the hon. Member made the point that here in British Guiana, our workers are working for 20 cents per hour and have to buy from Great Britain and other countries whose wage rate is in the vicinity of 60 cents to \$1 per hour. That is quite true. Our wage rate is low while the rate in the other countries is high. Later on the hon. Member made the

statement, that soon we would have all tariff barriers thrown aside, because the U.S.A., one of those countries which pay \$1 or perhaps \$1.50 per hour to their workers, is able to produce cheaper than anybody else in the world. If the U.S.A. can pay 60 cents or \$1.00 per hour to their workers and can produce cheaper than British Guiana, which pays 20 cents per hour, everyone would admit that something is wrong in British Guiana when some other country with a wage rate three to five times greater, according to the hon. Member, can produce at a cheaper price.

Dr. JAGAN: The hon. Member is not using the exact reference. Let us take rice. The U.S.A. produces rice cheaper and sells at a higher price than this country, mainly because we do not produce as they do at mass production level and by improved technical methods. That is why it is costly.

Mr. FERNANDES: I am just repeating what the hon. Member said—we do not want mechanization because it is going to put the workers out of work. But if we do not have mechanization in the sugar industry we are not going to make much advancement in production.

Dr. JAGAN: I did not say we must not have mechanization. I was merely saying that if there is mechanization the services of the workers must be provided for, and they must not be tied around the estates. The hon. Member is saying something different from what I said. I would be the last person to oppose mechanization.

Mr. FERNANDES: The hon. Member touched on one thing with which I am in agreement, and that is we must find work for the workers in British Guiana, and it is because we have no ready solution to the problem of basing our economy on things other than sugar at the moment that I am in agreement with this motion. If we could change our whole economic set-up in a week or month, I would hesitate to consider this motion, but the hon. Member will admit that in the last 50 years British Guiana's economic structure has gradu-

ally moved away from sugar. It is moving away gradually from sugar all the time, because if it did not our annual increase in population would not be able to find anything to do, and we cannot produce such a greatly improved quantity of sugar to take care of an increase in population. When I was a very small boy I remember that we imported rice, but today we are exporting rice, and for the hon. Member's information we have also exported a type of rice, not under contract, to supply Europe where a quota is effected with Surinam for the export of rice. For his information I may say further that we export that rice to Holland, the Home Government of Surinam.

Since those days I refer to, the early years of this century, we have had bauxite. We depend on bauxite for much of our revenue. Rice is coming along and is being developed. Our rice contract, about, which we have heard so much, will end at the end of December, 1951, as regards a fixed price. British Guiana is negotiating at the moment with the view of getting more favourable prices. I am sure when I say that British Guiana will have to depend on sugar for at least another 20 years to an extent that would warrant every Member of this Council supporting this motion, it is a statement which is absolutely true and will be proved correct 20 years from now. So I have no hesitation in supporting the motion.

I do not want to allow these things to go unchallenged. When you buy from a country that is paying 60 cents per hour as the basic wage rate, the price of the article you buy from that country must necessarily be higher than if you buy from a country producing the same article whose wage rate is 20 or 30 cents per hour. Efficiency and suitability in the country producing the article are things which largely influence whether the country paying higher wages can produce cheaper than the country paying lower wages. What we want is full employment for our working people. Let us try to do every-

thing possible to keep sugar going until we can find something else on which to base our economy—some other industry.

The one point on which I am in agreement with the hon. Member is that we should see that more and more lands are made available for planting other things than cane, so that when we mechanize sugar our surplus population would be able to produce something else other than sugar, because it is obvious that if we go on expanding sugar to any extent likely to result in over-production of sugar in the world, we would find our economic position very hard.

The PRESIDENT: Does the hon. mover of the motion wish to reply?

Mr. RAATGEVER: No, sir. The discussion has taken a longer time than I thought it would.

Question put, and the Council divided and voted as follows:—

For—Messrs. Luckhoo, Morrish, Carter, Smellie, Phang, Pters, Kendall, Fernandes, Debidin, Farnum, Ferreira, Roth, Raatgever, Lee, Wight, Capt. Coghlan, Dr. Nicholson, Dr. Singh—18.

Against—Dr. Jagan—1.

