

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1951.

The Council met at 2.00 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT:

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. J. Gutch, O.B.E.

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. 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. T. T. Thompson (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 Wednesday, the 28th of February, 1951, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY and TREASURER laid on the table the following :—

Supplementary Estimate for the quarter ended 31st December, 1950.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY and TREASURER gave notice of the following motion :—

That, this Council approves of the supplementary estimate for the quarter ended 31st December, 1950, which has been laid on the table.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

POSTAL, TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE REGULATIONS.

Mr. DEBIDIN gave notice of the following motion :—

WHEREAS the Honourable the Colonial Secretary at a meeting of the Fourth Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana at the Third Session, 1950-1951, held on the 4th of January, 1951, purported to lay on the table the following documents :—

- (1) Post Office (Telegraph) (Amendment) Regulations 1950 (No. 25 of 1950).

- (2) The Parcel Postage Rates (Great Britain, Northern Ireland and beyond and H.M. Forces) Regulations No. 32 of 1950.
- (3) The Post Office (Telegraph) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, No. 34 of 1950.
- (4) The Telephone Regulations, No 35 of 1950.
- (5) Order in Council No. 47 of 1950, made under section 16 (2) and 17 of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Chapter 185.

AND WHEREAS in fact, the aforesaid Regulations were not printed and circulated to Members in Council at the time of the alleged laying over, and this was only done in February, 1951, when Council was in recess ;

AND WHEREAS it is the clear intention of the governing and empowering legislation with respect to the aforesaid Regulations that the said Regulations should be circulated to the Members of Council immediately after being laid over so as to enable them, if necessary, to frame the Regulations thereon for the annulment of any of such Regulations for consideration and determination of the Council within a limited time of 21 days from the date of laying over ;

BE IT RESOLVED that the aforesaid Regulations be deemed to have been effectively laid over as on the date of the resumption of Council on the 28th of February, 1951 ;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED—

- (a) That the aforesaid Regulations No. 25 of 1950 be annulled and that the Regulations revoked thereby continue to be in force.
- (b) That the aforesaid Regulations No. 32 of 1950 be annulled and made void.
- (c) That the aforesaid Regulations No. 34 of 1950 be annulled and that the Regulations revoked thereby continue to be in force.
- (d) That Regulations 28 — 31 inclusive and schedule D of the aforesaid Regulations No. 35 of 1950 as further amended by regulations laid over on the table on the 28th of February, 1951, be annulled and be of no effect, and that all previous Regulations annulled thereby continue to be in force.
- (e) That the aforesaid Order in Council No. 47 of 1950 be annulled.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS — First Reading

On motions by the ATTORNEY GENERAL seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY the following Bills were read the first time :—

- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance further to amend the Cattle Stealing Prevention Ordinance with respect to the branding of cattle.”
- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance further to amend the Bakeries (Hours of Work) Ordinance, 1946.”
- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance to promote the establishment and development of certain industries.”
- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance further to amend the Transport and Harbours Ordinance, 1931, with respect to the revenue of the Department.”
- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance further to amend the Pensions Ordinance 1933, with respect to the pensions of public officers who have service as teachers.”
- A Bill intituled “An Ordinance to encourage the establishment or development of industries in the colony and to make provision for relief from income tax to persons establishing or developing such industries and for purposes incidental to or connected with any of the foregoing purposes; and to make provision for relief from income tax in aid of certain industries and the provision of workmen's homes.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) PUBLIC SERVICES ENQUIRY.

(b) PRIMARY EDUCATION POLICY.

The PRESIDENT addressed the Council as follows :—

Honourable Members,

Before we proceed to consideration of the draft estimates Head by Head, there are two announcements I should like to make which are, I think, relevant to the debate which has taken place on the budget. The first is in regard to the Public Services and the second in regard to primary education in the Colony and our policy thereanent.

PUBLIC SERVICES ENQUIRY.

As to the Public Services, you will recollect that the Salaries and Wages Commission in their final report published in October last stated that they had been unable to undertake a comprehensive enquiry into the Public Service though they considered it necessary. They accordingly recommended that a single individual with the necessary experience and capacity be appointed to enquire into and make recommendations on the existing administrative structure, efficiency, personnel and conditions of employment (other than remuneration) in the Public Service, as well as recruitment, qualifications and training of candidates for entry thereto. You will also recollect that the Fletcher Cost of Living Committee in its report of the 30th November last also recommended that the possibility of increasing efficiency and economy in the Government Service by the introduction of modernised methods and mechanisation should be explored. Quite apart from these recommendations, a number of Honourable Members in the course of the budget debate pointed out the need for action of the kind made in these recommendations, having regard more particularly to the colony's present financial position and the increasing cost of the Administration. I only wish to say at this stage that I am satisfied that such action is desirable, and that I have already taken steps to enquire from the Secretary of State whether we can obtain the services of a high ranking expert to enquire into these matters, and preferably one from His Majesty's Treasury in the United Kingdom. The necessity and value of experts of this kind with experience not only of organisation in Government departments but also in the largest banking and commercial concerns has already been proved, and so much so that there are now, I understand, one or two of them permanently attached to His Majesty's Treasury. I hope to hear shortly whether such an expert can be made available, and if so I shall of course seek the prior approval of this Council to his appointment.

PRIMARY EDUCATION — POLICY

As to the second question namely, the problem of primary education and the policy to be adopted, I have decided to set up a representative committee with the following terms of reference: "to enquire into and report on the present and future cost of primary education in the colony and to make recommendations as to future policy with respect to the provision of schools and teachers having regard to the expectation of a progressive

heavy increase in the enrolment of pupils and with particular regard to the prospective financial resources of the colony".

As Chairman of this Committee the Comptroller of the Development and Welfare Organisation has been good enough to place at our disposal the services of Mr J. L. Nicol, his Education Adviser, and I would propose, subject to their willingness to serve, that the members of the Committee should consist of —

- (a) members of the Legislative Advisory Committee on Education namely, the Hon. C. V. Wight (Chairman of the Committee), the Hon. T. T. Thompson and the Hon. D. P. Debidin.
- (b) The three Chairmen of the Elementary School Governing Bodies of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland.
- (c) The President and Vice-President of the B.G. Teachers' Association.
- (d) The Commissioner of Local Government, the Director of Education, the Deputy Financial Secretary, the Headmistress of the Bishops' High School for Girls, and Mrs. J. A. Nicholson.

I think you will agree with me as to the real need there is for an enquiry of this kind, having regard to the very rapid but, all the same, happy development of primary education which has taken place in British Guiana during the last few years, and the projected heavy increase in the number attending school, and

is of no little concern to us, the very heavy increased cost which this expansion in primary education has involved, and will involve, with our rapidly increasing population. The total provision for education in the draft estimates now before you exceeds 2¼ million dollars per annum, in a budget of just over 19 million dollars of total annually recurrent expenditure, and, as I have reminded you before, it is the burden of this ever increasing annually recurrent expenditure that is a red light we must watch. The rapidly increasing cost of free education in British Guiana, a principle from which we must not depart, will be readily realised when I tell you that our total expenditure in 1947 on education was one and a half millions, compared with over 2¼ millions this year. I have already stated, and without any radical change in our this latter

figure is bound to increase year by year by what I might call normal annual accretions. I should make it clear that the figures I have quoted do not include capital grants made to us under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, which in the past few years have amounted to some \$1,000,000 for education purposes, and the bulk of which has already been spent. These grants have, as you know, been used mainly for new schools, but we must realise that every new school building we put up means no little addition to our annually recurrent expenditure. These are some of the considerations which have led me to appoint this Committee which will, I hope, prove to be very useful to us in seeking a solution to the difficult problem which confronts us, and the magnitude of which will be still clearer to you and to the public when I tell you that it is expected that the school rolls will increase by a minimum of 15,000 in the next four years, and 20,000 in the next five years.

ESTIMATES, 1951

LEGISLATURE.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the draft Estimates for 1951 and the Report of the Finance Committee thereon.

Mr. DEBIDIN: May I ask whether the recommendations made by the Finance Committee under this head have been implemented, or whether they will be given consideration and implemented in the near future?

The CHAIRMAN: To what recommendations does the hon. Member refer?

Mr. DEBIDIN: I refer to the recommendations with respect to additional concessions to Members of the Council in the performance of their duties. I would rather not itemize them, because I do not want the Council to enter upon any debate on those various matters. I would just like to know whether Government intends to implement them.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot give the hon. Member an answer to that question. The matter has been brought to my notice and it will receive due consideration. I should think that it would have

been better if a question of that kind had been brought up in open Council. I understand it has been suggested that Members should be allowed free postal facilities, free travelling on the railways, and income tax free allowances. Those are big questions, as the hon. Member knows. They have been brought to my notice and Government will consider them. I make no promise whatsoever.

Dr. JAGAN: There is one other point which I would like to raise with reference to the registration of voters. I know that during the past two or three years no provision was made, and no dates have been fixed for the revision of the voters lists and the inclusion of additional voters. It was suggested in Finance Committee that Government should extend the period this year from one month to three months for the revision of the list of voters and the registration of new voters.

