

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)
Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956.

Wednesday, 17th May, 1961

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :

Speaker, His Honour Sir Donald Jackson

Chief Secretary, Hon. Major I. O. Smith, O.B.E. (acting)

Attorney-General, Hon. A. M. I. Austin, Q.C. *ex officio*

Financial Secretary, Hon. W. P. D'Andrade.

The Honourable B. H. Benn	—Member for <i>Essequibo River</i> (Minister of Natural Resources)
" " Janet Jagan	—Member for <i>Western Essequibo</i> (Minister of Labour, Health and Housing)
" " Ram Karran	—Member for <i>Demerara-Essequibo</i> (Minister of Communications and Works)
" " B. S. Rai	—Member for <i>Central Demerara</i> (Minister of Community Development and Education).
Mr. R. B. Gajraj	—Nominated Member
" W. O. R. Kendall	—Member for <i>New Amsterdam</i>
" R. C. Tello	—Nominated Member
" F. Bowman	—Member for <i>Demerara River</i>
" A. L. Jackson	—Member for <i>Georgetown North</i>
" S. M. Saffee	—Member for <i>Western Berbice</i>
" Ajodha Singh	—Member for <i>Berbice River</i>
" R. E. Davis	—Nominated Member
" A. M. Fredericks	—Nominated Member
" H. J. M. Hubbard	—Nominated Member
" A. G. Tasker, O.B.E.	—Nominated Member.

Mr. E. V. Viapree — Clerk of the Legislature (acting)

Mr. V. S. Charan — Assistant Clerk of the Legislature (acting).

ABSENT:

Hon. Dr. C. B. Jagan — Minister of Trade and Industry — on leave

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, Q.C. — Member for Georgetown Central — on leave

Mr. S. Campbell — Member for North Western District

Mr. E. B. Beharry — Member for Eastern Demerara

Mr. Jai Narine Singh — Member for Georgetown South — on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, 27th April, 1961, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to announce that the Member for Georgetown Central, Mr. Burnham, has asked for leave from today's sitting; the Member for Georgetown South, Mr. Jai Narine Singh, is on two weeks' leave from the 14th April; the Minister of Trade and Industry, Dr. Jagan, is on leave out of the Colony as from 2nd May.

PAPERS LAID

The Attorney-General (Mr. Austin): I beg to lay on the Table the

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Patoir Trust Fund for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to lay on the Table the

- (i) Minimum Wages (Watchmen) Order, 1961, (No. 24), made under section 8(3) of the Labour Ordinance, Chapter 103.
- (ii) Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 1959.

Mr. Kendall: I beg to lay on the Table the

- (i) Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council on the Director of Audit's Report on the Accounts of the Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1959.
- (ii) Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council on the Director of Audit's Report on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1959.

MOTIONS

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Kendall to give notice of the Motions standing in his name:

"Be it resolved: That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council on the Director of Audit's Report on the Accounts of the Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1959, be referred to the Government for its consideration".

"Be it resolved: That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislative Council on the Director of Audit's Report on the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended 31st December, 1959, be referred to the Government for its consideration".

Mr. Kendall: Sir, I beg to give notice of the two Motions standing in my name on the Order Paper.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary (Major Smith): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

The Attorney-General: I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

Federal Supreme Court (Appeals) (Amendment) Bill, 1961.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS - FIRST READING

The following Bills were read the First time:

- (a) A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Representation of the People Ordinance, 1957".
- (b) A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Federal Supreme Court (Appeals) Ordinance".

**B.G. UNITED SAD'R ISLAMIC
ANJUMAN (INC. OF TRUSTEES)
BILL**

Mr. Speaker: The Member for Western Berbice, Mr. Saffee, to move the Second Reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to Incorporate certain persons as trustees of the Body known as the United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman, to vest in such persons certain property and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

Mr. Saffee: Sir, the British Guiana United Sad'r Islamic Anjuman is a religious organization of the Muslim community. This Bill seeks to incorporate certain persons to be trustees of the organization and to vest in them all its property in British Guiana.

The Bill also seeks to empower the trustees, subject to the rules and regulations of the organization, to acquire and dispose of property for its benefit.

I beg to move that the Bill be read a Second time.

Mr. Gajraj: I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause and passed it without amendment.

Council resumed.

Mr. Saffee: Sir, I beg to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee and passed without amendment. I now move that it be read the Third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

MOTIONS

**CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
— REFUND OF STAMP DUTY**

Mr. Speaker: The Member for Georgetown Central being on leave, we shall proceed with Motion No. 4 standing in the name of Mr. Davis:

"Be it resolved: That this Council recommends to Government the refund to the Christian Catholic Church of the sum of one hundred dollars paid in terms of the Tax Ordinance, 1939, for the Private Bill intituled "An Ordinance to repeal and re-enact the Christian Catholic Church (Incorporation) Ordinance."

