

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Thursday, 29th December, 1960

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :

Speaker, His Honour Sir Donald Jackson

Chief Secretary Hon. D. M. Hedges

Attorney-General, Hon. A. M. I. Austin, O.C.

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

ex officio

The Honourable **Dr. C. B. Jagan**

— *Member for Eastern Berbice*
(Minister of Trade and Industry)

” ” **B. H. Benn**

— *Member for Essequibo River*
(Minister of Natural Resources)

” ” **Janet Jagan**

— *Member for Western Essequibo*
(**Minister** of Labour, Health and
Housing)

” ” **Ram Karran**

— *Member for Demerara-Essequibo*
(Minister of Communications and
Works)

” ” **B. S. Rai**

— *Member for Central Demerara*
(Minister of Community Development
and Education).

Mr. **R. B. Gajraj**

— *Nominated Member*

” **W. O. R. Kendall**

— *Member for New Amsterdam*

” **R. C. Tello**

— *Nominated Member*

” **F. Bowman**

— *Member for Demerara River*

” **L. F. S. Burnham, O.C.**

— *Member for Georgetown Central*

” **S. Campbell**

— *Member for North Western District*

” **A. L. Jackson**

— *Member for Georgetown North*

” **Ajodha Singh**

— *Member for Berbice River*

” **Jai Narine Singh**

— *Member for Georgetown South*

” **R. E. Davis**

— *Nominated Member*

” **H. J. M. Hubbard**

— *Nominated Member.*

Mr. I. Crum Ewing — Clerk of the Legislature

Mr. E. V. Viapree — Assistant Clerk of the Legislature.

ABSENT :

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

Mr. A. M. Fredericks — Nominated Member

Mr. A. G. Tasker, O.B.E. — Nominated Member — on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 28th December, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1961) BILL

BUDGET DEBATE

The Financial Secretary (Mr. D'Andrade): I move that Council resolve itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current Session of the Legislative Council."

Question put, and agreed to.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Chairman: We dealt with seven Heads yesterday. The Head, Information Services, now becomes 7A. Members will keep in mind the Report of the Finance Committee.

The Financial Secretary: What has happened is that the Establishment has now been divided between the Finance Secretariat and the Public Service Commission, so that Establishment has disappeared as a Head.

Mr. Burnham: I crave your indulgence, Sir. Unfortunately I was not present at the particular meeting of the Finance Committee and my copy of its report has been misplaced. The Financial Secretary has said that the Head, Establishment, has been divided up. I would like to know what has happened to item 1(6) under that Head — 18 Administrative Cadets.

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Hedges): The item now comes under Public Service Commission as Sub-Head 1, item (6).

The Financial Secretary: Some details of the division are attached as an Appendix to the Report of the Finance Committee

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 7A. — Information Services be carried out at \$183,425.

Agreed to.

Head passed

CIVIL AVIATION

DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move the reduction by \$5 of Sub-Head 1, item (1) — Director of Civil Aviation, \$7,680. We were told about three years ago that this post was being reserved for a Guianese who was then in training. We were told that the present incumbent was to be hired on a two-year contract. So far as I am aware two years should have expired somewhere around August of this year, and I would like to know what has been done about the Guianization of that particular post?

The Chief Secretary: Sir, arrangements are being made for the Assistant Director of Civil Aviation to proceed on a further training course next year.

Mr. Burnham: Mr. Chairman, I must have been indistinct or incoherent. I asked what is being done to Guianize the post of Director of Civil Aviation? I am not asking about courses. I am asking what is being done? An expatriate was brought to serve for about two years and that period was finished about August this year. What is being done to appoint a Director of Civil Aviation? Who is the Guianese?

The Chief Secretary: A Director of Civil Aviation has to be in possession of the requisite qualifications before he can be appointed to the post. We are doing our best for a Guianese to have the requisite qualifications.

Mr. Burnham: What are these requisite qualifications? Was not a Guianese sent away on a course to get the necessary qualifications? If he got through that course, as I understand he did, then is he incompetent? What are these qualifications and what is this course? Do I understand that the hon. the Chief Secretary, in spite of the advice of one of his officials at the back there, cannot answer a simple question? What is the course? Was it not the same course which a Guianese officer was sent on some years ago?

The Chief Secretary: The Assistant Director has to proceed on a more advanced course than he has hitherto taken.

Mr. Burnham: Why is this more advanced course to be proceeded on? And why did the predecessor, in office of the hon. the Chief Secretary tell us that on the completion of the last course, the gentleman would serve for a two-year period and then take over the post?

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): To set the record straight: The hon. Member for Georgetown Central has said that the Assistant Director of Civil Aviation was trained for the post of Director and that the former Chief Secretary had said that this officer will succeed to the office of Director. As far as my memory goes, I think what was said is that the person was trained in the United Kingdom for the post of Assistant Director of Civil Aviation and not Director.

Mr. Burnham: I am amused. The hon. Minister said he wants to set the record straight, and then said "I think". This was in Finance Committee with the ex-Director, Mr. Nicole, and the ex-Chief Secretary, Mr. Jakeway, being present, and that is what we were told in Finance Committee. Mr. Nicole said that the Assistant Director was com-

petent to relieve him. Now we are told, after shilly-shallying, that he is being sent away on a course to fill the post. My memory does not fail me.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I think that it is time that the Government acts, with a greater degree of accuracy, on the Guianization policy laid down in the Legislative Council and on the White Paper which we were to receive but which we have not received. As a result, I have tabled a Motion in this Council urging that the policy of Guianization be pursued; and, knowing that the person now acting in the post of Assistant Director has the capacity to serve as Director, we should take immediate steps in the Guianization policy to see that this important branch of our economy is taken out of the hands of the people who are directing it from abroad.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to inform hon. Members that the Government is just as anxious to have Guianese instead of expatriates fill these posts but, nevertheless, these appointments are made not by the Government but by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Burnham: I appreciate the legal technicalities and proprieties of the situation, but is this Elected Government telling me that they sit in Executive Council and take nonsense from the officials? The P.P.P. is never known for its softness of voice. Then what is happening to these people? They must have been conniving with these officials. I want to make this further point. The hon. the Chief Secretary has been at pains to avoid answering my question. He tells me about a more advanced course. What is this advanced course, astronomy? Apart from that, what has happened to this contract which came to an end in August of this year? And I am going to move the deletion, later, of Sub-Head 1, item 17—Overseas Allowance—because the contract came to an end about August this year. He is a

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nice gentleman, but it is time we get our own. You go to Nigeria, Ghana, Trinidad and Barbados and you see all natives as Directors of Civil Aviation. Are we that backward, here? What has happened to the contract?

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan): I can very well appreciate the hon. Member's interest in this matter because I remember way back when I was a Member of the Legislative Council, he lobbied me all the way from London in the interest of this particular individual, perhaps, based on friendship. We, the members of the Government — and I want to make this quite clear — do not have the last word. Indeed, it was made very clear to us when we took office and raised this matter of appointments that we cannot even see the personal records of persons who are to be appointed. That was pointed out to us. For instance, if we felt that there was discrimination, we were told we cannot even see the personal record. So that it is all well and good for hon. Members to come here and blow a lot of hot air about Elected Members agreeing with the officials. The hon. Member knows, very well, that Elected Members do not run the Government, particularly on a matter dealing with personnel. I am sure the hon. Members who are snarling over there must know what the constitutional position is — what they supported and what they keep fighting for. Surely we want Guianese, too, but we are not always apprised of all the facts.

I would like to say that I share the view of the hon. Member in one respect, however much there may be differences between us as to the lobbying for a particular person; but I know in his case, this is a particular one. It was as long ago as 1949, even when there was no question of qualification. The question is, we want Guianese. At the same time, I am not going to agree to

anything unless we have efficient people who are going to run things for us. I am not concerned with the "Guianese must be first" principle. I agree that people must be trained and get the qualifications necessary to hold these posts. At the same time, if the people are not competent, they must be by-passed and other people must be put in their places. We do not have all the personal records to know the facts. The hon. Member, probably, knows more than we; and if he does, he should bring these records to us.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: The hon. Minister of Trade and Industry cannot accuse me of lobbying; but I can appreciate the position of Government when it makes straight statements that its hands are tied and that this is a contract which is controlled by the Secretary of State for the Colonies. If that is so, then this Legislative Council must continue to protest and fight to see that the proper people are in the right places; and if there are individuals who have not got the capacity, then it is our right to select and train people to take the places of others from abroad. Now this has happened, we know where to place the responsibility.

If the Elected Members of the Majority Party in the Government tell us that their hands are tied, then this side of the Council, in the light of the present constitution, must appreciate that and join hands with them to fight for our rights.

Mr. Burnham: There is no question of lobbying for any particular individual here. I happen to know the person who is the Guianese concerned. The question of filling the post of Directorship of Civil Aviation has been a vexed question for many years. When the Directorship of Agriculture came up for consideration in this Council, it was I who made the noise over here despite the fact that he has never been my personal friend. When the post of Veter-

inary Surgeon in the Agriculture Department was discussed, it was I who made the noise over here. When it came to the question of paying Mr. French-Mullen an extra amount of money, it was I who made the noise over here.