The CHAIRMAN: I appreciate the hon. Member's point but we have had the Constitution Commission here, and what the franchise will be in the light of their recommendations I am not sure. It will, of course, involve a complete re-registration, apart from the annual registration of voters. We do not want to spend time on a revision of the register which may be completely out of date when the Constitution Commission reports, assuming that its recommendations are adopted.

Mr. ROTH: I believe what the hon. Member is referring to is the short period of time allowed the public to register as voters. The matter was mentioned in Finance Committee, and as far as my recollection goes the hon. the Financial Secretary undertook to bring it to Government's notice. It is not a question of re-making the list but of giving the public a longer time to register as voters.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that is a point that should be considered.

Head II — Legislature — approved as printed at \$54,700.

AGRICULTURE.

Mr. DEBIDIN: Under this head I wish to seek the earliest opportunity to refer to a letter by Mr. H. P. Bayley, Manager of the B.G. Rice Marketing Board, dated December 9, 1950, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, which has been circulated to Members of this Council. In paragraph 3 of that letter Mr. Bayley writes:

"I am to point out, however, that an increase of one cent per pound in the export prices was received from Barbados, Trinidad and the Leeward Islands as recently as in April, 1950, and in the light of the information gained at the time of those negotiations, it is considered that a further approach at this stage would meet with little success."

The letter refers to a motion which was passed by a majority of the Members of this Council — a majority which on that occasion comprised the elected bloc, with perhaps one or two exceptions, while the opposition consisted of the Nominated Members and the Official Members. I have a record of the division which shows clearly what took place on that occasion. It is a matter for great regret that where the highest body in this land arrived at a decision which affected the well being of the entire community and one of the most important industries in this Colony, we find that that decision has been overruled, disregarded and treated with the greatest contempt by what I regard as a subordinate body. The Rice Marketing Board has been created by Statute which was passed by this Legislative Council, and has arrogated to itself the extreme power and contemptuous attitude to brush aside a resolution of this Council which directed that body to do certain things. I should have expected that the Board, or the Government of the Colony, would have transmitted for their information a copy of the Council's resolution to each of the contracting Governments for the supply of rice from this Colony. At least that courtesy should have been paid to this Council.

I must recall what took place in this Council when that resolution was passed. On that occasion the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. W. J. Raatgever, the Chair-

man of the Rice Marketing Board, made use of certain remarks in this Council which tended to show that he treated the motion very lightly. He did not consider it important at all. It is therefore a matter for comment that the very body over which he presides should have come to a conclusion, which seems to have carried out that general original intention expressed in this Council of treating the motion with contempt. It is a serious matter, a matter in which the inhabitants and rice-growers of British Guiana have every right to stand up and take due regard of the happenings of Government not only in the functions of the Executive Council but in subsidiary bodies like the Rice Marketing Board, and to call a halt to their very undemocratic way of handling the fortunes and welfare of the people, which matter so much in the Colony's economic progress.

Sir, it must be patent from this letter that the revision of prices will be operative from 1952, and at the time when that motion was passed there was a considerable period before then — a period of over 12 months, to be precise a matter of 14 to 15 months—within which this Colony might be deprived of what it is entitled to, and that is an increase of the export price. It is to my mind exceedingly specious argument for the Manager or the Board to say that because we are going to negotiate soon the price in 1952 we should not let the contracting Colonies know that this Colony is anxious to have immediately an increase of price during the present term of the contract. I remember rightly the motion did say that the circumstances were such following on Devaluation as to make our Colony legally entitled to treat the contract as fit for review. The circumstances made it reasonable for a further increase of the price and to have the level of our export price brought up to the average world market price. We did not intend that to be in 1952, but to be then in 1950 and during the year 1951. Because we are going to negotiate a new contract in 1952 is no reason why we should not get a better price in 1951 or the world market price as the contract suggests when the renewal of the contract comes on in 1952. It seems to me that what has

been done here amounts to the grossest cheek not only to this Council but to the people of this Colony. I regard it as something which not only demands that the Rice Marketing Board be abolished and a new machinery be set up, but that every man there be told where he should go.

Mr. FERNANDES: As Chairman of the Rice Marketing Board I would like to remind the hon. Member of a few facts. I was not in the Colony at the time this motion was passed in this Council and, therefore, I am not going to join issue with him on that, but I would just like to remind him that the Rice Marketing Board is not a body that is subordinate to this Council. It is a statutory body. He is quite correct in saying that you, Sir, have the right to appoint a large number of its members — one-half of the members of the Board — but he forgot to say that the Rice Producers' Association through its Council has eight members also on that Board and, I take it for granted, that when this matter was discussed by the Rice Marketing Board those members, who were really representatives of the rice industry and not political representatives, had their say. I am also sure that at the meeting when it was discussed, though I have not checked up on it as I had no idea I would have had to speak on this subject, there was a majority of them present. It is quite an easy matter for any Member of this Council to stand here and say "Get new prices, the world market price". It sounds very nice and, perhaps, reads nice in the newspapers. But we were bound by a legal contract, and that contract expires at the end of 1951. I took part in the negotiations which took place a short while ago for the increase of the price by one cent per lb. I want to assure my friend that everything had to be done to get even that small increase. I am absolutely certain that, when Mr. Bayley said in his letter that it would not have been possible for us to get a further increase, he was speaking the truth.

We are meeting Trinidad, Barbados and the other parties to the contract in Trinidad some time in March, about the 19th or 20th of this month, to negotiate

prices for 1952. I am very sorry that it is not possible and it will not be proper for us to have the services of my good friend, the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara, at that conference, so that he will be able to see exactly how difficult it is to get the things he speaks of so easily and glibly here. I want also to mention that at the last negotiations we had subsequent to Devaluation we tried to get an increase of one cent per lb., dating from January of last year and we failed. We could only get it from April, except in the case of Barbados who agreed to pay us the increase on the stocks of rice on hand and not yet sold. In the case of Trinidad they said they could not do it because it would mean an increase in their subsidy; in the case of the Windward Islands they refused to give that increase and today they are getting their rice one cent cheaper than the other contracting parties. There was nothing we could do. We have argued that contract at length. I would just like to remind Members of this Council that a contract in some places is something to be honoured when it turns out in their favour and to be dishonoured when it turns out to be against them. I can assure you, Sir, if Members of this Council think that way the good name of British Guiana would not last very long. Since I have got up to answer the hon. Member I see the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Raatgever, who was Chairman of the Board during my absence, has arrived and, perhaps, he may want to say something.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I object to the statement which has been made. Throughout the debate of the motion and even today I have said nothing to suggest that I am urging that the contract with the contracting Colonies should be dishonoured. I think it was clearly set out in the preamble that intervening causes are so compelling, and I even said that by legal argument causes not contemplated by the contractors in that particular agreement were such as to make them aware of the circumstances and, therefore, were such as to call for a review of the contract or agreement. If not legally, at least morally it would be competent to have a review to bring the price up as much as possible

to the average world market price. I am not for one moment suggesting that this Colony should besmirch its fair name by willy-nilly breaking the contract with its Sister Colonies. It is wrong to say I suggest that. The circumstances are perfectly clear. This Colony would not have been in the throes of great anxiety to balance its Budget had this Colony been receiving the proper price for its rice. It would have had by the increase \$7 million more for its national income.

Mr. LEE: I am glad to hear that certain members of the Board are going in March to discuss prices. I sincerely hope they will come back and report to the Board, and the Board will give the Rice Producers' Association an opportunity to discuss the prices they have arrived at tentatively.

Dr. JAGAN: With reference to this discussion which has been taking place on the question of rice, I would like to make a few comments here. The hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) stated that when this new agreement —

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: May I interrupt as I do not want it to go on record as coming from the lips of Members that there is to be a new contract. This agreement does not expire in 1951. What is going to happen is an opportunity for reviewing of prices. This contract exists and it is a very valuable contract, because it imposes the right to supply over an extended period at a higher price. I hope we will not go on speaking of the expiring contract and negotiating a new contract, because that is not the case at all.

Dr. JAGAN: While that may be so, it is nevertheless true that the first term of the contract will come to an end at the end of this year and that new negotiations are to take place for the second term of the contract. Dealing with prices, if the prices are not satisfactory to the Board it certainly follows that the Board can refuse to enter into the agreement or to continue the agreement. Whether we want to split hairs and to speak of one or two agreements, let us be clear on what we are talking about.

The point is, at the end of this year new conditions are to be arrived at suitable to the Colony and, if not suitable, the Board is free to abrogate that contract.

Mr. FERNANDES: To a point of correction! That is not correct. The hon. Member has studied this contract at length and should know that is not correct. All that the Board can do and will do if there is a disagreement on price, is to send the matter to arbitration. Arbitration comes in where the price is lower than the price those Islands can obtain elsewhere. The extended period gives us the right to supply all the imported quantities of rice those markets need if we can supply, but we can supply any portion of it that we can have. It is very simple. The hon. Member knows that an arbitration clause is there. He knows there can be no abrogation of the contract except, as I said before, British Guiana wants to lose her good name.