Mr. Davis: Sir, I beg to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. Hon. Members will no doubt remember that a short while ago we considered a Petition from the Christian Catholic Church, and this Motion merely asks that the sum of one hundred dollars which has been deposited by the Church be refunded.

Mr. Gajraj: Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

BILLS — SECOND READING

**ALIENS (IMMIGRATION AND
REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT)
BILL**

The Chief Secretary: Sir, in moving the Second Reading of the Bill intituled

"An Ordinance to amend the Aliens (Immigration and Registration) Ordinance".

I wish to point out that this amending Bill seeks to provide a better measure of control over aliens who may wish to enter British Guiana. At the moment Section 10 of the Immigration Ordinance, Cap. 98, provides that, without deciding whether an alien is a prohibited immigrant, an immigration officer may

[THE CHIEF SECRETARY]

give him or her permission to enter the Colony for a period of three months and may, on application, extend the time to a maximum period of three years subject to certain condition.

On the other hand, Section 9 of the Immigration Ordinance provides that if the immigration officer decides that an alien is not a prohibited immigrant—that is normally quite easy to decide because the definition of a ‘prohibited immigrant’ is laid down in Section 3—he may, and shall, if required so to do, issue to the immigrant a certificate to that effect and armed with that certificate the alien may remain for an indefinite period without restriction and only be required to leave British Guiana if he is convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment, or if his presence is deemed to be detrimental to peace and good order.

At the moment there does not appear to be really effective control over aliens. In the circumstances, it is considered desirable that there should be a better method of control over the entry of aliens by imposing conditions regarding the duration of their stay and the business which they may be permitted to carry on during their stay. If they break any of these conditions they would then be subject to deportation.

I may mention that, although the definition of an alien is not defined in the local or United Kingdom legislation, it is found in the United Kingdom Nationality Act which states that an alien is any person other than a British Subject, or a British protected person. Therefore this measure would not affect West Indians. Furthermore, it is based on corresponding legislation in the Jamaica Aliens law. I now formally move that the Bill be read a Second time.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1. *Short Title*—agreed to.

Clause 2. *Amendment of section 4 of Chapter 101.*

Mr. Tasker: Mr. Chairman, wish to draw attention to the fact that in Clause 2 (5), in the penultimate line, the word “entered” should be substituted for “enter”.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Council resumed.

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I have to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee and passed with one slight Amendment, and I now beg to move that it be read the Third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

DEPUTY CROWN SOLICITOR (POWERS) BILL

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill intituled.

“An Ordinance to confer powers upon and assign duties to the Deputy Crown Solicitor.”

Before a solicitor commences civil proceedings in the Supreme Court on behalf of a client, he has to file an au-

thority to act. But there is a provision in the Supreme Court Rules which authorizes the Crown Solicitor to act on behalf of the Government without filing an authority to act on every occasion. The Crown Solicitor who is the Solicitor to the Government initiates civil proceedings on behalf of the Government by filing writs, issuing summonses and other originating proceedings. He enters appearances for the Crown in actions brought against the Government. Now there is a Deputy Crown Solicitor, it is advisable that he should have the same powers, so that he will not have to get specific authority on each occasion when acting on behalf of the Government in civil proceedings. That is the main purpose of this Bill — to vest in the Deputy Crown Solicitor the powers of the Crown Solicitor.

The Crown Solicitor also has statutory powers under one other enactment, the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, which makes him a member of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee. The Deputy Crown Solicitor will also become a member of that Committee. It is a Bill which is purely procedural in nature, and I commend it without more ado to the Council. I formally move that the Bill be read a Second time.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and passed the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

The Attorney-General: I beg to report that the Deputy Crown Solicitor (Powers) Bill has been considered in Committee and passed without amendment. I now move that the Bill be read the Third time.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (DECLARATION OF AREA) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Natural Resources to move the Second Reading of a Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to provide for the declaration of the Black Bush Drainage and Irrigation Area, the validation of the construction of certain works, the vesting of certain lands in the Drainage and Irrigation Board, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.”