The coincidence of my having gone to school with this individual and having attended the same university with him is purely a matter of chance. It was I who made the row when there was an attempt to overlook Mr. Poonai in the Agriculture Department. He was doing rice-research at the time, and the Administration wanted to bring a man who had never seen a grain of rice to fill the post. I have never seen Mr. Poonai, although his brother is a colleague of mine in another field.

I think it is vulgar for the Minister of Trade and Industry to suggest that it is sheer lobbying for the appointment of an individual. Is he going to tell me that he did not have a big say in the appointment of his Permanent Secretary? I congratulate him on making his power felt. Is he going to tell me that he did not have a big say in the appointment of the Manager of the Credit Corporation? I also congratulate him on that. He holds the strings of the purse. Let any Governor attempt to get by here, if the Minister does not vote the money for any item! Let the Governor have his say about the establishment being in the hands of the Chief Secretary. But if we are not divided here on this subject, the Governor will have to use his extraordinary powers to overrule us. I want to see which Governor is going to run foul of a united Legislature!

I believe that the Elected Government is escaping responsibility. Make an issue of this matter; do not let four officials browbeat you. Who are they? They are fewer in numbers. You are merely behaving like Adam and Eve. Adam blames Eve for eating the apple, and Eve blames the serpent. When it

comes to the question of the suitability, be he a Guianese or otherwise, if he is not qualified and competent I will not support him.

Even in the case of the Agriculture Department where a Guianese has been appointed, it is clear from this side of the Table that I am prepared to attack a Guianese in the same way as an expatriate. If you are a Head of a Department you must do your work properly and be a competent officer. If you make a mistake, you must stand up to public criticism. I am rather surprised to find that a personal element has been introduced by the Minister of Trade and Industry. I am not ashamed of it, but we want to hear more about the Permanent Secretaries; we want to hear more about the Managers of the Credit Corporation — the comic opera you have there with two Managers. I should be most indebted to the hon. the Chief Secretary, if he were to tell me what has happened to the contract that is supposed to have expired some time during this year?

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): I wish the hon. Member for Georgetown Central had been more vigorous in his advocacy for the principle of independence. He must realize that the question of appointments is in the hands of the Public Service Commission. These people have the interests of their country and of the civil servants at heart. The question of Guianization and independence are closely tied up.

The hon. Member made a great speech about whom he fought for and when he fought for them, but he should have fought for independence which is more important — the whole is greater than the part. He is trying to get frills and fragments when he should have been fighting for the freedom of this country, so that we could appoint whoever we want.

Mr. Burnham: Now that I have been entertained with these polemics by this infant, let me — *[Interruption.]*

The Chairman: You were allowed to speak without interruption; listen also without interrupting the hon. Member who is speaking. Everyone will have a chance to rise and speak, so everyone should have a hearing.

Mr. Burnham: Jamaica is not independent, but it has been able to pursue the policy of Jamaicanisation of its Public Service. Trinidad and Barbados are doing the same thing. Ghana started the Ghanaianisation of its civil service three years before it received independence. Some of these idiots here are talking about independence, and they have not even envisaged a training scheme for the Diplomatic Service. Of course, one greater idiot says that when we get independence we can always get some other power to represent us. *[An hon. Member: "Who said that?"]* The hon. Minister of Trade and Industry said that.

The question of independence does not arise at the moment. Before you reach independence you can have Guianese trained. Do not introduce the question of independence at this stage. Some Members are going around politicking and saying that independence will be the panacea for all our ills. When independence comes they will find themselves without the trained personnel to make a reality of independence. I once listened to Professor Arthur Lewis on this question —

The Chairman: I shall have to put the Question. What about your question?

Mr. Burnham: I was replying to the hon. Minister of Natural Resources who has attempted to introduce something irrelevant into the discussion. I am still awaiting a reply from the hon. the Chief Secretary.

The Chief Secretary: The Director of Civil Aviation is not on contract with this Government. He is on secondment from the Ministry of Aviation in the United Kingdom. The original period was for two or three years, and it has been extended — I do not know to what time.

Mr. Burnham: I understand that. The Chief Secretary's predecessor said that two years ago. The hon. the Chief Secretary took so long to answer my question. If you are training the Assistant Director of Civil Aviation to take over from the Director of Civil Aviation, there should be two officers in training. Are you going to wait until the last minute to send an officer out to do an advanced course?

This is purblindness on the part of the Government. They can only appoint Chairmen and Permanent Secretaries. They have neither the capacity nor the power to send Guianese to be trained, though it is obvious that a minimum of two Guianese should be trained to hold top posts in this Department. May I ask the hon. the Chief Secretary, who has to answer for his colleagues, what is Government doing about the training of someone other than the present Assistant Director of Civil Aviation?

The Chief Secretary: The matter will be considered.

Mr. Burnham: When?

[The Chief Secretary offered no reply.]

Mr. Burnham: The hon. the Chief Secretary must not insult our intelligence by telling us that it will be considered. First of all, it is rather incompetent to wait until this stage to start considering the matter. When are you considering it is what we want to know?

Mr. Benn: In due course.

The Chief Secretary: It will be considered by the Training committee which has been appointed to look into the question of Guianization of the Service, etc.

Mr. Bowman: We appreciate the efforts made by the Ministers of the Government to exonerate themselves from their lack of interest and neglect in seeing that an officer is trained for this post, which is practically vacant by virtue of the fact that the contract of the person who holds it is finished.

The hon. Minister of Trade and Industry made a point just now that they did not have the last word in making appointments. Are we going to sit here and allow them to throw dust in our eyes? Not very long ago I read in a local newspaper that the Minister said he had something to say regarding a very important appointment.

I can remember that in May, year before the last, the Minister had the last word in having a Minister of this Government dismissed. He has given us the impression that he has not the last word, but then he had the last word. I just want to bring to the notice of Members the fact that he claims that he has not the last word, but a Minister was removed from office because he had the last word. The present Government has the power to do anything in this country.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I would like the hon. the Chief Secretary to tell us whether the present Assistant Director of Civil Aviation is a competent person; whether he has the capacity to be trained, and is being trained to fill the post of Director of Civil Aviation?

The Chief Secretary: I feel that this is a Public Service matter, and that it would be highly improper to deal with personalities.

Mr. Jackson: In view of the fact that we have been told that the Training committee will be asked to consider the point raised by the hon. Member for Georgetown Central, may I ask whether Government has any control or influence over that Committee, and, if so, would Government undertake at any time after today to bring that matter before the Committee?

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: That is exactly the point which was made by the Minister of Natural Resources — that British Guiana is not an independent nation. I do not care what those Members who are not for independence may say. Independence is the panacea for a great number of our ills in this country. Twenty years ago this country had a Budget of \$6 million; now it is \$56 million. Some people would like to remain attached to the apron strings of our imperial masters and be their slaves forever, but we are fighting for independence. When the great United States of America became an independent nation where did she train her diplomats? They were trained on the battlefield, and the U.S.A. has become the greatest nation on earth in less than 200 years. When India gained her independence, did she have anyone trained in the diplomatic field?

Mr. Burnham: Yes.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: Mr. Krishna Menon, a lawyer, became the greatest diplomat in India, and when he stands in the United Nations Assembly today he speaks with a great voice. Give us our independence and you will see how this nation will move forward. It is the greatest thing that can happen to this country.

Mr. Burnham: I did not help the independence struggle by spending months in South America. On the question of the Indians being trained, my friend does not understand what I said. I am not talking about training for

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Ministerial rank. The Indian Civil Service had such persons in 1947 when India became independent. I am not talking about people like Krishna Menon. You do not have to train a Minister, but you have to train the sort of person who has to become an Administrative Assistant or a Permanent Secretary. The reference to Krishna Menon was both irrelevant and unnecessary. I am talking about staff.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: My eleven months in South America have paid off well. This country is now heading for a continental destiny. We have sent a mission to Venezuela, and we are about to send one to Brazil. I have been invited to attend the Presidential inauguration in Brazil. Is that by magic? I know the President of Brazil personally. When I went to South America where was my friend? Was he hiding somewhere in Subryanville?

Dr. Jagan: I am glad to see that we are fighting the battle for independence all over again. It is very nice to hear that some people ran away. I heard the hon. Member for Georgetown Central, addressing the Parliament in Delhi, say that when he came back to British Guiana he would tread the path which India did—that civil disobedience would be his creed. We heard his slogan that the British Government would take away our Constitution “over my dead body”, but when the time came to fight, like a dog with its tail between its legs, he ran away, and up to now he is running. But for his attitude in London this country would have had independence next year.

Mr. Bowman: This is another attempt to throw dust into the eyes of people and to mislead the gullible. I defy any Member to say that he wants independence more than I do.

Mr. Hubbard: I say it, Sir.

Mr. Bowman: What we are opposed to is not independence, but that this country should fall into the hands of communists. When we say we do not want independence now it does not mean that we really do not want independence, but we are afraid that if we get independence now this country will fall into the hands of undesirables, and as a result of that I can see nothing but bloodshed. That is what I am trying to avoid. I want independence; if only I could be sure that the right sort of people will govern this country. The majority of Guianese would like to have independence tomorrow, but the reason they are hesitant to ask for it is because of the people who are in the Government today. We see their efforts to bring Castro here and to grant him timber concessions. We also see them making efforts to get money from Communist countries. They make no effort to get money from any of the other Commonwealth countries. The hon. Member for Georgetown South wants this country to sever its connection with the Commonwealth. He is thinking in terms of association with Venezuela. Some Venezuelans came here recently and offered to do some work. I am very doubtful about them. I suspect that they are communists.