Mr. LEE: I do not know, but I think, if I remember rightly, the contract says the least price British Guiana can get is the minimum world price. I am not speaking of arbitration, but the arbitration cannot go below the minimum world price. When the quantity agreed on is supplied and there is any surplus, then there will be bargaining on the price for that surplus.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER. The hon. Member would agree there is quite a lot to be arbitrated on. The argument as to what is the minimum world price, there is plenty of scope for disagreement on just that.

Dr. JAGAN: I am glad for the correction which has been given about this arbitration committee which will have to be set up in case there is a disagreement. What is passing through my mind at the present time is the necessity for a revision of the Rice Marketing Board Ordinance. It is true, as the hon. Member for Georgetown Central says, this Council has no jurisdiction over the Rice Marketing Board because it is a statutory body. But I feel the time has come when this Ordinance must be amended. We have had

a very long debate on this issue and, I think, the sooner Government gets down to this matter the quicker the people themselves will be satisfied as to the workings of the Board and the development of the rice industry as such. There is also the question of the revision of the Ordinance dealing with the Rice Producers' Association, and I hope, Sir, that matter will also receive immediate attention by Government. There is one item in these Estimates — item 29 — "Establishment of a Farm Institute for the Eastern Caribbean, \$41,241" — which, I notice, is going to be the subject of a special motion by the hon. the Financial Secretary

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: Since we have reached that Head, may I remind hon. Members that what we are seeking this afternoon is to adopt the recommendation of the report of the Finance Committee, yet I shall invite the attention of Members to the fact that there is a specific motion of which I gave notice yesterday. It seeks to invite the Council to participate in the scheme and, if they agree, to meet the cost as part of our services. That, I think, is the best procedure. It allows further scope for a special debate.

Dr. JAGAN: Does that mean this item is being taken out of this Head?

The CHAIRMAN: The Head is for approval as amended in Finance Committee!

Dr. JAGAN: Thank you. There is one other point I would like to make, and that deals particularly with the question of an agricultural policy. At a recent meeting which was held only last month — the East Coast Central Canefarmers' Committee meeting — it was suggested that the people of Nabaclis-Golden Grove want to convert their food crops cultivation into cane cultivation, and the Agricultural Officer of that District has recently written a report advising against this conversion. But where the difficulty comes in, Sir, is that the people of this area have been suffering regular losses from year to year through floods, and

because it is a known fact that sugar cane can withstand water for a longer period of time than ordinary vegetable crops, those people have now come to the conclusion that possibly the best thing to do is to convert their provision lands into cane cultivation. The Agricultural Officer has advised that this is really a dangerous policy, and I agree with him because in that one particular area there is no idle land which can be brought into cane cultivation. If cane is to be planted, it means that the acreage now under food crops would have to be converted into cane. I am also told that those people have stuck to vegetables and food production over the past number of years even though they had been encouraged to go into cane cultivation, because they felt that food crops cultivation gave them greater returns; but because of the losses they are suffering from year to year through floods they have now come to the conclusion that it would pay them in the long run much more if they convert their cultivation into cane cultivation. I bring this point to show that unless we can improve the drainage and irrigation particularly of the East Coast Demerara — of course I have in mind the whole Colony but I am planking now on the reference to the East Coast Demerara — we will have the people sacrificing a diversified agricultural economy for a single crop economy — sugar cane cultivation.

I have already pointed out in this Council the danger of that, and I do not think we should give any great encouragement to those people to change from food crops production to cane cultivation. But nevertheless there was the insistent demand at that canefarmers' committee meeting for the change. The demand was so insistent that one member proposed that a delegation be brought to interview you, Sir, so that a sum of \$35,000 may be expended for improving certain canals, etc., in order that this area may be converted into cane lands. I do hope, Sir, that very early we will have an opportunity in this Council to hear the drainage and irrigation proposals of the Consulting Engineer, Mr Hutchinson. In Finance Committee I requested that Mr Hutchinson be asked or invited to come before the Finance Committee to tell us

about his irrigation and drainage schemes so that Members of the Council will be better informed. I am told, Sir, that his estimate for a scheme on the East Coast Demerara including the Mahaica area is in the vicinity of 12 to 15 million dollars, and if that scheme is carried through it would mean that several thousands of acres of land which are now lying idle would be brought into a proper state so that they could become cultivable in the future. It is also important that lands now being cultivated and on which so much labour has been expended at the beginning of the crop year will bear fruit. Over the past two years the people on the East Coast Demerara have planted their ground provisions and because of the floods which we have had they have suffered a great deal. I feel sure that in the long run it is going to pay in this country great dividends if we embark on these schemes, provided they are scientifically sound because lands would be brought under cultivation and, as you know, Sir, we have a very great increase in population from year to year and we have to make provision for those people.

Recently I put the question, Sir, to an agriculturist, a trained man, who has now accepted a job in the Municipality of Georgetown and is now, I believe, a Sexton and who had recently been on a British Council Scholarship to study landscape. "Why is it in a country like British Guiana where there is so much land people like you, who have had the opportunity of a scientific agricultural education, do not go in for agriculture as such or for dairy farming or cattle rearing in this country?" I asked him further, "Why is it that the other trained agriculturists in British Guiana have given up the profession after having gone through the Trinidad College of Tropical Agriculture and got a Diploma there?" The answer he gave was: "Under conditions prevailing today in British Guiana it does not matter how much training one has had one cannot guarantee that when one puts his capital either in food production, or dairy farming, or the cattle industry, one will get returns." If those people who are trained agriculturists can make such statements, then one must wonder what about the ordinary people. I do not want

to go into a long discussion on this question of farming now. In this country farming is haphazard to the poor people who go in for that occupation.

Yesterday you, Sir, said you preferred to see these people invest their money in the cultivation of the fruit instead of importing fruit juices for their soft drinks industry. I agree with that proposition but we have to realize that people with a very small amount of capital at their disposal, and living in a country in which there is no planned economy, will not go in for agricultural schemes unless they can be assured that the land they have planted will bear fruit. It is true that in the sugar industry the proprietors are continuing to reap the benefits of their years of labour but it must not be lost sight of that they have spent a great deal of money over a long period of years, in providing a satisfactory system of drainage and irrigation. That cannot be said of the other parts of the Colony which are not sugar estates.

The sooner we can get down to a communal system of drainage and irrigation for the benefit of everyone the better it would be for the Colony. We should not have a Drainage and Irrigation Board to administer villages and rural areas, and another system of drainage and irrigation merely concerned with the sugar estates. I feel that the time has come when the problem of drainage and irrigation should be regarded in the same way as the problem of sea defences. One problem is as much a threat to the well being of this country as the other, and I hope Government is giving very serious consideration to the schemes which are being propounded by the Consulting Engineer, and that in the very near future we will have an opportunity of hearing from the lips of the Consulting Engineer what his proposals are, so that Members of this Council may be properly informed. Unless that is done I can see no hope for this country. Our population is increasing rapidly and we must make way for the young people who are coming up. Our industries are not expanding as rapidly as we would like. We propose to give aid to industries in one form or another, and a Bill for this purpose will be introduced shortly, but despite all the aids to be

given I do not think industry will expand to such an extent as to absorb the increase in our population which is now taking place as a result of the increasing birth rate and the lowering of the mortality rate.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member need have no doubt whatsoever as to the very serious attention which Government is paying to the matter of irrigation and drainage schemes. I have spoken on this subject many times in this Council and tried to explain what the difficulties are, but the problem is, I believe, now for the first time being tackled on a comprehensive instead of an *ad hoc* basis. We have discovered that we cannot embark upon *ad hoc* schemes of drainage and irrigation in British Guiana without taking into consideration their effect upon adjoining lands. That is what we are endeavouring to do — to formulate what may be called a comprehensive water control plan for this Colony. But it takes time, and a long time, and I am not going to promise any hon. Member or anyone else very quick results.

I have pointed out to this Council time and again that one of the most serious obstacles which confronted the Consulting Engineer was the lack of basic data on which to base a scheme. I am 100 per cent., with the hon. Member in wishing to expedite these schemes, provided, as he says, we are satisfied that they are economically sound. That is what we are trying to do, and he can also be assured that when Mr. Hutchinson's schemes have been finally formulated and submitted for approval they will come before this Council. They must come before the Council before money can be voted to carry them out. Mr. Hutchinson has been engaged on a number of projects. They are not detailed schemes; he has not yet reached the stage when he can be absolutely sure that his schemes are sound in every detail. That takes a considerable amount of time, but I can assure the hon. Member that it is being done, and I hope with him, and with other Members of the Council, that we shall have a complete water control plan for the whole of the coastal area. That is certainly what we want.

I do not want hon. Members to think that nothing is being done. Reference has been made to the difficulties which confront the villages as a result of flood and so on, but it is not true to say that we are not doing something for them. May I once more remind hon. Members of our land settlement schemes on which, in the last few years, we have spent no less than 1¼ million dollars. I am quoting from the report of the Department of Agriculture which shows that the extent of our land settlement schemes is nearly 40,000 acres, and that they are supporting over 5,000 families and producing over 500,000 bags of padi. All that has been done in the last four or five years, and as Members know, there are still greater schemes to come.