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): As everyone must be aware by now, the construction of the Black Bush Polder Drainage and Irrigation Scheme has been completed. What remains to be done is the making of a few main roads in the area. The Bill before the Council is intended to declare the lands involved in the works as a Drainage and Irrigation Area, to vest all the works in the Drainage and Irrigation Board, and to validate certain acts which were carried out by the Drainage and Irrigation Department. The Bill also makes provision for the payment of compensation to all persons whose lands may have been taken over by the Drainage and Irrigation Department in carrying out the works. It is a very simple Bill, and I formally move that it be read a Second time.

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and passed the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

Mr. Benn : I beg to report that the Drainage and Irrigation (Declaration of Area) (No. 2) Bill has been taken through the Committee stage without amendment. I now move that the Bill be read the Third time.

Mr. Ram Karran : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

PARK TO ABARY DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (EXTENSION OF AREA) BILL

Mr. Speaker : The Minister of Natural Resources to move the Second Reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the extension of the Park to Abary Drainage and Irrigation Area and for purposes connected therewith."

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn) : Some time towards the end of 1959 arrangements were made for the carrying out of certain works in the Park to Abary Drainage and Irrigation Area. Those works were to be carried out in accordance with Section 11 (1) of the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 192. However, on publication of the Government's intention in the Official Gazette and in the daily newspapers, residents in the Park to Abary area represented to the Drainage and Irrigation Board and to Government that the works proposed would not satisfy the agricultural needs of the area, and that they desired that the works be extended. Subsequently, as a result of the representations of the proprietors, Government decided to extend the works. The proprietors, however, represented to Government that carrying out the provisions of Chapter 192 would take considerable time, and that the works which were of urgent necessity would not be carried out. It was therefore considered necessary to introduce this Bill to extend the area in order that

more lands should benefit from the works which will be carried out in the Park to Abary area. I formally move that the Bill be read a Second time.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan) : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and passed the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

Mr. Benn : I beg to report that the Park to Abary Drainage and Irrigation (Extension of Area) Bill has been considered in Committee without amendment. I therefore move that the Bill be read the Third time.

Mrs. Jagan : I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (DECLARATION OF AREA) (No. 3) BILL

Mr. Speaker : The Minister of Natural Resources to move the Second Reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the declaration of the Tapakuma Drainage and Irrigation Area and the construction of certain works."

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn) : Unlike the case of the Black Bush Polder Drainage and Irrigation Scheme, the vesting of which works has been declared on the completion of the works, the Government is taking steps to declare the Tapakuma Drainage and Irrigation Area at the commencement of the scheme. The Bill seeks to declare the area surrounding the

Tapakuma Lake and including the existing Zorg--en-Vlygt to Aberdeen and Three Friends to Walton Hall Drainage and Irrigation Areas, a Drainage and Irrigation Area. The area comprises the portion of the Essequibo Coast which is described as the Tapakuma Project. A portion of the area has already been declared a Drainage and Irrigation Area, and the present proposal embraces the entire area in which the drainage and irrigation works are now being carried out. I formally move that the Bill be read a Second time.

Mrs. Jagan: I beg to second the Motion.

Mr. Tasker: With your permission, Sir, I wish to say that, while warmly endorsing the intentions and provisions of this Bill, I had hoped that the hon. Minister might have clarified paragraph 3 of the Objects and Reasons in the Bill as printed. It is argued that there is no need to comply with the lengthy procedure prescribed in the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, since all moneys to be expended on the project are to be voted by this Council. What I rise to query is: Whether that is the only reason why this procedure was written into the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance? It seems to me that we may be in danger of ignoring certain reasonable safeguards provided for the proprietors in this area if we arbitrarily say that because they have not got to pay the moneys, therefore, they should have no objection. This is not a criticism. I only want the Minister to clarify it.

Another but much smaller point is that I wish we could agree on our spelling of place names. Nineteen times in this Bill the name "Tapakuma" is spelt with a "k", and in two cases — in the title and in section 4 of Clause 4 — it is spelt with a "c". Can we not agree on one or the other?

Mr. Benn: I am sorry that the explanation at the end of paragraph 3 of

the Objects and Reasons has been so written and gives the impression that since Government has to spend all the moneys for the works, there is no reason to go through the long procedure prescribed in the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, Chapter 192. There are several other reasons. It is possible that the works might cut across other people's works — might interfere with their drainage arrangements for their areas or might take up their land — and that is another reason why Chapter 192 is so framed. I regret that the end of paragraph 3 has been so written.

I wish, however, to say that aside from that, Government finds that the long procedure set out in Chapter 192 has taken or does take a considerable time — protests and a variety of other things — and Government seeks, wherever possible, to find out the reason for not carrying out certain works, from the people, by holding one or two meetings. That has been done in this case, and it is hoped that the money problem would not arise in carrying out these works.