Did not vote—The Financial Secretary and Treasurer, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary—3.

Motion affirmed.

DENTAL MECHANICS REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Council resumed consideration of the following motion by the Colonial Secretary:

That, this Council accepts in principle the recommendations in the Report of the Dental Mechanic Registration Committee which has been laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT: I think the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member (Mr. Luckhoo), was in the middle of his speech when we adjourned yesterday afternoon.

Mr. LUCKHOO: There are on the register today a number of men who ar-

not graduates of any University—men who have been registered but do not possess the requisite academic qualifications. Are we to term “quacks” those men, who by their registration, are permitted to practise dentistry? Are we to regard them as a menace to society because of their lack of academic qualifications, and say they should not be permitted to practise dentistry? The registration was a mere formality. They took no examination—those who were permitted by the 1939 Ordinance to practise. As long as they were practising up to 1924 they were permitted to become registered. If the answer is in the negative, that is to say, if those people who are unqualified in so far as academic degrees are concerned are to be permitted and accepted by the community, and are to be allowed to practise, then it means that from that one can draw the conclusion that a man can acquire the requisite skill and the sufficiency of knowledge to practise dentistry by local training. I do not think that conclusion is far-fetched. It seems to follow naturally from the premises which I have set up. If that is so, how is this Council going to differentiate between those individuals and the individuals who, the Committee itself has stated, have been practising dentistry since 1924, and say they should not be provided with an opportunity of registration, or of continuing to practise as dentists?

In the interval between yesterday and today I have heard a certain amount of criticism levelled at the argument which I was attempting to adduce yesterday, and one of the points raised was that I am in favour of permitting quacks to be registered. They asked “Are you permitting to be registered anyone who may come off the street and apply for registration? That does not show a true knowledge of the subject. The scope of this enquiry was not to allow Tom, Dick and Harry to apply for registration, but to limit it to a specific group, maybe not more than 30 or 40 dental mechanics, people who have been practising at their trade, or profession, or whatever you want to call it, over a number of years, but due to

what I respectfully term a deficiency in the law, the law not being explicit, they were permitted this tacit approval that they continued to practise subsequent to 1924, doing minor dental work under the care or guidance of some registered dentist.

This report is interesting from several points of view. One is that it is admitted in the report that it takes as long as 10 years to produce a really skilled and efficient dental mechanic. The report refers to skill being obtained by some of these dental mechanics. I would refer you, sir, to pages 12 and 13 of the report. At the bottom of page 12, it is clear that much time was spent in going through the law relating to it, which was not part of the Committee's terms of reference, and which law does not support them and their case, as I essayed to point out yesterday. The report says:—

“We refer to this legal definition or interpretation of the practice of dentistry for the reason that we incline to the view that its omission from previous laws created a loophole which enabled certain dental mechanics to acquire legitimately skill and competence of the type which they now claim should qualify them for indulgence in the full practice of dentistry. These claims receive some support from detailed statements made in evidence before us by representatives of the B.G. Dental Assistants and Technicians' Association to the effect that they had been allowed to practise dentistry under the direct personal supervision of a registered dentist.”

Here is an admission being made in the report that these people have acquired legitimate skill and competence of the type which they are claiming should be sufficient to entitle them to registration. One would have expected at that stage, in respect of their terms of reference, to see the Committee arrive at some conclusion, but they go on:

“Actually, however, interpretation of the proviso referred to at (c) in paragraph 31 should have been limited locally to conform to the terms of the following extract from a circular issued by the Medical Board (No. 962/1928 dated 28th

November, 1928) to all registered dentists:

- (a) Section 37(2) of the Medical (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1924, (Chapter 186) allows the performance of any minor dental work by any person under the direct personal supervision of a registered dentist;—

The Committee, I respectfully contend, were entirely erroneous in their approach when they sought to give a circular issued by the Medical Board the effect of law. That circular stated later on:

"The term "Minor Dental Work" has been ruled by the Board to include only mechanical denture or laboratory work, not connected with actual operation on the mouth in any way."