I just want to assure hon. Members that this matter is receiving active consideration by Government and will continue to do so. No one would be more pleased than myself when we are in a position to put these schemes through — not only the formulation of the schemes but the financing of them. We have to find the finance. I hope very soon to go to England for a few months, and one object of my visit will be to see if we cannot get more assistance for these major schemes which, we are all aware, run into millions of dollars. I do not care whether it is from E.C.A. or the C.D. & W. Fund, but I do hope we shall be able to get assistance, because without it it is quite clear to all of us that however sound these great projects may be we have not the money to carry them out. They must be carried out, and we must find the money.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I appreciate what Your Excellency has just said, and I am very much aware of the interest which you are taking in this matter of drainage and irrigation. I know that you have applied yourself personally to this problem, not only by going into it in Georgetown but by visiting the various areas, but although I am a member of the Drainage Board I am entitled to say what my stand is on the very matter you have just dealt with. It is quite true that Mr. Hutchinson is preparing a very elaborate and comprehensive scheme of drainage and irrigation. It is also quite

true that it is a scheme which is calculated to have overall control of our drainage and irrigation system, and that this question of water control is a very large one indeed. I have said, not only in this Council but on the Drainage and Irrigation Board, that because that scheme envisages the expenditure of a large sum of money, and because it is not a 5 or 10-year development plan, but a matter of 20 years or more before it can be put into effect and achieve effective results, we should consider very seriously the question of doing all that is necessary to provide the people with at least temporary effective drainage and irrigation as far as that can be obtained. I do not think we would be quite fair to the rural areas — and I am thinking particularly of the Golden Grove-Nabaclis-Victoria area in my constituency — that year after year they should be flooded out because of what Government itself has acknowledged, and what the Drainage Board has acknowledged as an inadequate system of drainage in that particular area. Only quite recently there has been very serious flooding which has resulted in total loss to many villagers in that area, and considerable loss to many more. That is true of another village, but the flooding was not so much due to inadequate drainage but perhaps to some form of negligence to which I referred some time before.

What is important is to spend a certain sum of money to provide extra drainage. Mr. Hutchinson has met the people on the East Coast as low down as Buxton and as far up as the Abary river, and has discussed with them various plans for temporary drainage and irrigation, such as the construction of a canal parallel with the roadway, and extra drainage units, but because he has a comprehensive drainage plan those small projects have been put to rest. As the representative of the area I am asking Government to consider very seriously the question of giving the people immediate relief, because in all sincerity I say that I fear that the people in the rural districts may soon become so disheartened and frustrated that they might gravitate to Georgetown in larger numbers than they are doing at the moment. Government must not be

placed in the position of having to give relief of one kind or another year after year, which in the long run might cost as much as some temporary system of drainage and irrigation.

There has been talk about gravitation. I feel that we would be justified in asking that a careful study be made again of the temporary measures that can be put into effect in order to give the people adequate drainage and irrigation. I would refer to the motion which I moved in this Council some time ago with respect to the drainage of the Mahaica valley through the Demerara river. Even though that relief would have been small and not very effective, it would still have been some relief. A Committee was to have been appointed to go into the question of cost, etc. I mention that in order to make the point that it is part of Mr. Hutchinson's comprehensive scheme. In my opinion it is a scheme which has to be undertaken in any case, and it is well that this Council and the Government should pay some attention to the possibility of that scheme being undertaken immediately or as soon as possible from the fund of \$900,000 which is available. It would be better for us to spend \$900,000 there and another \$300,000 at Nabaclis rather than have people losing \$50,000 every two years and Government having to give relief from time to time to the extent of sums aggregating over a million dollars.

I would ask Your Excellency to receive a deputation of the people concerned and not have them diverted to a Board or a Committee as has been done quite recently in respect of certain matters. You would be able to get first-hand information as to the sufferings of the people who would not be left frustrated until the season comes along for renewed agricultural activity. This is an agricultural country and Agriculture is one of the most important heads in the whole budget. Quite recently a sum of \$300,000 was voted for a unit to assist the Abary scheme. It improves our assets with the C.D.C., but in the same way as we voted that sum for that purpose, which in my opinion was not a serious necessity, we should do something to avoid suffering

and loss to the people in the Golden Grove-Nabaclis area. I trust that what I have said today will be given serious consideration by Government.

May I pass on to refer to what the Financial Secretary has said in respect of the Farm Institute? I would prefer that the item be deleted at this meeting instead of a promise being given.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: It has been deleted.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I am glad for that information because there is no guarantee that when the motion is put before Council it will find approval. My next point has reference to the milk situation in respect of which a draft Bill has been prepared. I was a member of the Committee which has done very useful work on this question. I have referred to the matter in Finance Committee and in open Council, but the question has been hanging fire for years since the Committee submitted an excellent scheme for a proper milk supply. As a citizen I am not satisfied with the distribution of milk. I am not satisfied with the Milk Control Board, and it seems to me that those at the head of the Board are having a holiday with the taxpayers' money. A draft Bill has been circulated to Members, the object of which is to ensure a proper supply and distribution of milk. I think the matter should have received greater consideration from Government. A motion should have been introduced and the organization should have been functioning today. I regret to say that year after year we are wasting the taxpayers' money on the present Milk Control Board. I feel that the item should go, but my hands are tied. I cannot move its deletion now because we have no substitute for it.

Lastly, I would like to say something about rice. It is quite a shame that the rice industry should have to suffer as it is doing at present. I feel that one of the reasons why better prices are not given the producers is because our export price is not sufficient to enable the Rice Marketing Board to accumulate the necessary surplus. With reference to the letter

from the Manager of the Board, to which I referred earlier, I am asking Government whether it is not a reasonable request that a copy of the motion should be sent to the Governments of the contracting Colonies for their information as to this Council's view that the export price of rice should be increased. The producers in this Colony are suffering because they are not receiving a remunerative price. I suggest that a copy of the resolution, and possibly the Hansard report of the debate, should be transmitted to the Governments of the Colonies concerned.

Mr. FERNANDES: I did not intend to speak on this head, but in view of Your Excellency's remarks yesterday I am going to say a few words. Your Excellency expressed the desire to see some of the money which was contemplated to be put into the increased production of soft drinks utilized for the production of oranges and citrus fruit for the purpose of making a certain amount of the necessary constituents of soft drinks in British Guiana. I had a chat today with someone who is not connected with the manufacture of soft drinks, and he told me he would like to try out the cultivation of oranges, but I must admit that when that gentleman asked me if I would guarantee him the necessary plants if he procured the land and prepared it, I had to admit that that would not be possible. I could not guarantee him anything. The point I wish to make is that even if those who have the money were prepared to embark upon citrus cultivation in this Colony the plants necessary to start such a cultivation are not available, and are not likely to be available for some time, because ever since I became a Member of this Council I have sat here and heard the hon. Member for Berbice River (Mr. Ferreira) speaking on the subject of the lack of plants to start a citrus cultivation. The position seems to be exactly the same today. The experts of the Department of Agriculture do not seem to be able to grow those plants in any reasonable quantities. If, with their expert knowledge and supervision they are unable to do so, you will agree with me, Sir, that it would be even more impossible for other people to do so

who have not the technical training or experience to grow those plants themselves. In view of Your Excellency's desire to see an increase of citrus cultivation in British Guiana I am asking you to take the necessary steps to see that the experts of the Department of Agriculture produce the plants. Of course I will be here again next year to see whether it has been done or not.

The CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I have not got any particulars about the distribution of citrus seedlings, and I cannot tell the hon. Member what the position is at the moment, but I do know that in the North-West District we had a very large station with seedlings. Whether they are still there or not I do not know. I have a return here from the Department of Agriculture which I asked for in regard to the distribution of seedlings but, unfortunately, there is no reference to citrus. It might, however, interest the Council to know that 30,000 coffee seedlings which, as hon. Members will remember, were received from Surinam have been distributed to farmers in this Colony.

I can also say that 4,000 coconut plants were received from Surinam free of cost and have been distributed. So something is being done. I do not want hon. Members to run away with the idea that nothing is being done so far as distribution of seeds and seedlings is concerned. 30,000 packets of vegetable seeds were distributed for the year ending 1950. I have got the details here of these seedlings and seeds which have been distributed, but I can give the hon. Member the particulars if he likes to see them. As I say, I cannot tell the exact position as regards citrus fruits, but I do know there is a citrus station in the North West District. I do know citrus fruits grow there all right, and the grape fruit has a better flavour than any I have tasted in the half-dozen countries I have spent some time in. Again I say we can grow them.

Mr. FERNANDES: I am not suggesting that we are not getting citrus plants from Surinam, but my information is that we cannot tell for 12 months the

produce in British Guiana. I know it can be grown in British Guiana. I speak with some authority. This Council will be meeting tomorrow and I will have pleasure in bringing a grape fruit and an orange produced in my own yard. I can assure you, Sir, that the flavour, as you say, is very good and better than the flavour of the imported grape fruit. I am talking with a certain amount of experience. I am sorry I cannot bring for all Members, but there are still more on the trees and Members can go and have a look. I have about 20 trees, but I cannot supply the whole Council.