Mr. Burnham: Going back to the question of the Directorship of Civil Aviation, I would like to remark that it has to do primarily with the oversight that has been obvious so far as the training of Guianese for independence is concerned, and even before independence. It is a little difficult for me to understand a political Government saying that it is not competent to provide funds for the training of Guianese, or that it lacks the intelligence or foresight to recognize the necessity for the provision of such funds. So far as I am concerned I do not have to shout about independence. I am for independence the day after the 1961 elections — not the day before when these rascals are going to suspend all elections.

D. Jagan: Who are the rascals?

The Chairman: Who are the rascals? [*Interruption.*] Will you allow me? I have asked a question.

Mr. Burnham: Those rascals.

The Chairman: Who are the rascals?

Mr. Burnham: The rascals to whom I refer are adherents of a certain political party other than the one to which I belong.

The Chairman: You are entirely out of order.

Mr. Burnham: I apologize for calling the P.P.P. rascals, Sir.

The Chairman: Please proceed. The Motion is that the item be reduced by \$5. As a matter of fact I am at the point of stopping further discussion and putting it to the vote. I cannot allow Members to get all around like that all day.

Mr. Burnham: With respect, I may point out that when I moved the Motion in relation to civil aviation, I made what I consider to be certain opposite remarks and observations. We have had all this talk about independence and who ran, but when one of them was charged before a Magistrate he said he went to a certain district to practise dentistry.

Question put; Motion negatived.

LEADING FIREMEN

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1(9) — 6 Leading Firemen—\$10,910. Mr. Chairman, the question of the firemen at Atkinson Field has come up for discussion at least on two previous occasions over this budget period. I am happy to learn that the Govern-

ment has, at last, decided to put the firemen at Atkinson Field on the permanent staff—the established service—but still I think there remains a lot to be done for these firemen. Under the Sheat Report, it was suggested that some type of assisted travelling allowance should be paid to these firemen at Atkinson Field because of the fact that they had to travel so far away from their original places of abode. That has not been touched yet by the Government — the giving of assisted travelling allowances to the firemen at Atkinson Field.

Furthermore, if the firemen at Atkinson Field are to be put on par with the firemen in the ordinary fire service — and that was the recommendation in the Sheat Report — it is submitted that they should also be in receipt of house allowances if free quarters are not provided for them. And I would ask the Government to pay particular attention to that. The firemen at Atkinson Field are still suffering in two respects as against their opposite numbers in the fire brigade. Number one — travelling — the fire brigade members in Georgetown actually get bicycle allowances; and number two — free quarters or house allowances in lieu of houses, which those at Atkinson do not get.

The Financial Secretary: I think I can assure the hon. Member that the matters he has raised are under consideration.

Mr. Burnham: Perhaps I should not be suspicious, but whenever I hear any official telling me that a matter is under consideration or will be considered, I get suspicious. I do feel in these modern days they should drop this officialese and tell us what is being done and that what is being done will come to an end. These men have been suffering for years. Up to now Government has robbed them for operating the telephone service. But let by-gones be by-gones. Do not tell us it is being considered. I wish the Financial Secretary,

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as a Guianese, will tell us exactly what is being done. Do you propose to make adjustments or do you propose not to give anything?

The Financial Secretary: I am sure that the hon. Member appreciates that since consideration of the matter has not reached the stage of a decision, I cannot tell him exactly what is being done.

Mr. Burnham: The Union and the men have reached the stage that they know what they want. Does not the Government know what it wants?

Mr. Jackson: May we ask how soon this consideration will be concluded?

The Financial Secretary: It is very near the point of decision, which should be taken, at the most, in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Burnham: I worked hard to get that answer. I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

OTHER CHARGES

Mr. Jackson: Under "Other Charges", item 3 — Miscellaneous: Government has subsidized services by way of transportation to almost every part of the country. It has its railways; it has its steamer and launch services, but it does not provide what may be called a subsidized service for the people who live in the Rupununi. I know that the only means of travelling to and from there is by air and the cost of an air passage is \$42. I happen to know that such a fare —

The Chairman: Just a moment: Do you want to move a reduction of Sub-Head 3?

Mr. Jackson: Yes, Sir. I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 3 — Miscellaneous — \$6,600, so as to make the point. Transportation to the Rupununi is by air. I am not aware of any subsidy for that service. I believe I am quite right in saying that every other field of transportation service is subsidized; and it seems to me that \$42 as the fare between Georgetown and the Rupununi is very high, indeed, especially for the people who live in that area. I ask whether they can be given any consideration by a reduction in the fare — those people whom we are very anxious to fit into our pattern of society — and whether it can be given at an early date?

Mr. Ram Karran: I was wondering how the question of subsidy to our local transport service — B.G. Airways — arose under this Head, Civil Aviation. The Civil Aviation Department, which is responsible for the overall civil aviation problems in the country, has absolutely nothing to do with the local transport service run by the B.G. Airways. I thought that the hon. Member, who has been to the Rupununi, should know that a question of this kind would naturally arise in discussion of the budget relating to B.G. Airways.

Mr. Jackson: I am grateful to the hon. Minister. Under what Head can I find it?

The Chairman: Under "B.G. Airways."

Mr. Jackson: I do not know where I can find it here. [Interruption.]

The Chairman: Anyway, I have permitted him, under "Miscellaneous", to make his observation, if he wants to get something over. It is left to the Minister concerned to answer, if he so desires.

Mr. Ram Karran: I am sure, at this stage, the hon. Member would wish to withdraw his Motion. I see the point for having allowed him to make his remark, but the hon. Member should know, clearly, that it is B.G. Airways.

The Chairman: If it does not concern you, you may remain absolutely quiet.

Mr. Jackson: I raised the matter because I thought that it came under the portfolio of the Minister. If it is not, I am sorry. I thought he was responsible for that service — communications and works. If the Minister is not willing to make a comment, he need not make it, but I thought of raising the matter so that there may be the possibility of a reduction in the fare.

Mr. Campbell: Under that Sub-head, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one question. The North West District happens to be without any landing strip for a 'plane service, and I would ask him whether he intends, in the near or dim future, to provide a landing strip there? There is nowhere at all in the North West District for an aeroplane to land. The service of a monthly sea 'plane has been stopped for sometime now, and nothing has taken its place. I feel that an airstrip should be put down to facilitate the population in the North West District. I want to know whether the answer is "yes" or "no"? [*Pause.*] Is there no answer from the Minister?

The Chairman: There is no answer, and we cannot make him answer.

Mr. Ram Karran: I did not rise because you were engaged, Sir. We have discussed this matter before. This is one of the items that will normally come under the Development Programme for the construction of airstrips. I cannot say specifically at the moment whether a decision has been made to **construct an airfield in the North West District.**

The Chairman: If it comes under the Development Programme, I would not like to have the matter raised now and again under the Development Programme. The Member will have to raise the matter when we are discussing the Development Programme.

Mr. Jackson: Although I have not been given a proper answer to my question and have been referred to the Head B.G. Airways, may I ask the Minister how soon we will be able to get information in this Council regarding the activities of the B.G. Airways?

The Financial Secretary: The Annual Report and the Annual Estimates regarding the B.G. Airways are tabled in this Council.

Mr. Jackson: That is why I asked the question as to whether somebody in this Council should give consideration to the reduction of fares from Georgetown to the Rupununi.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask the Minister of Communications and Works to what extent, if any, does the Government subsidize the B.G. Airways?

Mr. Ram Karran: It is in the vicinity of \$300,000.

Mr. Burnham: May I further ask whether Government does not exercise any control over the policy of the B.G. Airways, in view of the fact that Government subsidizes it?

Mr. Ram Karran: Government controls the B.G. Airways.

Mr. Burnham: May I further ask whether Government proposes to do anything regarding the reduction of fares from Georgetown to the Rupununi?

Mr. Ram Karran: I have had no representation on that, other than the question raised by the hon. Member.

[MR. RAM KARRAN]

About two years ago the fares and rates for packages on the B.G. Airways were amended. The rates were discussed by hon. Members in this Council, and this is the first time that representation has been made to me that the fares and rates for packages for people travelling to the Rupununi on B.G. Airways are extravagant. I would like the hon. Member to put his question through the proper channel.

Mr. Jackson: It is true that the rates and fares were increased about two years ago. While we have given consideration to the problem, we could not appreciate the problems of the people who travel to and from the Rupununi. Now that I have been to the Rupununi and seen the conditions, I have decided to raise certain points in Finance Committee. I asked whether Government would give consideration to the question of reducing the fares between Georgetown and the Rupununi in view of the fact that we are trying to integrate the people and fit them into our society? If we want to do that we must have better travelling facilities between here and there. That is one of the reasons why I raised the question.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Member says that he went to the Rupununi, and certain representations have been made to him. It is my duty to go there and to examine the effect of the rates I referred to earlier. I wish to correct the statement made by the hon. Member that the rates were increased; the rates were increased in some cases and reduced in others.