Where the Board received that authority from one does not know. The point is, here you have in the 1924 Ordinance permission being given to these dental mechanics whereby they can operate, provided they are under the guidance of a registered dentist and do minor dental work. "Minor dental work" is defined in the Ordinance, and the Committee admits that that principle was conceived by these dental mechanics—to participate in work relating to the practice of dentistry. They made use of that, and it is quite clear that it must have been brought to the attention of the Medical Board, because one finds that the Board attempts to limit or to define the meaning of "minor dental work", which did not have the effect of law, and which did not prevent these dental mechanics from continuing their work. These dental mechanics are, therefore, now prejudiced. That is the reason why I personally have gone into this with a certain amount of care, because those people who have been practising during all these years will now be prevented from doing so.

They have been prevented by the 1939 Ordinance, and there will be no opportunity for them to continue their

livelihood in the same way as others in a like category who, because they were practising in 1924, became registered. I would also like to refer to paragraph 36 of the report where it states:

"It transpired from the evidence we received that most, if not all, dental mechanics of today could neither satisfy the requirement as to age nor as to having practised for the specified period immediately prior to 5th July, 1924, and were, in consequence excluded from applying for registration. They maintain that the practice of dentistry was their principal means of livelihood for a considerable period of time prior to 1939, and that they had since been "carrying on" in the hope that suitable legislation would have been enacted to enable them to gain registration".

This also bears out what I have been urging—that they had been actually practising during those intervening years. The formula which I am advocating is not one of open licence, but I do feel that the door should not be closed by means of acceptance of these recommendations. It should not be closed to those dental mechanics either to have themselves registered for the rural areas, or (and this is a further suggestion I offer) that they may subject themselves to an examination to be held by local dentists, to see whether they have the necessary skill and proficiency to carry on the practice of dentistry. All things being equal, the person who holds an academic qualification should receive priority, but those individuals who have learned the hard way can acquire the necessary skill. One does not wish to enter into personalities, but there is in the County of Berbice a registered dentist who has not the requisite qualification, but whose fame is Colony wide. Such people have learned by trial and error over a period of 10 or 11 years, and although they have learned in that way their aptitude for this type of work should make them fit for registration.

My contention is that it is better that the people in the rural areas receive some form of dental aid than none at all, because there are only three dentists to 324,000 persons in the rural

areas, or one to every 108,000. I have received many letters, including one from residents at Christianburg in which I was asked "In the name of humanity oppose this recommendation and this report by the Committee." In the Christianburg-Wismar area, where there are thousands of people, there is only one registered dentist and two chemists and druggists. According to this report those druggists would only be able to do extractions; they would not be permitted to make dentures, and the extractions must be done without the aid of any drug or injection to deaden pain. It seems to me almost inhuman. It has been said (I have not seen it in the report) that dental mechanic are persons through whom accidents are likely to happen, but we know that even among the qualified dentists accidents do occur, and that sometimes everything does not work smoothly. I have searched in vain for cases in which the practice of dental mechanics has resulted in injury to anyone, or whether there have been prosecutions or convictions for that type of offence.

The position at the moment is that there are only 28 qualified dentists in the Colony with 53 dental students in America, and the hope has been expressed that those students will return to the Colony. The same hope was expressed before the Royal Commission in 1939 when there were 36 practising dentists, and it was hoped that that number would be implemented by 16 students who were expected to qualify and return to the Colony shortly. They did not arrive, and today we find that there are only 28 registered dentists, while in 1908, when registration was first introduced, there were over 100 dentists practising in a smaller population. My authority for this information is Mr. Fox, who gave evidence before the Commission, and when asked how many dentists there were in 1908 he said there were 100 odd, of whom only three were qualified, but the others were practising. Today we have 28 registered dentists, and an effort is being made to limit that number. If this

report is to be accepted then one will have to say "Let us nationalize the dentists". The report attempts to close the door. I am appealing to this Council not to close the door to the dental mechanics. They are like a drop in the ocean, because only 20 may be able to make the grade. But it is a drop in the ocean which could help suffering humanity, and that is why I say the door should not be closed. People can and do make mistakes. My final words are that this report is disappointing. It takes no realistic view of the situation and produces recommendations which cannot stand scrutiny, and when looked into with searching eyes remains tissue thin.