The CHAIRMAN: I would bring some of mine too.

Mr. FERNANDES: The question is making available plants grown in British Guiana. The plants in the North West District are of no use to the people in the Demerara River area for example. The people I have in mind are those on the East Bank Demerara where those of us who have to travel to Atkinson Field pass through large stretches of citrus plants growing there. I have eaten quite a lot of them and have found the quality very good. I agree with Your Excellency that every effort should be made to increase cultivation which can be grown here, but for export purposes it is a different matter. Every Member would agree that there is a very great shortage of oranges for local consumption. We can consume, perhaps, five or six times the amount of oranges we are consuming today. We import some of it at times and, I am sure, if the public follow your way of thinking and these oranges become available they would drink orange juice in the place of Coco-Cola and the other soft drinks we hear about. The first thing we have to do is to get the plants, then put them in the land and wait for four or five years to pick the fruit. If you have not the plant you cannot get the fruit.

Mr. PHANG: We have an experimental station at Hosororo where several thousands of budded plants are grown and distributed to the farmers on the spot. I have got some sent up to the gold mines. Your Excellency has visited Hosororo and seen the plants there and also

at Chan-A-Sue's place. The North West District area is suitable for citrus cultivation. I think that so far as that District is concerned they have got sufficient budded plants there.

Dr. JAGAN: I may tell the hon. Member (Mr. Fernandes) that since his resignation from the Advisory Committee of the Agricultural Department we have discussed this matter and have recommended that in future there should be more decentralization so far as the growing of seedlings is concerned, and that at every station in the rural areas there should be an intensified cultivation of seedlings. So apart from availability in the Gardens from which we get them at the present time the Department will undertake to plant in the other areas of the Colony so as to make supplies available

Mr. FERNANDES: Did I hear the hon. Member say the Department should plant them or that they are going to plant them definitely? There is no question in my mind that they should have been doing that years ago

Mr. LEE: That is the policy advocated by the hon. Member for Central Demerara. The Department has accepted the principle of getting those citrus plants and decentralizing them for distribution to people who would like to buy them. They disagreed with him and, I said, they should be given free, but the majority decided that that should not be done. I am of the opinion that if they had accepted the principle of distributing fruit trees free of charge to the villages today, we might have had a greater number than we have now.

Mr. THOMPSON: I regret very much the circumstances that have arisen in respect of the farmers between Victoria and Golden Grove. That was the spot where we got our weekly supply of provisions until recently, and it is very painful to know that those people have made up their minds through frustration to give up farming. If it is possible to get a small deputation to confer with the Agricultural Officer there in order to see if something cannot be done to improve the lot of the people there, it ought to

be done. Everything should be done to discourage them from giving up farming. I am sure some means can be devised to give them temporary relief so that they can carry on their farms. I know for certain when it comes to citrus plants that 1,300 have been received at the Bath Experiment Station, and I have been trying to get the people to secure them. Personally I have put down some. They are budded plants and have already started to flower. Unfortunately I cannot, like my friend (Mr. Fernandes), promise to bring some of the fruits here. I am suggesting in all seriousness that a small delegation visit that district and see if something can be done to improve the drainage there sufficiently as to prevent these discouraged farmers from giving up their provision farms. As I said before, we have been getting a regular supply of provisions from there, and on no account I agree to their turning over to canefarming.

Head passed as recommended in the Report on the Finance Committee.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

Item 3 — *Contribution to Establishment of Director General of Colonial Audit, \$1,877.*

Mr. DEBIDIN, With respect to this item, as I indicated in Finance Committee, I propose to move its deletion entirely.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. Member can do that. It is provided by law. I am afraid the hon. Member will have to move the deletion of the law.

Mr. DEBIDIN: It does come under Chapter 200 of our laws. In any case I quite appreciate that cannot be done now, but I would like to express here my disapproval of the continuance of that item. It is true that the Director-General of Colonial Audit comes here once in a blue moon and checks up on things in general, but in my opinion where we have secured the services of an able and most qualified individual as Colonial Auditor drawing a salary of \$6,240 per annum, that person ought to be able to organise his department sufficiently for

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it to be able to carry out regular audits for the Colony of British Guiana. It is enough to say that the establishment in London has been able to provide our Head of the Department and to give this Colony a very qualified person. That alone would not be sufficient justification, and if it is a matter of compilation of statistics and other related matters so far as the Colonial Office is concerned, then it seems to me to be a matter for Colonial Office expenditure and they should pay this particular amount. It is not a very large amount, but it is to my mind an important principle involved and we ought to be saving this \$1,877. I express that view and, possibly, at some time I may move the amendment of the particular Ordinance to have this deleted.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: As I indicated in Finance Committee, it has touched a very fundamental matter which is a feature of our Constitution. We take part in the Services supplied by the Colonial Audit Department in London the Director of Audit being a member of that organisation which, I think, is almost now comprehensive in the Colonies of the Commonwealth. If we did not have that we would have to have something of an equally independent character to audit our accounts. It is far too important an office to be regarded as merely an item of expenditure on the Estimates. We would have to set up an organization of a very high plane in the Colony working under an Ordinance responsible possibly directly to the Legislature and completely independent even of the Governor. I think, I reminded the hon. Member that the Director of Audit in this Colony is in a privileged position. He has right of audience through his headquarters to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and can write direct under what is called "Flying Seal". That is to say, if he has any criticism to make the Governor is bound to send it on. It is a very important position on a high plane and has that independence of character which is so essential for the auditor of public accounts, so that it is impossible to contemplate this cutting off of ourselves from the Colonial Audit Depart-

ment, leaving us floating in the air, unless we put in some equally independent organization and on an equally high level in this country. Obviously the best thing for the moment is to have this organization supervising our workings here and that independence which is much valued by this Council. I hope the hon. Member would take great care before tampering with an organization of that sort.

Mr. LEE: May I request the Government as a precaution that the Settlement Schemes, to which have been given certain monies as advances for assistance to the settlers especially in respect of rice cultivation repayable every six months, be checked by this Department. I would certainly ask that an officer of the Department be sent there at least once a year to check on these monies so that nothing would occur to throw any blame on not checking them up as early as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: I take a note of that. I agree that they should be checked

Head passed as printed.

CENTRAL HOUSING & PLANNING
AUTHORITY.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I would like to speak generally in respect of this Town Planner we have had appointed to the Colony of British Guiana who has done such able work in the estimation of others but not mine. Personally I feel that something is going wrong, definitely wrong, and because of one wrong there is another wrong done after it. We are throwing away a lot of money here which the taxpayers cannot afford. What is going wrong is that somebody of infinite wisdom and more learning in this Council thinks there are different grades of wisdom and learning in this Colony. It is true that we have illiteracy here and we also have our M.A.'s. Let us say that I am in a very low strata and do not understand what is going on above me. What I do not understand is, we are going to reconstruct Georgetown. I have had the opportunity of perusing the report, which has been illustrated by a diagram by the Town Planner, and per-

sonally I feel that there is a very little justification for half of what has been proposed. I am not going to seek to debate that report now, but to say there is a hopeless amount of expenditure going on in respect of the Town Planner and his Department, and there is a great deal of overlapping of work between the Town Council and the Town Planner's office. I assume and will grant that there has been useful work in respect of one thing—the planning of the burnt-out area—and we see the usefulness of that particular work.

Mr. RAATGEVER: To a point of correction! Mr. Costello has nothing to do with the burnt-out area.

Mr. DEBIDIN: All I know, there is an Ordinance passed and some Authority is created in respect of the burnt-out area and that Authority is running counter to the Georgetown Town Council. It seems to me to be clear that what the Town Planner is doing at the moment is to undo what I happen to know and have read. People have been praising Georgetown as the Garden City of the West Indies. If that was the sobriquet or expressed opinion about our city, why should we allow anyone to try to reconstruct it at an expense to what extent I do not know. First of all this is a river town which should be made to extend along the East Bank of the Demerara River and on the opposite bank if that is possible. It seems to me we are taking such ideas and linking them with the Campbellville and other schemes which will cost this Colony \$1½ million. I refer particularly to what has been recommended for the Ward of Charles-town and Albouystown. I feel sure that when the time comes—a motion has been tabled in this Council—we are going to adopt it. Unfortunately there has been some bit of politics-playing in this matter by Government; when the Town Council elections were on, that motion was not published, as it should have been, in a subsequent Order Paper, and to that I make no further comment.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. Member suggesting that it was suppressed by Government until the Town Council Elections were over?

Mr. DEBIDIN: What happened speaks for itself. All I know, it has not been published and it should have been published. Nevertheless I am saying this: That motion will still be debated in this Council as I am going to exert every effort available to me to do so, because it is the direct result of the recommendation and report of the Town Planner that we find a dislocation of things so far as this town is concerned. Permission to build houses is being held up and people are living in a state of uncertainty. I have seen one resident of that ward selling out his property at public auction. The reason is quite obvious. Probably he sees no future for that area and starts to sell out. The fact remains that according to the Town Planner it is going to be an industrial area.