Mr. Jackson: The rates affect the Amerindians in the Rupununi. Now that the Minister has become interested vocally, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 8—Civil Aviation—be carried out at \$245,491.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

CO-OPERATIVE

CO-OPERATIVE OFFICERS

Mr. Jackson: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head I (5) — 23 Co-operative Officers—\$73,000. I would like to inquire from the Chief Secretary whether he has the full complement of officers in this Department?

The Chief Secretary: The Department is, I believe, about four short, and the reason for it is that we have not been able to secure officers with the requisite qualifications to fill the posts.

Mr. Jackson: May I ask what are the required qualifications, and whether it is difficult for Guianese to acquire the requisite qualifications?

The Chief Secretary: If the hon. Member is agreeable, I will supply him with a pamphlet setting out the qualifications that are required.

Mr. Jackson: I shall be glad to receive the pamphlet. In the meantime may I inquire whether the duties of the four vacant officers are being carried out by other officers, and what are the qualifications of those officers?

The Chief Secretary: The four posts are vacant.

Mr. Burnham: May I find out from the hon. the Chief Secretary whether he has read this pamphlet so as to be able to assist us on what the qualifications are for the purpose of this debate?

The Chief Secretary: I have not read the pamphlet.

Mr. Burnham: May I congratulate the hon. the Chief Secretary on his honesty. I am not suggesting that he is not honest normally—

The Chairman: You should not congratulate him; that should be the standard.

Mr. Burnham: There is beauty and outstanding beauty; there is honesty and outstanding honesty.

The Chairman: I think a man should be hurt if one congratulated him on being intelligent.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask how this situation arose? Did not Government anticipate the necessity for having officers trained, especially in view of the fact that this Government places a great deal of emphasis on the Co-operative Movement?

The Chief Secretary: The Committee that I spoke about earlier is going into the whole question and doing it methodically Department by Department.

Mr. Jackson: There are supposed to be four vacancies at the moment. I see 4 in one scale and 4 in another.

The Chief Secretary: I am afraid I cannot say where the vacancies fall at the moment.

Mr. Jackson: May I have this information? If the vacancies are the first in the upper bracket—A7—as they may well be, how soon, if my assumption is correct, will it be possible to have qualified men filling these posts?

The Chairman: In a Department of which I have intimate knowledge, great effort has been made within the last three years to train candidates for important posts, but without success so far. Is

it possible for someone to tell you, with any certainty, when persons will be qualified to fill certain posts?

Mr. Jackson: Are we anticipating properly the needs of the Department? If so, we would know how early we should start preparing certain people for the posts. Since Government has been taking care of training for some time, and assuming that there are people now in training, I should like to know how soon some of those trainees would be able to fill these vacancies?

The Chief Secretary: If it would be of help, I could prepare a full list showing the number of Guianese attending the various training courses under each Head.

Mr. Jackson: I do not wish Government to go to that extent, because I think we have already had some indication of the training courses. I am just trying to get information with respect to this particular Head. If there were vacancies three years ago, what steps have been taken to have them filled by qualified persons?

The Chief Secretary: Last September or October an advertisement was published inviting applications for these vacancies.

Mr. Burnham: If there is this shortage of officers, why, according to the note at the bottom of the page, was one higher post substituted for one lower post?

The Chief Secretary: A7 is the promotion post, and there must in consequence be one less for the junior grade, A14. That is shown in the footnote.

Mr. Burnham: Am I then to understand from what the Chief Secretary has at last said, that the four vacancies are in the A14 scale?

The Chief Secretary: It would appear so—yes.

Mr. Burnham: Is there no provision for training officers, so that you have to advertise?

The Chief Secretary: Not in this particular field.

Mr. Burnham: Unless you rule me out of order, Sir, may I inquire from the Chief Secretary in what fields is there provision for training?

The Chairman: Do not let us go away from this Head

Mr. Tello: I crave your indulgence, Sir, to ask the hon. Minister to explain to this Council why the Commissioner for Co-operative Development, in his capacity as Registrar of Friendly Societies, refused to register a certain union of friendly societies, a central body similar to the Co-operative Union. It has been reported to me that the union made several attempts to satisfy the requirements of the Registrar by revising its rules and following the Registrar's advice, which exercise went on for nearly one year. The Registrar has not yet granted permission for the registration of the union. I shall be very grateful if the Minister will give reasons why the registration was not allowed.

Dr. Jagan: I am afraid I cannot supply the reasons, because it is the first time that the matter has been brought to my attention. I am quite sure that if everything was in order the Registrar of Friendly Societies would have registered the union referred to. There must be something wrong. We know that many of these organizations function very loosely, without proper books being kept and so forth, and it is therefore the duty of the Registrar, before approving of registration, to make sure that these

organizations operate on a basis which would not lend itself to fraud. I can assure the hon. Member that the matter will be investigated to find out exactly the reasons why registration was not allowed.

Mr. Jackson: I understand that in my absence for a brief moment the Chief Secretary said that the four vacancies for Co-operative Officers relate to the lower segment — A14. If it was possible to transfer by substitution of one post from the lower scale to the higher scale, then it seems to me that the trouble in filling the vacancies may not be a question of qualifications, because if there are qualified men from the bottom to proceed to the top, there may be some other reason for not filling these vacancies.

The Chairman: I do not quite follow you. If a person from the bottom bracket is promoted to the top, the proper inference is that that person had become qualified to fill the post in the top bracket, which would leave a vacant post at the bottom, and there may yet not be a qualified person for that post in the bottom bracket. Is it suggested that a person who deserves promotion should not be promoted but should remain at the bottom and allow the top post to remain vacant?

Mr. Jackson: I do not for one moment advocate that persons who are qualified should not be given promotion to the top bracket. Apart from the two items there is no other field of training. It goes beyond the point of filling these vacancies, because if an officer is to have qualifications and there is no apprenticeship, Government will always find itself in the position of not being able to fill vacancies when they arise. May I inquire whether there is any person in the Department who does work which ought to be done by the Co-operative Officers?

Dr. agan: I think the Chief Secretary is very new to this problem, having been away for some time. First of all, we must note that in the Co-operative Department as such there has been some serious reorganization. Previously there were officers working in water-tight compartments; one set dealing with co-operative work, another set with schools, and another set with friendly societies, going all over the country over-lapping the same ground. The first exercise, therefore, was to group all those officers together and call them co-operative officers, giving each one a particular district to do all types of work—co-operative, friendly society and school work. That was the first reorganization which took place within the last two years.

There is a promotion post from A14 to A7. The reason for that is that there are accountants among whom there is no senior officer from whom the others can take instructions. That is the reason it was agreed to allow a promotion in that field.

As regards the two additional posts of Class II Clerks to carry out routine checks and audit of accounts, the reason this was done was again a matter of reorganization. The Department put up the proposal that they wanted more officers to do co-operative work. It is my feeling that a great deal of the time of co-operative officers is spent doing what I regard as donkey work—the checking of books. They have to spend hours checking books, and a look at the Estimates will show that a co-operative officer is a highly trained individual who is paid a fairly reasonable salary.

Consequently, it is my feeling that such an individual who has gone through a lot of training should not be allowed to do routine work which could be done by somebody else. So that an attempt is being made, now, to reorganize so as to have a few junior people —

in this case, two clerks—and we hope that these clerks will have book-keeping and accounting knowledge. It is hoped that these people will be able to understudy the Co-operative Officers—work with them—and so relieve the Co-operative Officers for doing jobs for which they had been trained, that is, a higher type of work to encourage and mobilize people into co-operative work. That is why this has taken place. This is a new experiment which is being undertaken, and I feel, personally, that this is going to meet with a good deal of success and result in reduced cost in administration, which we are all concerned about.

Mr. Gorsuch pointed out to us that our administration is top-heavy and that there is need for streamlining. As a result of streamlining, I can assure you there have been much savings. A few people who were seconded from the Education Department were released and they went back to their profession. Some saving was made in travelling allowances, and I hope in this new move that it will be possible to make further savings without reducing efficiency.

These two persons will be, at first, stationed in Georgetown so that they will be working not only under the supervision of Co-operative Officers, but under the Commissioner of Co-operatives and the Deputy Commissioner and, at a later stage, we hope to put them in the country areas.

The question was raised about training. The Co-operative Department has always been sending people abroad for training; and people also get internal training. The Department, itself, conducts training courses every year for its officers; so it cannot be said that there is a lack of training in this field. Some officers ask for transfer to other departments, and this happens in such a way that quite a few leave quickly. This position has to do with salaries and it has been referred to the Establishment

[Dr. JAGAN]

Department for consideration. We are considering re-adjusting salaries to keep the officers.

Mr. Kendall: Government should be congratulated in this respect. As indicated, the Minister of Trade and Industry has done a good deal of work in this department. It is true that a few officers have left the department after having been trained abroad. I do not know if it is due to discontent or the method of promotion or the administration; but can the Minister tell us how much effort he has put into this Co-operative Department? I know he had a lot to do with the grant to the British Guiana Credit Union by reducing the amount from \$10,000,000 to \$9,000,000; and that has not had anything to do with the efficiency of that department. I do not know whether he can tell us anything further.