Mr. FARNUM: The hon. the Seventh Nominated Member (Mr. Luckhoo) has covered the ground so well, and being a legal practitioner he was able to put his case so efficiently that there is very little left for me to say. My concern is chiefly with respect to dental service for the people of the rural districts. I must say at this stage that I cannot support the motion, because if I did I would be joining in an injustice to a group of men who, I think, have given very good dental service to the community and are still capable of doing so. Another reason why I cannot support the motion is because of the several requests I have had from people in the rural districts not to support this measure, for the reason that it would bring suffering and hardship to them. I have here a letter which has been signed by nearly every Chairman in the Courtyne district and on the West Coast of Berbice, and with your permission, sir, I would like to read it. It says:

Bush Lot,
Berbice,
24th December, 1950.

"Dear Mr. Farnum,

Please persuade Government to initiate a regular Government Dental Service for the Colony. Use should be made of experienced unregistered dentists, posted at central spots in rural districts. Too long have villagers waited for the mythical

"influx" of graduates and the acquirement of Mobile Units.

A number of the old registered practising dentists is dying yearly, and there are still others who are more than sixty (60) years old, and they too may not be able to continue to work through feebleness.

Those unregistered dentists who have borne the heat and burden of the day should be given first consideration, provided they could prove that they had been in continuous practice for many years, were never charged or convicted for mal-practice, and had at some period worked for or under the supervision of registered dentists.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. N. Liverpool, Chairman, Golden Grove, W.C., Berbice; A. F. Wade, Chairman, Lichfield; F. W. Robertson, Chairman, Beliadrum-Eldorado; A. G. Carlow, Chairman, Fyrish-Gibraltar-Courtland; C. R. Hoyte, Chairman, D'Edward; Kissoon, Chairman, Bush Lot, W.C., Berbice; B. P. Branco, Chairman, Rose Hall, Courentyne; Bissoon Dyal, Chairman, Cotton Tree District; H. Rahman, Chairman, Letter Kenny-Bloomfield; B. C. Nathoo, Chairman, Whim; D. C. Collins, Chairman, Manchester; J. T. Benn, Chairman, Limlair; Chiranjiv Singh, Chairman, Bush Lot, No. 27, Courentyne; Hurrid, Councillor, No. 47-48; Kissoondial, Councillor, No. 57, Courentyne; R. L. King, Chairman, 57-74; Safialla, Chairman, Uiverston-Alness-Salton."

Paragraph 8 of the Committee's Report states:

"8. We have given consideration also to the distribution and location throughout the Colony of practising dentists on a numerical basis, and have found that of the total of twenty-eight practising dentists whose services are available to the Colony's population, twenty practise exclusively in the City of Georgetown, five in New Amsterdam and three only in the rural areas."

It means that there are three dentists serving over 300,000 people scattered over the rural areas of the Colony. I notice that the Committee realized the situation and have recommended "that at least three Mobile Dental Units staffed by dental graduates should be provided for itinerant work in rural areas, the services rendered thereby to

be made largely self-supporting by the levying of moderate charges". We know that if this proposal is accepted it will take years to provide these mobile dental units, because Government moves very slowly.

The number of dental graduates is very limited, and they all remain in Georgetown. I believe that if there were 50 graduates they would all remain in Georgetown, because it is a lucrative field. It is said that medical officers and sicknurses and dispensers may perform certain dental work in the rural districts. We all know that the sicknurses are to be found on sugar estates which are in some cases long distances from the villages, and as one can quite understand how difficult it would be for people in the villages to get dental assistance from sicknurses on sugar estates, we can rule the sicknurses out altogether.

As regards the medical officers, I do not think many of them would be disposed to do dental work. A few months ago, when we were discussing the question of telephones for Government Medical Officers in the country districts, it was pointed that very few G.M.O.s had telephones, and that in a very populous district the G.M.O. said he did not want a telephone. It was obvious that his reason was he did not desire to be worried. If he did not want to be worried about his normal duties as a medical practitioner, would he want to be worried about dental work? The Committee's suggestion is not workable, and I suggest that the solution to the problem would be to allow those dental mechanics who have been practising for a number of years to continue to practise in the rural areas. I would also suggest that we accept the suggestion of the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member (Mr. Luckhoo) that they should be required to submit themselves to some practical examination, the results of which they should be registered and allowed to practise as dentists.