The CHAIRMAN: Let me do say. Why do it now and have this twice over. I suggest to the hon. Member to argue his motion when it comes up.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I am in total disapproval of this Head, and I am going to voice my disapproval by moving its deletion. I move the deletion of this Head even if I alone vote for it in this Council. I was referring to Albouystown as an instance of dislocation. I want to recall what has been said. This man is a dreamer. He thinks in terms of millions which we cannot afford and the people of Georgetown cannot afford. Therefore what is the usefulness of a Town Planner who comes here and is being paid? When a Town Planner was asked for, I thought his work would have been of a different nature. I understood he was to go into such matters as the Bartica question, to see that there is a proper lay-out of Bartica and of the villages and rural areas, and not only to suggest improvements to Georgetown. The Land Settlement Schemes would have had his comment and advice. I understood this man's special knowledge would be utilized in a more proper way to the Colony. I think the time has come —

Mr. LEE: To a point of correction! In respect of Bartica the Town Planner has been asked to work out a scheme and, as soon as he can afford the time, he will look after that.

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The CHAIRMAN: He will also do New Amsterdam.

Mr. DEBIDIN: My hon. friend is belated. This promise was only given in Finance Committee. I know he does not like the remarks I have made. I was just referring to the question of the contract of this gentleman. I do trust that when his period of service is up it may be the end of his contract. We feel that it is so much waste of money. I am moving the deletion of the sum of \$4,212 for the Town Planner.

Head passed as printed.

PUBLIC INFORMATION BUREAU.

Mr. LEE: I am moving the deletion of this Head.

Mr. DEBIDIN: My hon. friend is very chicken-hearted. He has moved a motion and said nothing more.

Mr. LEE: I do not want to waste time

Mr. DEBIDIN: This is a hardy annual. Although I was shot at yesterday by a member of the B.P.I., I am still alive to move against this Head. It is true that we have been favoured with the possibility of being seen in a film, and I know that gentleman who is doing it. It would be something for the Colony's benefit if it is developed. I have already a knowledge of that gentleman's work which is to have certain aspects of British Guiana documented by way of films. That gentleman can very well be attached to the Social Welfare Department or some other Department. Dealing with this Head I want again to say — I promised on the last occasion when it was debated that I would do so as long as I am able to do so in this Council — I feel the expenditure of this money is an extreme waste of the taxpayers' money at a time when the Colony cannot afford it. At this stage, as I speak of waste, I would like to say that year after year we find, because the hon. the Financial Secretary or the Heads of Government Departments bring up a Budget, Finance Committee goes into it in a formal way. In some respects the hon. the Financial Secretary—I am saying so

because I feel he should know — screens the Heads of Departments when questions are asked as to what is being done. That is why I did not attend subsequent meetings of the Finance Committee, as that makes the Finance Committee a farce. It is useful in only one respect, and that is that we can get useful information, but when that is being screened from us the time has come when we should regard the Finance Committee as a farce.

After Finance Committee has considered various matters we come into this Council and pass everything wholesale. We have never been allowed a chance to go into the over-weighted expenditure of British Guiana. I look upon this Department as a fossil upon the administration of British Guiana. Undoubtedly its usefulness has ended with the war. What information do we get from this Bureau that cannot be got from the various Departments of Government? Is there any information which we ask the B.P.I. to supply that it does not have to get from some other Department? I have seen the Public Information Officer himself going around; I have seen him in this Legislative Council listening to debates. I look upon his job as a sinecure — a fine job for anyone to have — and I compliment him as a schoolmate of mine, on the fact that he is able to have such an easy job. It is a wanton waste of talent and the taxpayers' money. Talent as he possesses might well be utilized in the Secretariat or in the Social Welfare Department. His knowledge and experience might even be useful as regards the development of the Colony. Similarly, his Deputy, a most useful member of the staff of the Income Tax Department, has been taken out of that office. He is a young man of honesty and integrity, a young man of ability, of whose services the Income Tax Department has been robbed to do nothing.

What is there to be done as regards publicity? I do not count the rags that are called newspapers in this Colony. Why should the taxpayers' money be spent to provide publicity checks for the newspapers? The newspapers of this Colony all seem to be bent in one direction — to suppress the legitimate aspirations of

the people in the interest of certain concerns. We who hold briefs for the people of the country have legitimate cause for complaint against the B.P.I. existing for things of that kind. I do not see why any type of publicity need be controlled today when we are not in a state of war. I do not see why the Public Information Officer should still be a *liaison* between Government and publicity of any kind. If it is said that we anticipate war, surely we did not anticipate war two or three years ago. Even now I fail to see why we should anticipate war.

When we come to Social Welfare I will deal with certain aspects of that Department, but at the moment I would say that gentleman of the ability of both Mr. Harewood and Mr. Seymour would do well in certain aspects of social welfare work. Men of their ability could find places in other Departments where they would be more useful. I say that if the offices of the Economic Adviser and Development Commissioner, and the Public Information Bureau were abolished it would save the Colony a great deal of money. The two officers in the Public Information Bureau would be able to deal with development and other matters if attached to the Colonial Secretariat. I cannot say how I really feel about the continued existence of the B.P.I. It supplies us with a lot of paper which certainly alarms me. I am annoyed each time I get some document from that Department, at the wanton waste of stationery which is no costly today, as I see from the vote. Cyclostyled extracts from the newspapers are sent to us. The three daily newspapers may be merged into one and still not make a good newspaper. We find editorial articles being extracted, or a review of some statement in a newspaper, as though we should be proud of what is written in the newspapers. That is the sum total of the efforts of the B.P.I. The only useful work it is doing is the radio broadcasts. What is to prevent the Social Welfare Department from doing similar broadcasts and disseminating useful information to the public? I move the deletion of this Head.

Dr. JAGAN: I wish to support some of the remarks of the hon. Member who has taken his seat, and to substantiate what he has said about the ability of the

Public Information Officer and the Asst. Public Information Officer. I think Government would do well to divide the work of the B.P.I. into two categories — information and publicity. I do not think it is necessary for the Department to continue its work in the publicity sphere, because we have in this country sufficient means of disseminating information to the public. In a small country like this we have three daily newspapers. In Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados there are not as many daily newspapers as we have in this Colony. I do not think there is any necessity for the B.P.I. to be the mouthpiece of Government, because the newspapers usually champion Government's point of view.

So far as information is concerned, as I have said in Finance Committee, I personally do not use the B.P.I., but that does not say that there are not lots of persons who get information from that source. I contend that Government could save a lot of money if it divorced the publicity side from the information aspect of the B.P.I. work, and attached the Public Information Officer and his assistant to the Colonial Secretariat to deal solely with public information. I do not see the necessity for hand-outs to the daily newspapers. I know, for instance, that the Editor of the *Thunder* receives them every day, but not one of them has ever been used. I consider it a waste of money. There is an item of \$35,000 for stationery under the head Colonial Secretary's Office, and when we consider the volume of printed matter which is being sent out by the B.P.I. to the daily, weekly and monthly newspapers we must regard it as an extraordinary waste of paper and time. We have excellent reporters in this country. I know of their ability, and I can say that the newspapers do give a very comprehensive coverage of local happenings. The newspapermen really deserve credit for the marvellous work they are doing in that respect. I therefore do not see the necessity of having the B.P.I. supplying information to the editorial staffs of the newspapers. It is the role of a newspaperman to snoop around and put his nose in places where it should not be, so as to get information for the benefit of the public.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

I do not feel that that should be done by the B.P.I. Consequently I will support the motion for the deletion of this Head, because I feel that a good deal of its work is not necessary, and that the two officers might well be absorbed into the Colonial Secretariat.

So far as the film unit is concerned it is true that, like a good diplomat, the B.P.I. started by making a film of the Members of the Legislative Council, but I think a better purpose would be served if we could utilise this phase of the B.P.I. in the Social Welfare Department to go about the rural areas taking films of basket-making and pottery work, so that in the near future we could do away with even the Social Welfare Department. I think we should aim at curtailing expenditure under these various heads. I know that some Members feel that it is not usual to talk about these matters in Council, and that we would save much time if we passed the estimate *en bloc*. I think that should be the procedure to be decided in the future, because no matter what is said the minority views never seem to get any support, and although from year to year we make the same criticisms Government is being run in the same way. But we must look ahead and take note that the future is not going to be as rosy as the past, and we should take opportunities as they come to weed out certain of these unnecessary Departments and unnecessary expenditure, so that within the next two or three years we would be in a better financial position to carry out the necessary projects.

I have spoken on drainage and irrigation schemes because I consider those scheme to be the No. 1 problem of British Guiana, and money has to be found for them. It is true that surveys have been carried out, but when the schemes have been checked and re-checked the ultimate thing will be the money to carry them out. I am not going to sit in this Council and be content merely to balance our budget year after year while the conditions of the masses of the people remain as they have been over a period of years. That is what is happening. We balance our budgets, but that is not good enough. What we must try to determine is

whether the standard of living of the people is improving year after year, but I cannot say that that is being done at present. I feel that we must control some of this unnecessary expenditure.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: I do not intend to inflict a reply on the Council to the speeches of the three Members who suggest the deletion of this vote. It is an annual story which is repeated year after year. All I can say is that they have expressed a point of view to which they are entitled, but I would say that it is very naive of the hon. Member who has just spoken, to suggest that one of the reasons for getting rid of the Bureau is that a newspaper called **Thunder** does not make use of the service which it provides. I would suggest that one of the essential reasons for having the Bureau is because we have newspapers like **Thunder** knocking around our countryside.