On the other hand, if we are to attempt to go through the long procedure, it may be found that the objections may delay, considerably, the works which we want to carry out. Unlike the Black Bush Drainage and Irrigation Scheme, which was mainly Crown land, some of the lands through which the works will pass are privately held, and so it is necessary to carry out a declaration of this area as early as possible.

As regards the second part of the hon. Nominated Member's query — another mistake which seemed to have crept in — I am afraid I am not an expert on the correct spelling of Guianese names.

Mr. Speaker: I think the point he is making is this: that if you decide to spell a word one way in a particular Ordinance, it should be so throughout. In this case, if you decide that "c" should

[MR. SPEAKER]

be used, it should be so throughout; and if you decide that "k" should be used, it should be so throughout.

Mr. Benn: Thank you, Sir. I think we should spell it with a "k", which spelling has been used more times than with a "c".

Mr. Tasker: I have no views on what the correct spelling is, but as you rightly said, Sir, we should be consistent in whatever spelling we use.

The Attorney-General: Quite right!

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

Mr. Benn: I move an Amendment that the word "Tapakuma" be spelt with a "k" instead of a "c" wherever it occurs.

Question put, and agreed to.

Council resumed.

Mr. Benn: I beg to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee with one Amendment, and I now move that it be read the Third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

TAX (AMDT. No. 2) BILL

Mr. Speaker: The Financial Secretary to move the Second Reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Tax Ordinance".

The Financial Secretary: (Mr. D'Andrade): Sir, this Bill is designed to correct certain deficiencies in the pre-

sent tax laws relating to cinemas. Section 7 of Chapter 298—the Tax Ordinance—now provides that every exhibitor of films shall pay to the district commissioner, weekly, 3½ per cent. of his gross takings in order to provide an advance payment and security against income tax payable by the distributor of films.

At the time this device was adopted this device for securing income tax on film distributors' profits—the film distributors were non-residents, and it was felt that there was not adequate security for the payment of their income tax.

The distributors have made representations to the Government to the effect that they are capable of providing adequate security, and the Government proposes that section 7 should be amended to allow, as an alternative to the advance payment, the film distributors to give satisfactory security for the payment of income tax.

Clause 4 seeks to amend under section 52 of the Tax Ordinance, as amended by Ordinance No. 8 of 1955, which as it now stands, provides that the Governor in Council may exempt from duty, in whole or in part, the payments for admission to any cinematograph entertainment. Section 52 has two provisos: (i) under which the Governor in Council may exempt from the payment of entertainment duty, either in whole or in part, the payments for admission to any cinematograph entertainment; and (ii) under which exemption may be granted in respect of the admissions to any cinematograph entertainment where the Governor in Council is satisfied that the whole of the takings thereof, without deduction of any expenses of the entertainment, are to be devoted to religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic or charitable purposes.

The idea behind Clause 4 of the Bill is to permit the limited power under proviso (ii) to be delegated to the Financial Secretary. Clause 4(2) to

(6) is designed to tidy up deficiencies in the Tax Ordinance in respect of the collection of cinematograph entertainment duty. I propose to move an amendment to Clause 4 (2) at the appropriate stage by inserting in the second line on page 2 the word "third" between the words "the" and "day". It has been brought to my attention that the day after will not allow sufficient time in the country districts for people to make their payments of cinematograph tax.

Clause 5 seeks to correct an error in the present Section 66 of the Tax Ordinance which reads as follows:

"In default of payment, when due, of any of the taxes or duties imposed or other moneys payable by this Ordinance or by any Ordinance mentioned in the last preceding section, those taxes, duties, or other moneys with interest at the rate of six per centum per annum from the day when they became due and payable, shall, when not otherwise specially directed, be enforced and recovered by the Financial Secretary by parate execution."

Section 66 was intended to apply to the Ordinance, but as it is worded it appears to apply only to the last preceding Section.

I beg to move the second Reading of the Bill.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to second the Motion.

Mr. Tasker: Sir, I wonder whether the hon. Financial Secretary or the hon. Attorney-General would enlighten us as to the fine distinction between the words 'philanthropic' and 'charitable'? In Clause 4, which is the new amendment to Section 52(1) (b) (i), one reads "...without deduction of any expenses of the entertainment, are to be devoted to religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic or charitable purposes". We have, on many occasions, dealt with 'religious, educational and charitable'. In fact, in a recent amendment to the

Tax Ordinance, provision has been made for covenanted contributions for these three purposes. While I warmly welcome the addition of 'scientific' to the list, I fail to see the distinction between 'philanthropic' and 'charitable', and I would have thought that one word would have sufficed.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I think it is a hallowed expression in our laws and other laws, and the intention is to convey a meaning in respect of a charitable institution that it exists by means of charitable donations, such as an orphanage; a philanthropic institution is one that exists to give help and charity to people and institutions.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 to 3 passed as printed.