Mr. WIGHT: It is unfortunate that when this motion was brought for-

ward, time did not permit of copies of the evidence taken by the Committee being made available to Members. The position is that many of the persons who the hon. Member suggests should be registered, are against an examination.

Mr. FARNUM: It seems to me that it is for this Council to decide what should be done—whether the dental mechanics should submit themselves to an examination. I come back to the question of the needs of the villages. Government is very anxious that everything should be done for the people in the villages, and is providing all sorts of amenities for them, but in the matter of a humanitarian service like dental service no provision has been made. I think that is a point to which Government should give very serious consideration.

As regards the report itself I feel that the Committee went beyond its terms of reference which were:

“to consider and report on the desirability or otherwise of further amending the Colonial Medical Services (Consolidation) Ordinance, Cap. 186, as amended by the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1939, for the purpose of extending its provisions to enable dental mechanics who have acquired the necessary skill and competence to be registered as dentists and thereby permitted to practise dentistry.”

It seems to me that that was all that was required of the Committee. Another matter I would like to point out is that in its effort to prevent these dental mechanics from practising as dentists, the Committee records in its report that a dental practitioner of 40 years' experience said it would take 10 years to produce a really skilled and efficient dental mechanic, yet in another section of the report it is stated that the training of a dental mechanic is a very simple matter, and that anybody with ordinary education could be trained in a short time. I understand that there are certain dental schools in the U.S.A. which provide correspondence courses in dental mechanics, and that several persons in this Colony have taken advantage of those courses. In

fact my information is that one person who has taken that correspondence course obtained a certificate within six months, and is now employed by Government as an assistant to the Dental Officer. Yet we have a dental practitioner saying that it takes 10 years to train a dental mechanic. I know of a case of a registered dentist who took a carpenter's apprentice and in 3 years converted him into a dental mechanic. I do not know whether he does extractions, but he does all sorts of mechanical work. It is a slander on our people to say that it takes 10 years to train a dental mechanic, because I believe the entire dental course takes 7 years. Is it suggested that our young men are so dense that it would take them all that time to become dental mechanics?

That brings me back to the point that this report is very biased, and I will repeat that I am very much concerned about the welfare of the people in the rural districts. The three registered dentists who are serving the country districts are not sufficient, and I suggest that in order to provide the people in the villages with some dental service we should permit the dental mechanics to practise and submit themselves to some practical examination. In my position as a Justice of the Peace, I have had to sign search warrants for the Police very frequently in connection with the illegal practice of dentistry, but in every case the warrant was issued against a goldsmith—never against any of the dental mechanics—and from the information given by the Police, it is clear that when a person is in pain he resorts to anyone who can give him relief. Goldsmiths are all over the Colony and are always ready to give people relief from dental pain. We want to guard against that, and I hope Government will give consideration to the suggestion that dental mechanics should be allowed to practise as dentists in the country districts, until such time as the mobile dental service is an accomplished fact.

I think that whenever an Ordinance was enacted to tighten up any particular service the practice has been to allow

those persons who were practising at the time to be registered. I have in mind the law relating to chemists and druggists. There are several chemists and druggists in the Colony today who have never submitted themselves to any examination whatever, but by virtue of having practised up to the time when the law was put into force, they were allowed to continue to practise, and they are still practising. I think the same procedure was applied in the case of opticians. Why can't it be applied to dental mechanics? I hope that consideration will be given to that aspect of the question.

Mr. FERREIRA: It may well be argued that if we are to have progress we should accept the recommendations of the Committee and thus provide for better dental service in the Colony. That is all well and good, but we cannot lose sight of the fact that the people of the rural areas are not taken care of, and until such time as there are dental facilities available to those people, I think it would be very unwise for this Council to accept this report. I speak, sir, having had representation made to me from the people of Kwakwani on the Berbice River, 150 miles from New Amsterdam, where travelling is not only long and tedious but also very expensive. It is a district that is certainly growing, and I think there are at least 1,200 souls in that area, and they certainly have no dental facilities. Lower down the river, but not to such a great extent, the same position obtains. I do say that we should not be eager to cast these people aside and leave them to suffer unnecessarily.