I want to refer to something that fell from the lips of the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara (Mr. Debidin) when he used the curious phrase that the Financial Secretary in Finance Committee "screens" Heads of Departments. I honestly do not know what he meant. What I can say is that during the last session of the Committee which lasted for 19 days, 12 Heads of Departments other than myself attended and were literally cross-examined over a wide variety of subjects. It is true that I tried now and again to assist as best I could, but there is nothing that anyone can accuse me of "screening" Heads of Departments. It is also true that the Head of the Bureau was not invited to attend at the first meeting of the Committee, for the reason that I knew exactly what was going to happen — that three Members were completely opposed and would repeat the same arguments they have given voice to year after year, and there was nothing more Mr. Harewood could say. However, something occurred which made it necessary to invite Mr. Harewood, and although the hon. Member was absent we had a good discussion, and tributes were paid to Mr. Harewood personally, and to his organization.

The CHAIRMAN put the question that the Head be passed as printed. The Committee divided and voted:—

For — Messrs. Luchoo, Smellie, Phang, Kendall, Fernandes, Coghlan, Thompson, Roth, Raatgever, Dr. Singh, the Financial Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Colonial Secretary — 13.

Against — Messrs. Carter, Debidin, Lee and Dr. Jagan — 4

Motion agreed to.

Head passed as printed at \$22,900.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE —
ECONOMIC ADVISER AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSIONER.

Dr. JAGAN: I move the deletion of this Head. I want to speak very strongly on this Head, strongly and feelingly, because it is my considered view that we have too many experts in this Colony. Not too long ago, when Col. Spencer was appointed on contract, we were told of his marvellous qualities and of his great ability, and he was subsequently put on the Fixed Establishment. After a while that gentleman left this Colony, I believe on promotion to Malaya. During that time we had Mr. Fletcher who was supposed to be an expert — at least that is what we were told — in the Control Department, but suddenly we found that on the promotion of Col. Spencer to Malaya Mr. Fletcher was transferred from the Control Board to the office of Economic Adviser and Development Commissioner. Are we merely finding posts for people in this Colony because posts cannot be found for them in other parts of the world? If officers have to leave their posts, possibly in Israel, are we to find posts for them in this country merely because they have to be placed? Whenever appointments are being made we are told that we have at last got an expert. We got Col. Spencer but now that he has been transferred on promotion Mr. Fletcher has been removed from the Control Board to fill his place, and an officer from the Department of Lands and Mines has been sent back to the Control Board. Why all this juggling? As far as I can see we are merely trying

to fit persons into positions so that they can earn nice fat salaries at the expense of the taxpayers of this Colony.

The Head we have just passed, together with this Head, involve an expenditure of \$42,500. This country can do quite a lot with \$42,500. We have a recurrent shortage of medical officers in this Colony. We could train about 20 doctors at a cost of \$42,500 every year. We need those doctors but we cannot get them, and we cannot get them because we are told they cannot be found.

The CHAIRMAN: There are doctors being trained at the moment.

Dr. JAGAN: We are always being told that. We want to see them in British Guiana and, if necessary, to have more trained because, as far as I can see it, the more doctors we have, the more lawyers, dentists and engineers we have the better it would be for this country. If they are not all employed by Government at least they would be hustling around making a living outside.

The CHAIRMAN: In 1950 we spent \$100,000 in scholarships, half of which was from our own revenue and the other half from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. It included scholarships of every description, and if the hon. Member would like to know what they are I can give him the details.

Dr. JAGAN: I am not disputing the fact that we have provided scholarships.

The CHAIRMAN: But you are giving the impression that we are spending money in other directions, and as a result we have no doctors, no engineers and no dentists. I am trying to explain to you that we are spending money to have those people trained. I have given the number of dental students in training — about 60 or 70 — and the number of lawyers and medical officers in training.

Dr. JAGAN: That is so, but all those people who are being trained — dentists for instance — are not being trained at Government expense, and we have no guarantee that they will be com-

ing back to British Guiana. I do not think we need any more lawyers. It is not that we are not spending money on scholarships, but my point is that we should spend much more. In the rural areas today, I know, as a fact that the Government doctors are in many cases overworked; they have too large districts to operate in and in many cases many of them fleece the people. The poor people have to pay them high fees. If there were many doctors, I submit, the people in the long run would get better and cheaper medical service. I have referred to doctors as an example. I will give another example. Let us take the case of Dental Care for School children. It has long been recommended that a mobile unit be set up. The hon. Member for New Amsterdam can verify what I say. Four years ago reports were submitted but up to now we have no such thing, and it does not appear that we will have that for a very long time. This \$40,000 which is being wasted on these two Departments can provide us with a very admirable dental mobile unit for the children in the country areas. Why cannot we give services like that instead of wasting money on these Heads? With reference to the Development Commissioner, the hon. the Financial Secretary has practically told us that the Ten-Year Development Plan is now more or less thrown overboard.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think he put it like that. It is not the case. The hon. Member was talking just now about development, irrigation schemes and further development in the Colony. I hope that further development is going to take place. To say that the Ten-Year Development Plan has been thrown overboard is not true. Every cent provided under that Head is going to be spent. We have not done quite as much as we hoped because things are more expensive.

Dr. JAGAN: The point is, that Plan has been so much revised today that it does not resemble anything that was proposed before, and we are merely going from day to day on what money is available to us and what plans we feel should be given priority. What I mean is, the original Plan, as at first proposed, had to be given up and we are now proceeding from day to day to carry out certain

schemes within the limits of the financial provisions of the Colony. So far as that is concerned I do not see the necessity of having in the Estimates a Development Commissioner. As Governor, Sir, it is your duty to co-ordinate the activities of the different Departments with the help of the Colonial Secretary and the Financial Secretary. Those are the persons who are to co-ordinate the activities of the different Government Departments; they are to determine whether or not we should embark upon irrigation schemes or should stop that work. I do not see the necessity for a Development Commissioner at the present time. Every Department has, as we know, besides an Advisory Committee the Head and Deputy Head who know the requirements of that Department. As you yourself know, Sir, before the Ten-Year Development Plan was accepted, each Department was asked to provide a sketch plan of their requirements, and that amounted to a sum of \$110 million which was subsequently cut down by a Committee, which was appointed, to \$26 million for a period of ten years. If every Department has in its mind a clear cut view as to what is required and that programme and policy is discussed every day with the Advisory Committee, and all that is being co-ordinated by the Colonial Secretary and the Financial Secretary and then finally by you, Sir.

I do not see the necessity of having a Development Commissioner at the present time. I never saw the necessity of it and, no doubt, my views are correct, because if there was this great necessity we would not have allowed Colonel Spencer to go on another job to Malaya. People come here, either on contract or otherwise, and stay for a few years after taking a long time to learn details in this country, and then go elsewhere. We can well appreciate the fact that it takes a man a long time to learn all the details about British Guiana, but after he has wasted all that time to learn details we find ourselves in the position that we do not have his services any longer and a new man is put in his place and that person has to go through the learning of details all over. That state of affairs is most unsatisfactory, and I hope in the future that matter will be looked into. In the mean-

while I wish to move the deletion of this Head.

Mr. DEBIDIN: Supporting the motion for the deletion, I would like to say it is very unfortunate that we are forced to discuss the personalities of a particular Department we wish to have deleted from the Estimates. It is always extremely invidious because each of those men we have to talk about is extremely qualified in his own way, a nice sort of man what we call a gentleman. While socially he may be very excellent to us as a man and we may all like him, as far as his work is concerned at one time or another it was extremely useful. For that reason I say that it is extremely unfortunate, when we come to consider his Department in relationship to the Ten-Year Development Plan or what may be more than ten years' development, that we should have lost Colonel Spencer, because he had certainly made himself so *au fait* with all our problems that quite apart from the existence of this Department we know that as an officer standing by himself independently he was of great usefulness in giving advice to the various Heads of Departments. He was particularly qualified and we all had the greatest admiration for his ability. But when we come to regard the two men who have been appointed to the most senior posts in this Department what do we find? One had done excellent work in the Control Department, was very well qualified and a man of high integrity; he had shown that very soon after he went there.

But is he qualified for this particular post? Can the Government convince me that he bears the same relationship as Colonel Spencer? Can it be said that he has any great experience in so far as advising on economic problems is concerned and particularly in relation to the immediate problems of our Colony? I am not sure that he knows the real details of the economic problems of the rice industry of this Colony. I am not quite sure he knows the economic problems of the agriculture of this Colony. In respect of that I may mention that we have an Agricultural Economist who is taking charge of one of the most important things that has to

do with the other technical men in the Agricultural Department, the research men, all of whom put together, could evolve or produce something which would help that particular Department without any technical economic advice from any outside individual. Agriculture is certainly one of our biggest items, the biggest subject in this Colony.