Dr. Jagan: It is our feeling that co-operatives can play a great rôle in the development of British Guiana. We know from experience that if people band themselves together, utilize their own labour rather than having to find wage labour from outside, use their spare-time, much more can be accomplished with a given sum of money.

In the past, the Co-operative Department has concentrated its activities on credit societies. It is true that, possibly at the beginning of anything, a co-operative credit society is probably the first phase of development, but my criticism has always been that we stay on that phase too long. As a result, since I took over we have been laying more and more emphasis on the question of production rather than on mere credit, because we feel that an organization such as the Credit Corporation, should be the one to supply credit in addition, of course, to what the people themselves would be able to supply. We are now hoping that we will have what

is called, multi-purpose societies, rather than thrift and credit societies, producer societies, consumers' societies, with the same committee of management which will be able to do the same thrift work and buy things for members — take advantage of the consumer end—and which will embark on the main sector which we regard as the productive sector.

We see, today, many land societies have established themselves. True, many of these are not truly co-operatives in that many of them got together merely to do work—either to dig canals or build dams—and after that, there is the sharing of the land among each individual member; nevertheless, there is some co-operation involved in the process. We hope, in time, that the people will get around to the idea of cultivating land, in common, co-operatively, so that they will take advantage of cultivation in larger units, also of a unified system of water control and of crop rotation, particularly in rice cultivation.

I have just received a report from the Agricultural Officer at Mahaicony who was very critical of what is happening there. He said that unless something is done, rice cultivation will be going down-hill. He further said that the only solution to this is the rotation of crop — an inter-mixing of cattle with rice — and we are hoping, in due course, that co-operation would develop to its true capacity.

Only today I was reading where, in Guinea, something is being done. We find that the people are able, with their bare hands, to chop down jungle and cultivate rice lands at far less cost, and this is how we intend to proceed in the future. We have a policy which began with the rice mill at Vergenoegen, and since then we have schemes put up by several other people — one at Cane Grove, another at Leguan and a few others at No. 64 on the Corentyne, for instance. All these are now leading into different fields of activity of productive co-operative socie-

ties which, I feel, should be developed as quickly as possible and increase productivity.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask the Minister whether he has been able to get about this reorganization of the department and this shifting from the emphasis on credit — shifting from this sort of development — and also get the grading between A7 and A14?

Dr. Jagan: This was a recommendation put up by the Commissioner for Co-operative Development to have one of their officers in the Auditing Section promoted. This was considered by the Establishment Department and approved. It came to me as a recommendation of the Commissioner for Co-operative Development, and I recommended it because I saw it was a necessary post.

Mr. Burnham: Do I understand from that, that when these establishment matters are recommended by the Minister they are likely to be passed? — How does he say, earlier, that he has no power?

Dr. Jagan: Is that logic—because in one case it is approved, *ipso facto* it will be approved in all other cases?

Mr. Burnham: Logic indeed. I must therefore understand that in the other case there was no recommendation. [*Pause.*]

The Chairman: I think that is all.

Mr. Burnham: I bow to your ruling.

Mr. Jackson: I am trying to get the answers to these questions: If there are vacant posts in any one grade, and if the question of training is to be involved or is involved, how many persons have we at the moment under training to fill the four vacancies which are existing in the Co-operative Department, and how soon will there be the full complement under training?

The Chief Secretary: At present there is no one filling these posts.

Mr. Jackson: Is it worth while asking that the number of posts be reduced, since we do not have anyone to fill them? Why are we keeping them on the Estimates?

The Chairman: The Question is that the item be reduced by \$1.

Motion negatived.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 9 — Co-operative—be carried out at \$181,104.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 10—Customs and Excise — be carried out at \$726,469.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION

Mr. Jackson: I beg to move a reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (3) — Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation — \$7,200. I move this reduction because I think there is an anomaly here. From an examination of the personnel in the Public Works Department, it seems to me that it was intended to have the posts in the Public Works Department and those in the Drainage and Irrigation Department on comparable scales. I notice that the Director of Public Works and the Director of Drainage and Irrigation are on the same salary scale, F. 6. The Deputy Director of Drainage and

[**MR. JACKSON**]

Irrigation and the Deputy Director of Public Works are on scale F. 11. In the Public Works Department there is an Assistant Director of Public Works on the salary scale F. 12, but the Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation is on the scale F. 13. If these two Departments are supposed to carry comparable status or salaries, why is there this difference? If you go through the entire list of posts you will see that it was the intention to make the salaries comparable. In almost every Head the intention has been carried out, and I would like to know whether the Government intends to remedy what appears to be an anomaly?

The Chief Secretary: This is not an anomaly, and I do not think a comparison can be made between the Assistant Director of Public Works and the Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation. The Assistant Director of Public Works is required to have higher professional qualifications than the Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation; the work of the latter is confined largely to administrative rather than technical work.

Mr. Jackson: Do I understand that one is supposed to have higher qualifications than the other, and that is the reason there is a difference in salary?

The Chief Secretary: Yes.

Mr. Burnham: Certainly that seems unreasonable. These two officers should have been on the same salary scale. The fact that one individual happens to be better qualified than another is the most specious answer the head of any Government can give as the reason these two officers are not paid equal salaries. Because a man has better qualifications he is given a different salary from his colleague for doing the same work?

Mr. Jackson: It is amusing indeed to hear the answer given, when one finds that the Director of Drainage and Irrigation and the Director of Public Works are

on the same salary status. I do not know whether they have the same Departmental status. Do these posts call for the same qualifications? You have a Deputy Director of Public Works drawing the same salary as the Deputy Director of Drainage and Irrigation, and suddenly the Government decides that the Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation should be paid less than the Assistant Director of Public Works! May I ask what is the difference in qualifications between the two posts?

Mr. Burnham: May I ask the hon. the Chief Secretary whether one has to be a Civil Engineer or to hold an Associateship in order to qualify for the post of Assistant Director of Public Works or Assistant Director of Drainage and Irrigation?

The Chief Secretary: The holder of these posts should have the same qualifications.

Mr. Burnham: Then it is equivalent to saying that, because one magistrate has an LL.B. and another the LL.M., the one with the LL.M. should be paid a higher salary.

The Chief Secretary: I do not think that is an appropriate analogy.

Mr. Jackson: I do not know the person who holds the post in the Department of Drainage and Irrigation, so it cannot be said that anybody has been lobbying me to raise the matter here. I am merely trying to draw Government's attention to the fact that something should be done in this matter. I now beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

SURVEYORS AND SURVEYOR APPRENTICES

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (10) — Surveyors and Surveyor Apprentices — \$82,436, primarily to inquire from the

Government — I do not know whether it will be the Minister or the Chief Secretary — what steps are being taken to increase the number of trained and qualified Surveyors in this Department?

Mr. Rai: A Training Course for Surveyors was recently started at the Government Technical Institute whereby it is hoped to produce at the end of one year 30 persons trained in land surveying in this country.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask when did this course start?

Mr. Rai: A month or two ago.

Mr. Burnham: Why only a month or two ago, when in 1957 the Minister of Natural Resources said that there was a shortage of trained Surveyors in the Service?

[*Mr. Rai offered no reply.*]

Mr. Burnham: I think it is safe to assume that the Minister is mute by an act of malice and not by the visitation of God. In the circumstances, I ask leave to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head II—Drainage and Irrigation—be carried out at \$624,310.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ANNUALLY RECURRENT

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 11A. — Drainage and Irrigation — Annually Recurrent — be carried out at 658,236.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

EDUCATION

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head (2) — Deputy Director of Education, \$7,200. As I understand it, the holder of that post is acting as Director of Education, and as I further understand it, the substantive post of Director of Education became vacant some time ago, but we have heard of no appointment to fill the post. I suppose the Chief Secretary will have to answer this question. But before he attempts to tell me anything about the proposed reorganization and integration, which I heard over some radio broadcast by the Minister of Trade and Industry, I would like him to tell me if the necessity for integration and reorganization applies in the case of this Department, why did it not apply in the case of the Finance Secretariat, where the Financial Secretary was actually appointed before his predecessor had assumed office elsewhere?

The Financial Secretary vanishes from the Executive Council and the Legislature after August, 1961. His Department will have to be integrated in a new Department under a Finance Minister, and if there was no necessity to wait for some months in the case of one Department, why the necessity in another? This sort of thing is unsatisfactory from the point of view that there is no permanent Head of the Department. People do not know where they are from top to bottom.

The Chief Secretary: I cannot discuss the subject of filling one appointment *vis-a-vis* filling a second appointment, but in this particular case it is hoped that this appointment will be filled very shortly.

Mr. Burnham: What does the Chief Secretary mean by "shortly"? I know that Magistrates have been informed that

[MR. BURNHAM]

they will be appointed shortly, but some of them have been acting for three years. My question was in two parts not merely when the appointment will be made, but how in the case of the Financial Secretary the post was filled before Mr. Essex had reached Basutoland. We have had the good fortune to congratulate a Guianese, but why this delay in this case? If it is inefficiency let us know, because if anyone is inefficient, it does not matter who he is, do not appoint him.

The Chief Secretary: I do not think it should exceed one month.