The hon. the Seventh Nominated Member (Mr. Luckhoo) made reference to one dentist in Berbice who has had no academic training, but whose name has certainly stood out among the dentists of this Colony—in fact to an extent where several people in the past have left the City and travelled to New Amsterdam to obtain that man's services. I am not suggesting that as a reason why we should encourage unqualified dental mechanics to practise dentistry, but I do say that the fact remains, and

is outstanding, that the people in the rural areas have not got dental facilities available to them. From the report it would appear that the urban areas are well provided for and, maybe, we can come to some understanding that dental mechanics should be banned from the urban areas, and that those allowed to practise should have to pass some test so that the people would have the necessary safeguard. My views are similar to those expressed by the last speaker, and I therefore cannot accept the report as it stands.

Mr. LEE: With all due respect to the signatories to this report, I do not think the public has given any evidence as regards the need for dental facilities in the rural areas.

Mr. WIGHT: To a point of correction! I would like to point out that we sat and heard evidence from several members of the public.

Mr. LEE: If I may refer the hon. Member for Western Essequibo, who was Chairman of the Committee, to appendix I of the report he would see that not every section of the public gave evidence—only those who are interested in so far as they are concerned. What I am saying is that in my constituency the dispenser and certain doctors have refused to extract the teeth of patients who have gone to the dispenser; they say they are not allowed to do so. Therefore the need is there for dental facilities. I am supporting the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member's views on this Committee's report. Let us take the argument that the enquiry was for the purpose of extending this profession to enable the dental mechanics who have acquired the necessary skill and competence to be registered as dentists, and thereby to be permitted to practise dentistry. In paragraph 3 of their conclusions on page 20 of the report, the Committee say that legislative steps should be taken to establish a register for dental mechanics as such, and to provide for their training and examination. But they did not go further and say that those people who

would be trained and examined should be allowed to practise dentistry, but only that they would be allowed to practise as dental mechanics. They did not consider the need of the rural areas.

The dental mechanic, as envisaged by them, is capable of practising as a dentist. I agree with the hon. the Seventh Nominated Member that it is necessary for them to be examined as dental mechanics, and having passed that examination they should be allowed to practise as dentists. There is no provision whereby a dental mechanic is able to practise as a registered dentist. The terms of reference of the Committee say "to enable dental mechanics who have acquired the required skill and competence to be registered as dentists". The Committee did not consider their terms of reference in the light of the need of the rural areas. I think the whole report should be returned to the Committee to consider it in that light. The need is there in the rural areas, and no Member of this Council will agree to allow quacks to go and practise dentistry in the rural areas and endanger the health of the public. Therefore let us see what can be done. Let us have the examination. The Chairman of this Committee has said that the dental mechanics do not want to subject themselves to examination. If that is so, then they do not know the art. It depends on the examiners. There will be a row if the examiners are too stringent and we will have petitions. If necessary, bring examiners from abroad.

Dr. SINGH: I would like to explain, as a member of the Committee, that I was opposed to examination. I said that these men have had years of training under registered dentists; they have been practising in the country and have a large clientele. Therefore an examination was not necessary.

Mr. LEE: What I am trying to point out is this: How can any proper Elected Member allow any unqualified person to interfere with the mouths of the public? If he feels he is a dental

mechanic and is sufficiently skilled, he would subject himself to examination, and the examiners would be chosen by the Government who would see that they are persons of integrity. We have to give the examiners a chance. We have not tested them and yet we are condemning them. At one time it was the same thing with the dispensers. When they were told to sit an examination a certain chemist who thought he should not allow local men to obtain the certificate, would not pass them. A petition was sent in and we came to the conclusion that the examiner's integrity must be respected. That examiner, however, went away. I agree that these dental mechanics must subject themselves to examination for registration as dental mechanics, and if further qualified, should be examined locally as dentists and be registered as such after having satisfied the examiners.

I know the need is there for more dentists, and I know the mobile units will take years to arrive. I have had several instances on the Coast where certain dental mechanics have tried their skill and supplied gold teeth which did not contain the proper percentage of gold, with the result that the patient suffered. Those are the quacks we are to protect the public against. If these dental mechanics are genuine in their profession, let them submit themselves to examination.