Clause 4. *Repeal and re-enactment of section 52 of Chapter 298.*

The Financial Secretary: Sir, I beg to move that Clause 4(2) be amended by the insertion of the word "third" between the words "the" and "they" in the second line.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5 passed as printed.

Council resumed.

The Financial Secretary: Sir, I beg to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee and passed with one amendment, and I now move that it be read the Third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

FOREIGN JUDGMENTS (RECIPROCAL ENFORCEMENT) BILL

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to move the Second Reading of a Bill intituled

“An Ordinance to make provisions for the enforcement in British Guiana of judgments given in foreign countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in British Guiana, for facilitating the enforcement in foreign countries of judgments given in British Guiana, and for purposes connected therewith.”

It, sometimes, happens that a successful plaintiff in an action in the Supreme Court has to seek judgment from the defendant when he has left the country. Before 1922 it was not possible to secure satisfaction of a Supreme Court action if the defendant went abroad without paying up. The same situation existed in other countries, and in 1922 the Judgments Extension Ordinance was passed here to give reciprocal effect to a law that was passed in England which stated in effect that when a plaintiff had successfully pursued his action in the High Court in England, and the defendant had gone overseas without paying up, if there were reciprocal arrangements for enforcing judgments, then the plaintiff in England could register his judgment in the place within the Empire where the defendant happened to be and it would be executed against him in the High Court of that territory. Similarly, so far as British Guiana was concerned, a judgment obtained here could be registered in the United Kingdom or any other overseas territory and the plaintiff could secure satisfaction.

In 1933 it was found that this useful reciprocal arrangement for the satisfaction of judgments obtained in the High Courts of overseas territories could,

with advantage, be extended to foreign countries as well. So that, for instance, a judgment obtained in England, if the necessary reciprocal arrangements were made, could be executed in France or America. Similarly, judgments obtained in France and America could, if the defendant went to England, be satisfied in England. A law was then found in England to extend the reciprocal enforcement of judgments to foreign countries but there was a flaw in the law, and it seems to have taken over twenty years to cure it. This flaw has now been cured, and we have been invited to enact legislation on a reciprocal basis with the United Kingdom and other places in the Commonwealth as well as foreign countries, for reciprocal enforcement of judgments obtained in the Supreme Court here.

The United Kingdom has enacted legislation, and the Bill before this Council is, indeed, a complete reflection, word for word, of the United Kingdom statute. Similarly, it is expected that many other places — in fact most other places in the Commonwealth — will enact similar legislation so that the general effect will be that judgments obtained here can be satisfied in any other Commonwealth territory, and their judgments can be executed and satisfied here.

Similarly, if arrangements are made in foreign countries, for instance, Venezuela, Surinam and the United States of America that they will execute our judgments, we can undertake to execute theirs. That is the idea behind this Bill which may seem, on first reading, rather complicated but is in fact a move, I believe, in the right direction, to break down the barriers — political and constitutional barriers — that exist between countries so as to enable successful litigants in one country to achieve satisfaction even if the defendant leaves the country before paying up and goes to another country.

The Bill provides for the registration of foreign judgments and judgments

of the Superior Courts of Commonwealth territories in our Supreme Court, and the registration of judgments of our Supreme Court in the Superior Courts of those other countries. There is also provision for cancelling a registration or amending it.

The Bill is in common form; it is not home-made, as it were. It gives effect to what I believe is the right idea of an international arrangement for seeing that justice is done, and I commend it to the Council.

Before I take my seat I would like to explain that the Bill is intituled: "Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill", but I have mentioned that it applies not only to foreign countries but also to Commonwealth territories. I stressed that aspect of it. The arrangement of the Bill is that primarily it deals with foreign countries, but in Clause 9 there is provision for applying it to Her Majesty's Dominions, which of course means all parts of the Commonwealth, as if they were foreign countries. So that in point of fact it will extend, on a reciprocal basis, to both foreign and Commonwealth territories. I formally move that the Bill be read a Second time.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and passed the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

The Attorney-General: I beg to report that the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill was considered in Committee and passed without amendment. I now beg to move that the Bill be read the Third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: That is all the business for today.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary: I move that Council adjourn to Wednesday next, the 24th of May, at 2 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Council will now adjourn to Wednesday next, 24th of May, at two o'clock in the afternoon.