Mr. Burnham: will not ask whether it is a lunar or a calendar month. In the circumstances, I ask leave to withdraw the Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move a reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head (9)—Administrative Assistant, \$4,560. I do so, because as I was looking through these Estimates and examining them very carefully, I noted that in the Chief Secretary's Office there is provision for a Principal Assistant Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries and an Administrative Assistant. Looking through all the important Departments it would appear that there are usually many more than one Administrative Assistant in the Administrative grade. In the case of the Education Department, however, there is just one Administrative Assistant, and what worries me is that there is to be an expansion. If there is going to be an accelerated educational programme it will mean that the Education Department will have to expand, and there will be more duties and responsibilities cast upon those in the Administrative grade.

Why should the Education Department, which I contend is as important as the Chief Secretary's Office, if not more important, have a smaller Admin-

istrative Establishment? The result must be that the quality of administration will suffer, and those of the group will suffer physically. In a country like ours more emphasis must be placed on Education, and provision made for expansion and the provision of personnel in the Administrative grade who will be able to grapple with the problems and make the expansion not only a reality but also a success. Until I hear further, I am inclined to believe that this may be the result of an oversight. I do not yet suggest cynicism or a lack of interest in Education.

The Chief Secretary: It is likely in the near future that this Department will be integrated fully into the Ministry of Education, but in the meantime the arrangements are as shown on this page of the Estimates. While the Estimates show a Director of Education as such, it should be borne in mind that he is also the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry, and likewise one of the two Assistant Directors of Education shown under item (3) of this Sub-Head is in fact Assistant Secretary to the Permanent Secretary. Then in turn we come down to item (9), with the Administrative Assistant working with the Assistant Director of Education. So that in fact there is a great deal more administrative work being done than the titles appearing in the Estimates would show.

Mr. Jackson: What alarms me is that we hear so often of the Minister of Education. Where in these Estimates do we find the Ministry of Education? We see Ministry of Communications and Works, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing, and Ministry of Natural Resources. Where do we find the Ministry of Education? When we are told of integration of the Ministry with the Education Department, what are we integrating?

Mr. Burnham: While the Chief Secretary is thumbing through his Estimates to see where he finds the Ministry

of Education (it is not there) I want to point out this difference to him, and perhaps at the same time when he will have found what he is looking for, he will give me some enlightenment. He says that the Assistant Directors are in the Administrative bracket, and are there to carry out certain administrative duties. I am a little surprised at that because the Assistant Directors are all technical men, and as far as I understand, previously there was a man from the Administration as Assistant. But I know that both are technical men, presumably chosen for their technical ability as educationists, and to advise and supervise the technical aspects rather than the administrative

But I will assume that the Chief Secretary means what he says. There are one Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors and one Administrative Assistant — four officers. Turning back to the Chief Secretary's Office we find one Deputy, one Principal Assistant, two Assistants and one Administrative Assistant. There is to be no integration with the Chief Secretary's Office to cut down on these Administrative officers. It seems to me even on the Chief Secretary's explanation an important Department like the Education Department is under-served, but a less important one like the Chief Secretary's Office is, according to that criterion, over-served; and it is no use coming here with this term which is becoming popular — integration. What is meant by that? [Pause.]

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Chief Secretary is unable to assist us. I would like to go on further to point this out: When you look at the Ministry of Natural Resources, which does appear on the Estimates, you will find that there are a Permanent Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries and two Administrative Assistants. And when you look at the various departments which come within the portfolio of the Minister of Trade and Industry, you will find a reasonable number of Administrative

Assistants. But here, in the Ministry of Education, which I contend is a very important Ministry, which does not appear on the Estimates, there are therefore no Permanent Secretary or Administrative Assistants. Yet an important department like Education is understaffed, so far as administrative personnel is concerned. And I further say this: that to talk about integration in the future is not to answer the question or the observation, because we are dealing with a system which was in existence for two or three years at least.

Dr. Jagan: I think this is a very strange position. It is certainly for the Government to decide whether a department is understaffed or not and not for the "Opposition" to say that.

Mr. Burnham: I am grateful for the obvious impudence of the Minister. When we seek to attract to their attention certain things that seem palpably weak, that is the sort of answer we get. If I had got the answer that, in our opinion, the work can be so disposed that there is no necessity for bringing in more people in the administrative level, then I would have agreed with him. First of all, he has trespassed on a Ministry which is not his; and also into a field in which he says he has no power. What is he doing standing and talking on this question? [Pause.]

The Chairman: If there are no other observations, then I shall put the question.

Mr. Jackson: Mr. Chairman, if no one wants to raise any other question, I would take this opportunity of moving the reduction —

The Chairman: A Motion is still before the Council.

Mr. Burnham: I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

OTHER CHARGES

TEACHING OF EAST INDIAN LANGUAGES

Mr. Jackson: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 2 under "Other Charges" — Teaching of East Indian Languages — \$3,850.

The Chairman: You mean under 12A?

Mr. Jackson: Yes, Sir. There is an item which includes the teaching of East Indian languages, and I hope I shall be sympathized with for asking whether it is possible, also, to include the teaching of the Amerindian languages in schools. I will tell you why. I happen, as I have said before, to have gone into the Rupununi District. I admit a great deal of work is being done, in education, by the several Churches which operate in that District. I think the Roman Catholics operate in the south, considerably, if not entirely; and in the north, there is a mixture of Anglicans and so forth. It appears to me that, in course of time, the languages spoken by the Amerindians would disappear, and I think it would be a pity if the people who were the first to be in this country — people whose land this really is — should, at some point of time in the future, lose their languages.

It should be, in my opinion, an historical requirement and a condition that the Amerindian people should not lose their languages; and I am wondering whether we cannot, at this stage, provide enough money to continue the languages of the Amerindians wherever they reside. I feel that these languages should not be allowed to go out of existence and we ought, as a Government, to make provision for their continuance.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, my friend has touched on a very interesting subject. If provision is made for the teaching of East Indian languages in schools, then the Amerindian languages should also be taught in the schools and provision should be made for that, because the East Indian languages are Asiatic languages being used here. Why not try to protect the native languages? There are several of them. We can save two at least; and I would like to ask the Minister what he thinks of the idea? It should be done, at least, for the sake of culture — for independence.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: This is a very interesting topic. But, for a background, maybe, it will be illuminating to both my friends — the hon. Member for Georgetown North and the hon. Member for North Western District — to hear that when the East Indians came here, it was an obligation on the part of the Government to preserve and to teach their languages. That is part of the agreement and contract under which they came.

Apart from that, I say the sum provided — \$3,850 — is inadequate. One Master who teaches, say, the French language at Queen's College earns more than \$3,850. Spanish is going to be taught in the schools, from what I read in the newspapers. A large sum of money is going to be spent for the teaching of Spanish, and yet it is to be found in many of the Government-aided schools — Queen's College, Bishops' High School and other places as well.

This \$3,850 is not enough to provide a single master to teach the language. The Government has not thought it fit to teach Hindi in its secondary Schools. I am not criticizing Government for not doing so, but when a certain provision of \$3,850 is made for teaching 48 per cent. of the people there should be also some provision for teaching the Amerindian languages. Let us have provision for teaching the lan-

guages of the Chinese, Portuguese, Africans and Indians! That is what my hon. Friend is probably advocating. If that is not nonsense, I do not know what to call it.

Mr. Jackson: I am merely advocating the retention of the Amerindian languages, because it is possible that it will be lost in years to come. I feel that this will be an acknowledgment to the Amerindians — the true owners of this country. They are the true indigent people — **[Mr. Benn:** Not “indigent”, the word is “indigenous.”] I thank you. They are the indigenous people of this country, and it is right that their languages should be perpetuated. I have not advocated the teaching of the African language here, because I know that would be an impossibility. There are several people in Africa who speak different languages, and my hon. Friend on my left has indicated what is likely to happen if we endeavour to teach the Indian language in every school. I think he has misunderstood my point. If the hon. Member wishes to increase the number of languages that should be taught in the schools he can do so.

The hon. Member has pointed out that a French Master receives more than the amount provided in the Estimates. I did not advocate the teaching of Hindi in schools. Perhaps the hon. Member has not been to the Rupununi and lived with the Amerindians. I have had the good fortune of living with them for a few days. *[Laughter.]* Where minds are loose there will be idle thinking. I have come to the conclusion that I should learn the Amerindian language in order to associate fully with them and understand their origin. That is what has prompted me to move my Motion. It is unfortunate that some Members will always impute ulterior motives to others.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I have lived for months with the Amerindians where they hardly wear clothes and speak a language you cannot understand. I

would like my hon. Friend the Member for Georgetown North to advocate that we do away with the Department of the Interior that is keeping the Amerindians a separate people from the rest of the people in this country. Let them integrate with our people. We should not have a Department of the Interior separate from our coastland. I have always opposed the office of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Benn: The hon. Member for Georgetown North spent a few days among the Amerindians and he is advocating the teaching of Amerindian languages. The hon. Member for the North Western District also spoke on the matter. I do not know that there is any written Amerindian language, and I do not know whether there is any alphabet to any Amerindian language. Perhaps we will have to provide a sum of money to do research into this matter.