Mr. WIGHT: Perhaps I may speak at this stage. The report has been attacked from all angles, and I think everything has been said about it except that it was written after due consideration. We even have it that it is biased. I do not know where the bias comes in. Let us recall a little history. Two members of this Committee, the hon. member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh) and myself, were more or less attacked in the sense that it was suggested we would be biased on the side of the dental mechanics and assistants, and therefore, our presence should not be on the Committee to consider this question. It was said among other things that one hon. Member had been approached, and that because of the fact

that my partner had appeared for one of these dental mechanics I might be biased in their favour. Now, apparently, as far as I am concerned, having signed the report I am biased against the dental mechanics. This report was not an easy one to write, and it was not easy to arrive at a conclusion satisfactory to everybody in the Colony. The hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo was about to make a statement. I do not know what he intended to say. Maybe he would like to retract his signature from the document. I desire to say in fairness to the members of the Committee that we were in sympathy with or sympathetically inclined towards those men. An examination of the notes of evidence will show that we asked them to give us their solution of the problem. It was not from one member, but from several members. The Committee found itself in this position : Were we to allow unregistered people to be placed on the Register? The analogy was even put to us: Are we to allow legal clerks to say they had been practising for a number of years and knew more than the lawyers and, therefore, ought to be placed on the legal register? We even traced the history where solicitors were allowed to be put on the Roll without examination, but there came a time when it had to cease, and solicitors had to pass an examination.

The hon. the Seventh Nominated Member, no doubt carried away by enthusiasm and sympathy for these persons, said: "Why not let these people practise as they have been practising all along?" My answer to that is very simple. Why did we have an Ordinance passed to stop them in the early part of the 20th century? It was realised from that time that they had to be qualified. They were then being brought into line with the legal profession. The mistake, the Committee felt, was that the subsequent Ordinance should never have been passed to permit those men who were unqualified to be placed on the register at all, and we would not have had today the argument that those unqualified men

were placed on the register. Had the Ordinance been kept as it was intended, we would have had no unqualified dentists on the register. Witnesses from the Dental Mechanics' Association told us various reasons why they did not apply or take advantage of that 1939 Ordinance. Again sympathy can be invoked. We have now had this red herring being drawn across the trail—very good electioneering speeches on the hustings. But when we sit around this table we have to throw calm and thought on our deliberations for the future of the country. It is all very well to talk about suffering humanity, and that a fellow cannot get his tooth pulled out. We were not considering that at all.

The case as put up for these dental mechanics was concise. These eighteen men, and they alone, should be allowed to register without examination; they should just apply and satisfy the requirements. As put up in their memorandum to us, they had been working a minimum of 12 years previous to 1950, and if they show good character automatically they should be placed on the register without examination. Again, in fairness to every member of the Committee, one member was very enthusiastic in allowing the registration of everybody on the same grounds as advanced by certain Members of this Council. But difficulties were there, if we permitted those 18 men to be registered without examination. I would rather not go into all the evidence given, because I would not like to say what I have to say about certain applicants. One of these very same people in giving evidence admitted that if those 18 men were registered there would be something like 400 or 600 others entitled to the same consideration for registration. That was denied, but then it was subsequently stated that there were others who would be entitled to the same consideration for registration. It is that we are to allow these 18 men to be placed on the register as dentists without any examination, and to deny any other person who

may find himself in a similar position? In other words, these 18 men alone, as unqualified persons, must be registered automatically on satisfying the requirement of character. That is all this plea for these dental mechanics means.

But after that they admit that the report is sound. They agree with the report that there must be a dental mechanics register. After that they agreed quite frankly that only one of the 18 men could easily pass an examination if compelled to sit it. They admitted that they would have to be examined and be qualified to be placed on the register. Therefore, the door must be closed with the admission of these 18 men. They admitted there must be a dental mechanics register, but the conclusions arrived at have been attacked as biased and erroneous. These conclusions have been elicited from the very recommendations of those witnesses of the Dental Mechanics' Association who gave evidence before us. The only point which was not covered, as represented to us by them, was the fact that these men were to be put on the register, qualified or not, without an examination.