Then we come to the question of the Ten-Year Plan. Colonel Spencer has given a report. There has been a shadow allocation. Every Departmental Committee has gone into the question of this shadow allocation and, in some cases, there has been slight dislocation of what has been planned. But what is clear, we are tied down to a scheme and because of our financial restrictions in this Colony, because of our inability to provide more money to add to our plan, because of that static condition, we need hardly have any further advice as to what else is to be done. Our financial position which demands that we must curtail expenditure is the argument put forward in regard to the carrying out of the Ten-Year Development Plan, and it seems that particularly is argument for the non-existence of any Department having to do enough with the Development Plan. The work is considerably cut down because of the fact that every Department involved in the Ten-Year Development Plan is competent and capable and in fact is handling the various items of development under the Plan. Outside of the Development Plan what else is Mr. Fletcher going to tell any Head of Department?

After all we have today certainly geared up our salaries to such a tremendous height that there has been a great deal of howling in this Colony. Why have we geared up salaries, some \$120 and \$144 per month more? It was in order, as has been explained, to secure men of the highest ability as Heads of Government Departments. Having got that ability and standard of efficiency and qualification, do we need more advice and coordinating from him than what the hon. the Financial Secretary is doing or you, Sir? I know you, Sir, are particularly interested in all the development plans

of this Colony, and I know you do that with the advice of the Heads of your Departments. It is true, you may like to have a particular individual at your elbow. But is it particularly cogent or necessary with the lack of funds we are experiencing today in the Colony? We have not got the money and, therefore, we have to cut our suit according to the cloth. It seems to me when we look at that gentleman and his work, we almost see the whole Department and its usefulness.

Then we have a young man who has just come out here. He is a nice person to speak to. He has just qualified at the Bar and arising out of the exigencies of war he has had some post-graduate training in Economics. There are hundreds of people who have had that opportunity of a post-graduate course in Economics. He has been brought down here as Administrative Assistant. Personally, I prefer that he be made a Chief Justice in one of the Islands. I look upon these two men with all respect as square pegs in round holes, and it seems to me there is where our farce is perpetuated where that Department is concerned. Then you have an Economic Assistant as though an Adviser is not enough. I notice an apartment has been carved out in the Public Buildings for this Department, and it has become a very established institution. That makes me have to refer to what I regard as a wrong committed by this Government, and the hon. the Financial Secretary has been the one who was stressing this thing. As an instrument of Government he has been trying to persuade us, that all these "C.D.&W. babies" must be taken over and cared for by us. We have been during the war time gearing up our Colony in certain directions with the assistance of Colonial Development and Welfare money. Persons came out on contracts and after their contracts ended they should have been gone but, because those persons have become fine personalities in our midst, excellent friends, we find it is a pity to lose Mr. X and his retention is strongly advocated, and with his retention a department springs up around him. That is what has been happening.

In the transition period I and many Members referred to them as "C.D.&W. babies", but it seems they are now not only sucklings but are kicking very hard at the economic life of the country because we are unable to carry them. We have increased the overhead expenditure of the Colony by the retention of these war-time assistants we have been getting in this Colony, but now that is hardly expedient and necessary for our financial position. It is only because of that I feel that some time or other before these "babies" become so much rooted when there may be tremendous sentiment against getting rid of them, we must start pruning and so get rid of this unnecessary expenditure. We must try and get officers in the Colony who are capable to shoulder their true responsibility and not have these overlappings as we are having. We are having too much of that. District Administration is overlapping with the Labour Department, the Interior Department is overlapping with District Administration, and we have that going on everywhere. Undoubtedly we have ample evidence of these overlappings, and that is what we are perpetuating.

It seems the time has come — and I am glad some reference has been made by you, Sir, to the fact that someone is coming to look into the administration of the Colony — for that to be done. I do hope that besides that a strong local committee will be appointed in the meantime to go into the whole question of our administration and see where it may be reshuffled so as to obtain the maximum of efficiency with the minimum of employees in the Civil Service. That will be a useful thing for the future of the Colony. We do not know what it will bring forth, but we are only just hopeful as to what it will be. I certainly support the hon. Member and trust my remarks will be taken in the spirit in which I make them. I am not against the Officers who happen to be in this Department; they are excellent men and should rise very high in other spheres where they can be more useful.

Mr. LEE: I would plead with the two hon. Members to reconsider the mat-

ter in this light. Your Excellency a few minutes ago said you will be going on holiday and will see what can be done towards the development of this Colony. If we do not have this Department and the question is asked "Have you a department of that nature to see after the expenditure of the money that can be got?", the answer would have to be "No". I would plead with the two hon. Members to wait until we see how the market takes our \$10 million loan and what happens in respect of the development of the Colony. With such a Department, I think, it will be easier for us to get loans for development purposes.

Mr. RAATGEVER: It is regrettable that personalities have come into the discussion on this Department. There are two statements made by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara and the hon. Member for Central Demerara which I would like to correct. The first is, the hon. Member for Central Demerara said that this Government was finding posts for people who could not find jobs elsewhere, or who were put out of jobs elsewhere. I would like to take this opportunity to say that as far as Mr. Fletcher is concerned that statement is not correct. Mr. Fletcher refused a job at more money than he gets here as Development Commissioner, because he loves British Guiana and the people of British Guiana. He is happy here and prefers to remain here than to go somewhere else even at a higher stipend. The next statement which is incorrect was made by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara. He said that Colonel Spencer was an expert and Mr. Fletcher has no knowledge of development.

Mr. DEBIDIN: I particularly left out the word "development". I said I did not know what qualification he has in Economics

Mr. RAATGEVER: He is not Economic Commissioner but Development Commissioner. You said Colonel Spencer has knowledge of development and Mr. Fletcher has none. When Colonel Spencer came here he had absolutely no knowledge but theoretical of any development, and this was his first job in the Civil Service. That is not so for Mr. Fletcher. He was in

Palestine during the war as Controller of Industries.

Mr. DEBIDIN: To a point of correction! When Colonel Spencer came here he came as Economic Adviser to the Colony. Therefore his knowledge of Economics was necessary and not that of Development. He became Development Commissioner later.

Mr. RAATGEVER: When he became Development Commissioner he had not more knowledge than Mr. Fletcher did. Mr. Fletcher was in Palestine and had some knowledge there of development. Quite apart from that he has commonsense. I mentioned that in Finance Committee and I did not think the hon. Member would have mentioned the matter again. I am positive that this Colony will save a lot of money as the result of his Department.

Mr. FERNANDES: I agree with just a few things said by the hon. Member for Eastern Demerara on this matter. One is, Mr. Fletcher's integrity is of the highest; (2) he did a good job on the Control Board. But I disagree with the statement that he has not got the qualification or capability of doing this job. Personally, I think Mr. Fletcher is an asset to British Guiana. Every time I have had transactions with Mr. Fletcher or put problems before him he showed tremendous ability to grasp the difficulties of the particular problem at very short notice. I am sure that British Guiana will benefit by his appointment to the post of Development Commissioner. It is a post, I think, badly needed if we are to get the development we are all hoping for. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Raatgever, referred to commonsense. I am sure Mr. Fletcher has few equals in that respect. The hon. Member for Central Demerara made reference to people coming here from Israel, Palestine. I would like to make a public statement about that.

I would be very happy if all the Heads of Departments who are appointed here by the Secretary of State from outside are selected from among those who have served in Palestine in preference to those

who have served in any of the African Colonies. My experience is, they give us better service and have very much better understanding of the ability of the creole or native of British Guiana, a group in which I include myself. I find that when we get them after serving a long period in the African Service they figure that everyone born and has grown here lacks the intelligence necessary to express an opinion that is worth respecting. I say that without fear of contradiction. It is my knowledge. I do not blame them, because when they have worked in Africa they were accustomed there to look upon the natives as persons who lack ability even to express an opinion on what is to be done in their own country. I am going to support strongly the retention of this Department, as I am very pleased that Mr. Fletcher has been appointed to that post. If I had to make the appointment myself I would have done exactly as the Secretary of State did in appointing him.

Mr. DEBIDIN: To see how comparisons are odious, I don't think we can support any of that view which has been expressed about those coming from Africa to serve here. I do not share that view.

Dr. JAGAN: It seems to me that what I said is totally misconstrued, because I was not talking either of Colonel Spencer's ability or Mr. Fletcher's ability. That did not come into it. I was talking of the necessity of having the post on the Estimates. I am not concerned with the ability of the gentleman. So far as appointees coming from Africa or Palestine is concerned, that is no concern of mine. I am not here to compare which one is more important than the other. I am interested in whether the post is necessary and, if made, why it should be made.

Mr. KENDALL: I would like to make a few observations not on the Head, but I think this is the appropriate Head to make observations on the future development of the Colony. I shall be speaking at some length and it is now 5 o'clock.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY & TREASURER: I think we may adjourn.

The Council resumed and adjourned to the following day at 2 p.m.