Mr. Burnham: It is as pity the ex-Minister of Education does not know that the Makuri language has been reduced into writing by a Catholic Priest. I would like to make an observation on what I consider bigoted remarks by the hon. Member for Georgetown South. He does not seem to understand what the hon. Member for Georgetown North and I have been driving at. We do not object to Hindi being taught, but I think there is great urgency for the teaching of such Amerindian languages which have been reduced to writing. Everything might not have been Romanised, but there should be some linguistic research made and an attempt to reduce the languages to writing so that they can be taught in areas where Amerindians live, and they should be optional languages for Guianese to learn. I think there is a greater case for Amerindian languages than for any other language. There is a greater case for the reason that there is every chance that the languages may disappear and, at least, for historical reasons we should like to know that we can trace them.

[MR. BURNHAM]

No one tries to forget the past, unless it is sordid. The past of British Guiana is based on the Amerindians. They are the indigeneous population, and are you going to sit here and oppose the teaching of Amerindian languages? I agree that the second part of the Minister of Natural Resource's remarks makes sense. We should set aside a certain amount of money for research, so that these languages can be reduced to writing and remain as a permanent memorial of what the indigeneous population of this country spoke and some still speak.

So far as the question of only \$3,850 being allocated for the teaching of the Indian language is concerned, I am in agreement that it is inadequate. I am in agreement also that the Indian language should be optional at Queen's College and the Secondary Schools. We once had a master at Queen's College who spoke Hindi, but we must not allow our bigotry to obscure what we have left. If the Government can be encouraged to increase the sum of money in the Budget for the teaching of the Indian language, I will support it. I do hope that Government will pay careful attention to the question of research into the Amerindian languages, and endeavour to have taught in the schools such Amerindian languages as have been reduced to writing. I know that Makuri and Wapisiana have been reduced to writing by a Catholic Priest. Of course what he has done may not be sufficiently profound to form the basis of textbooks or an orderly course, and I concede that some further research work will have to be done in the circumstances. Please do not get our thoughts and ideas on this matter mixed.

Mr. Tello: The Minister of Natural Resources has given us an indication on the part of the Government that immediate steps will be taken to do re-

search work on this matter, and I think we should be satisfied with that. I have to thank the hon. Member for Georgetown North for bringing it up, because we have now seen the willingness on the part of Government to take certain steps. Would the Minister of Natural Resources tell us whether he would be prepared to recommend the inclusion of provision in the Estimates for the purpose of such research?

Mr. Benn: I never gave any undertaking on behalf of the Government; I merely made a remark.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I have found the discussion on this matter rather interesting. I am surprised to find that the Members who have raised this question of the teaching of Amerindian languages in schools seem so intensely interested in it, but they have only now thought it fit to bring it to the attention of this Council. They have every right to raise it at this stage, but I can criticize them for not raising it in the Budget Debate. They have waited until the Bill reached Committee stage to make a new speech. If they had raised the matter in Finance Committee and produced evidence showing the need for it, the Members of the Government would have been in a better position to discuss intelligently what is certainly a very important question.

It is my opinion that it is difficult for all of us to discuss intelligently the teaching of Amerindian languages in our schools at this particular stage. One Member says that there is no written language, and another says that there is a written language; no one seems to know how many Amerindian languages we are supposed to have. [Mr. Campbell: "I know".] The hon. Member has not told us. How can we teach these languages? I know that there has been some research in this matter. I had a talk with a student who was doing research; he was making recordings of the

Amerindian language in the hope of putting it into an alphabetical form. I doubt whether there is anyone at this Table who can make a real contribution to the debate at this moment.

I am sorry that I have to be a bit harsh on the "Opposition" for glibly raising such intricate questions at this stage of the proceedings. This side of the Council views the "Opposition" with a great amount of sympathy, so let us view the matter in the right way. Certainly no one could be so simple as to suggest that we provide \$3,000 or \$5,000 in the Estimates without having the faintest idea of what should be done in the matter. Let us go about things correctly instead of making out a big political propoganda issue in an effort to lobby.

The Chairman: Perhaps we may stop at that.

Council resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary : I beg to move that the Council adjourn until eight o'clock this evening.

Mr. Speaker: Council is adjourned until eight o'clock.

Council adjourned accordingly, at 5 p.m.

NIGHT SESSION

Council resumed at 8 p.m. and resolved itself into Committee to resume consideration of the Appropriation Bill.

EDUCATION

TEACHING OF EAST INDIAN LANGUAGES

The Chairman: At the Adjournment this afternoon we were dealing with Head 12A, Sub-Head 2, and a

Motion by the Member for Georgetown North for a reduction of the item by \$1. I think the hon. Member had fully exhausted the subject.

Mr. Jackson: No, Sir. I was going to reply to some comments by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing on the item. During her contribution to the debate the hon. Minister appreciated the points made with respect to the need to preserve the language of the Amerindians. If I understood her correctly she made the point that she did not think this was the time when we ought to raise such a matter, and she went on to say that it may have been for propoganda purposes. Perhaps, as I think of the Amerindians, it is awakening within me that spirit which is from my parental origin. Perhaps it is that my visit to the Rupununi has quickened that spirit to rebel against what I saw there, and I want to assure the Minister that this is not an attempt to use it for propaganda purposes.

It is easy for one to remain dormant when one does not visit somewhere, and it is amazing how quickly one can rise to the occasion and feel somewhat hurt at the type of treatment which some other people are receiving at the hands of those who govern. I know that my own spirit is rebelling against what I have found in that area, and while a spirit of rebellion is present there is room to congratulate the religious bodies who have endeavoured to maintain the spirit of pride and integrity which is being felt in some respects in the Rupununi district.

While I agree with the Minister that this is a very big problem, the fact is that we have to tackle it. While I agree with her that it needs very serious consideration, and that we ought to take some time to go into it, I still think that here is an opportunity, and that she ought to examine the cause of what may be a lost tribe, whether it is

[MR. JACKSON]

the Wapisianas or Macusis. It may even stir those who have never given any thought to it, that this is a very important matter, and that we ought to preserve, even for the sake of antiquity, the language of the Amerindians. I feel that even if it means teaching it in the schools, something should be done, and I hope that what has been brought out here this evening will be the means of enabling the Government to examine this matter still further, and that somebody will get down to the question of the Amerindian language and Amerindian conditions.

The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Rai): I would like to draw the attention of this Council to the item—Teaching East Indian Languages, \$3,850. No teaching of East Indian languages takes place in the schools in the country. The sum of \$3,850 is disbursed to Hindu and Muslim religious organizations for the purpose of teaching Hindi and Urdu languages outside the school premises. What is being urged is that Government should devote a sum of money to the teaching of Amerindian languages in the schools, and that argument seems to have proceeded on the basis that Indian languages are being taught in the primary schools. Be that as it may, it may be urged that is a good thing that Amerindian languages should be taught in the schools. It has already been pointed out that there are practical difficulties and difficulties of script, but even if there is an adequate script in one or two cases, we must consider what value will result to the country; we must find out what languages there are, whether they can be reduced to script, and whether we can teach them in the schools.

We will give this matter consideration as urged by Members, but I would say that language is merely the vehicle whereby ideas and emotions are ex-

pressed; and I do not know whether any of the Amerindian languages has any vocabulary or any literature. All those things will have to be gone into. I would strike a note of caution, that we ought not to do anything that will obstruct or is likely to obstruct the integration of all the peoples. English is the language of this country, and as far as I can see it is desirable that it should be so. So that without any prejudice whatever to the result of our consideration, nothing should be urged on this Government, or any other Government, that might delay the integration of all the peoples. But due consideration will be given to the suggestions made by several Members of the Council.

Mr. Jackson: May I enlighten the Minister, that in my hand at the moment is a copy of a grammar book of the Wapisiana language. The Minister of Natural Resources said there was no written form of any of the languages used by the Amerindian people. Apparently he did not believe that that was done, and from this book he can see that the problem has already begun to be tackled by other people. I have come to the conclusion that since the Amerindian people are what they are, then we should make every effort to have them retain their languages, in addition to what is being given by the Churches. The Amerindians, too, are learning the English language which is the principal language of the country as a whole, but that does not mean if they retained their languages you will have more difficulty in having them integrated. And I maintain, if there are languages to be kept, they are the Amerindian languages.

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Chairman, I find it very interesting this evening to speak on a subject with which I am conversant. An hon. Minister on the other side said that this thing has been sprung out of the blue sky; that nobody knows

anything about the Amerindians. For the information of the Council, I shall read a list of the Amerindians in British Guiana.

Mrs. Jagan: It is not necessary.

Mr. Campbell: It is necessary. I have here a list of the Amerindians in British Guiana. You have the Arawaks; next the Warraus. A little more in the Interior you have the Caribs — the famous warrior tribe of the past that nearly died out. Going farther afield in the Mazaruni highland there are the Akowaios and the Arekunas. In the north and south savannahs of the Rupununi there are the Patamonas, the Makushis and the Wapishanas; and in the extreme south, there are the Wai-Wais. There are nine living tribes at the moment. There were 10 tribes up to August, 1960, the tenth being the Tarumas; but the last Taruma has since died and the dialect died with him.