We actually suggested to them "Are you prepared to face an examination theoretically? They said "No". We then said "A practical examination?" They were divided. Therefore it again resolved itself into a question of putting them on the register without any examination. What would be the conclusion from their evidence? It is true that (again I say it is difficult to take a body as a whole and say they should be registered), there are three or four who, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying as a member of the Committee, would pass a theoretical and practical examination if given the chance. We went as far as to suggest that one gentleman should be assisted to qualify. I was given permission by the Committee to ask him particularly to come to my office, and I endeavoured to see if some assistance could be given to him to go to the West

Indies University, but there is no Faculty of Dentistry at that institution. I got the reply "He is just the type of man we are looking for but, unfortunately, there is no Dental School".

What are we going to do? What is this Council to suggest if this report is to be thrown aside as illogical and erroneous? One hon. Member said it should be sent back. I will not sit on that Committee again. Let it go to another committee of five different members and see what conclusions they would arrive at. What are we going to do? It is up to us to relieve the situation. All this sympathetic consideration about the rural areas was put before us in memoranda and oral evidence given from all the areas. I know the area I represent—Pomeroon and the Essequibo Coast—is the least served. They are now having the Dental Surgeon at the hospital to visit there. There is my own district which is the least served of any other district in the Colony, and suggestions have been made to alleviate that situation just as suggestions have been made to alleviate the situation elsewhere. Are you going to suggest that there should be one dental register divided into three categories or any number of categories?

The hon. the Seventh Nominated Member has repeated verbatim, but perhaps with more rhetoric, more oratory, what counsel who appeared for these same gentlemen said before the Committee. I need not go into all that, what he said was stated by the very same people who were assisting these dental mechanics. When that gentleman was asked the question "What would you do?" he said "We would divide them into categories A. B. and C. according to the various characteristics, and how long they had been practising". It then resolved itself into this question: Are we to divide the register and say that a certain man is to practise in Georgetown and New Amsterdam only if he is qualified? What about the unqualified men on the register of dentists? They are dentists the minute they are placed on the register. Are you going to say that Schedule A ap-

plies to those who are only allowed to practise in rural areas, and not in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, and that we should place them on the dentists' register and give them full recognition as dentists?

Then we were told by the very people on whose behalf hon. Members are sympathetic, perhaps quite rightly, that a lot of them would not be able to carry on their illegal practice as they had been doing. That is one of the issues we have to face. The other point made was "Do not give them full practice as dentists, such as to do dental surgery, but allow them only to extract and fill." Are you going to have a special schedule to the register providing that these gentlemen are only allowed to extract teeth and fill teeth? The evidence disclosed that one of these gentlemen did not know how to spell anaesthetic," I think, in answer to my hon. friend—

Dr. SINGH: Is it correct to bring up all the details? The report speaks for itself.

Mr. WIGHT: I have nothing to fear. The hon. Member feels apprehensive. The whole report has been attacked and he is a signatory. Is he coming with us? I will not bother to say where he was and what happened. I leave that to him if he is afraid of the details. The position simply is this: Are they to be allowed a limited practise? Are they to be allowed to practise as dentists, or only to practise in a certain way and in certain places? Let us get to the body of men who came before us. I do not know what the hon. Member thinks, but in my opinion

there are three or four of them who, apparently from the reports we had from people who had been treated, and from gentlemen who gave evidence before us, probably if given an opportunity would qualify as any other dentist. No doubt they had been doing good work. We could not suggest it, but we thought that we might approach Government to assist them to qualify because, theoretically, they were qualified and practically they were qualified. These four could be admitted without examination but they came with others as a body and so had to be treated as a body. I was not the Chairman of the Committee; the hon. Member for Essequibo River seems to be under that impression. The Director of Medical Services was the Chairman. If one sees the educational background of some of these applicants who would be placed on the register of dentists, I suggest that it would be an appalling state of affairs and a blot on the profession in these modern days. Some of them started as dental assistants from the age of twelve, and some of them have never read a book. They admitted that frankly, when the question was put to them whether they had read a book. Some had done some reading, and one had actually read a dental magazine. Some of them had not even thought of taking a correspondence course. We were in this position: Are we going to place these people who are not educationally qualified to become registered, alongside those educationally qualified both in a theoretical and practical way?

At this stage the Council adjourned until Thursday, 19th April, 1951, at 2 p.m.