In the early part of the century, there was a famous English missionary — the missionaries were and are the pioneers of education today—named Cary Elwes. He died a near martyr. He started to translate the Wapishana and Makushi dialects into English, and when he died another famous missionary, William Keary, finished it. All you have to do is to print more copies, or give funds for the purpose of keeping up the Wapishana language in the Interior schools. What is wrong with allowing the Amerindian to keep his dialect? Why do you want to “kill” it with, I almost want to say, your miserable “integration”? What is meant by integration?

I know that, in time, the Amerindians are going to be ashamed of their native dialects and adopt the English language. I suggest that, along with the English language which is being taught in the Amerindian schools in the Interior, time is given to the teaching of their own languages. That is all part of

their education. We are talking about culture. Is it not part of culture for some of our indigenous tribes to retain their languages? I would not suggest that we should spend money to teach the languages of all nine tribes, but at least we can teach two. The Arawaks in the near Interior asked me to get an Arawak book. I said it was a big task. I do not know from where to get it. The new testament was translated in the Arawak language by Rev. White, but copies have been lost. They asked me to get an Arawak book, but I cannot get one. Their children are forgetting the language.

I think I have made my point clear. It would be a good thing if Government could make available the necessary allocation for teaching the Arawaks and Wapishanas their languages in their own schools, together with the English language. I am always ready to give a helping hand, because I have a racial interest in the people in the Interior and on the Coast.

The Chairman: We are finished with that Head. Hon. Members must remember that after a Motion has been moved for the reduction of a Vote by \$1 and they have sufficiently aired the question, they cannot be allowed to go on repeating the same arguments. As a matter of fact if I grant a little indulgence to Members, because it is on the question of Education, to bring in something irrelevant and they overdo it, I will no longer grant such indulgence.

PECIAL SANITATION GRANTS

Mr. Tello: I would like to refer to Sub-Head 2—Special Sanitation Grants—\$18,418, in order to obtain some information from the Minister of Community Development and Education. I have been informed from a source that I regard as reliable that a school has made use of only \$90 for sanitary purposes up to the end of 1959. This service has been taken over by the Government and

[MR. TELLO]

the cost of the same sanitary service has gone up threefold. This school is among the 51 schools Government is planning to take over.

The Chairman: Let me interrupt you for a moment. Please do not adumbrate a debate on a Bill which is before this Council and is subject to another debate, because the Rules are against that.

Mr. Tello: I was saying that a denominational controlled school was responsible for its sanitary facilities up to 1959. In 1960 Government took charge of it, and my information is that Government has spent over \$260 carrying out the same service. I ask the Minister to state whether my statement is correct? If it is correct, it means that the cost of education will rise beyond what this country can afford.

There is need for expanding our educational service. If we are going to use the Education Vote in such a manner that we will increase the cost of other services, we will soon be increasing taxation. I hope the Minister will assure me that what I have heard is not true.

Mr. Rai: I do not know to what school the hon. Nominated Member is referring, and I cannot be expected to give any answer.

Mr. Tello: Malgre Tout.

Mr. Rai: I have had no intimation of this. My hon. Friend has given me no previous information, and I cannot give him a reply. As from this year the Government undertook the sanitary responsibilities of all Government owned buildings and we look after their upkeep. It was represented to us that the Denominational Bodies could

do the job cheaper because they were not paying Government rates of wages. We are paying Government rates of wages and that is why the cost has gone up.

Mr. Jackson: I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Heads 12 & 12A—Education—be carried out at \$7,450,545.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

ESSEQUIBO BOYS' SCHOOL

The Chairman: The Question is that Head 13 — Essequibo Boys' School — be carried out at \$112,552.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE SECRETARIAT

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 14 — Finance Secretariat — be carried out at \$87,569.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE—STATISTICAL BUREAU

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 14A — Finance—Statistical Bureau—be carried out at \$25,435.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE — ACCOUNTANT
GENERAL

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Mr. Jackson: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (1) — Accountant General—\$8,640. The post of Accountant General was vacant for some time. In another place connected with this Council an hon. Member, who is also a Member of the Committee I have in mind, inquired why this post was not filled and made some comments on the fact that the delay in filling this vacancy was a dangerous matter.

I understand that the post has recently been filled, but the holder has not yet taken up his appointment. He was seconded some time ago to another Department, but since his appointment he has not been transferred to his substantive post. It is my view that if he is needed in the other Department, then steps should be taken to declare him a Head of a Department and let the post be filled by another officer. It is unfair to officers who have to act in these posts for indefinite periods. I hope the Government will agree with me that it is desirable to do something in this matter. I would like to know whether it is Government's intention to leave the officer in the Department where he is now working, and to appoint another officer as Accountant General?

The Financial Secretary: While it is not possible, for reasons which the hon. Member himself has mentioned, for the Accountant General to take up his substantive post, I think we have now reached a stage in the Housing Department when it will be possible for him to assume the duties of Accountant General very shortly. As hon. Members are aware, the Ministry and the Housing Department are being reorganized and it will be possible, very shortly, for the Commissioner of Housing to be released to take up his appointment as Accountant General.

Mr. Jackson: In view of that reply, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 15—Finance — Accountant General—be carried out at \$150,151.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE—CENTRAL REGISTRY

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 15A — Finance — Central Registry—be carried out at \$33,013.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE — LICENCE REVENUE

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 16 — Finance — Licence Revenue—be carried out at \$70,179.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FINANCE—INLAND REVENUE

INSPECTOR OF TAXES

Mr. Burnham: Since 1957 I have been attracting the attention of Government in Finance Committee and in the Committee stage on the Appropriation Bill to what I consider as an anomaly in the Department of Inland Revenue. Since 1957 I have always been assured by the Financial Secretary that the points I have made were valid and accepted, but nothing has been done in the matter to date. In the circumstances, I desire to raise the question again by moving the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1(5) — Inspectors of Taxes—\$29,400, in order to refer to the post of the officer who is responsible for the collection of estate duties in the Inland Revenue Department.

[MR. BURNHAM]

In 1957 the hon. Member for Central Demerara, now Minister of Community Development and Education, agreed with me that for one to carry out the duties attached to the post of Collector of Estate Duties one has to have a certain specialized training and background; one has to work particularly hard and withstand some of the greatest temptations any public servant in British Guiana has to withstand. Yet the status of that post has not been raised from Inspector of Taxes to even Senior Inspector of Taxes.

It is my information that in Trinidad the appropriate officer under the Estate Duty Ordinance is an Assistant Commissioner of Inland Revenue, and the same is true of Jamaica. I am not sure what the position is in Barbados. But certainly it seems to me that the Government, in spite of its acceptance of the principle year after year, is prepared either to sweat labour, or to encourage inefficiency in that particular section of the Department. I cannot see why nothing has been done up to now. I do not know whether I am going to get some undertaking again from the present Financial Secretary. I hope that if I get an undertaking from him it will not be honoured in the breach as it has been over the past two or three years by his predecessor. It is time that Government awake to its responsibilities. You are keeping a Senior and competent officer in the post which he is in, while many of his juniors are vaulting like Macbeth to the Throne. You are merely going to force this particular officer to seek promotion elsewhere.

It is certainly not in the best interest of the Service or the Department which is responsible for the collection of tremendous sums of money. If you do not have a straight man, you lose a lot of revenue and he is enriched.

If you have a straight man at least treat him decently, and make the post a more senior one in view of the responsibility attached to it.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I am inclined to agree with what the hon. Member has said. It is a very responsible post, and I think it was not the Financial Secretary who gave us an undertaking, but Mr. Jakeway, then Chief Secretary. It may have escaped the attention of the Chief Secretary, as there has been so much moving in and out. It is more a matter for the consideration of the Chief Secretary than the Financial Secretary. I think the Chief Secretary should go into the matter and that the post should be up-graded. The matter was accepted in principle during consideration of the Estimates in Finance Committee, and I would suggest that it should be investigated to see what can be done.

The Financial Secretary: The matter has been referred recently to the Establishment Department. I really cannot tell the hon. Member what happened after it was raised in 1957, but I know that in connection with the 1961 Estimates it was raised and referred to the Establishment Department, and it has now in fact come back to me. I can assure the hon. Member that this time I will go into it.

Mr. Burnham: While I have had no previous experience of the undertakings of the Financial Secretary and therefore I cannot put him in the same category as that of his predecessor, it is a little strange to me. In Government files are kept, and when the Head of a Department or a responsible officer says that something is going to be considered it appears on a file, and his successor in office has access to that file. This question was raised with the acting Chief Secretary more than six months ago, before these Estimates were printed. I cannot understand the sloth-

fulness of the Government, for six months ago the matter was raised again, but the Financial Secretary is still considering it. What is there really to consider? Certainly, as Deputy Financial Secretary the files must have come under his notice. In 1959 he was considering it, and in 1960 he is still considering it. I did not know that Heads of Departments kept secrets from their deputies.

Mr. Hubbard: My friend has been criticizing the mills of the gods for their slow grinding, and has also castigated the Government for its slow motion, but I think the slowest motion in which Government has been engaged is in connection with the setting of the Kaieteur National Park. An Ordinance was passed in 1929, but up to this day there is no Board of Commissioners in which the Ordinance vests the Kaieteur National Park. So that if my friend is a little concerned about six months, I can assure him that 31 years for the setting up of a Board of Commissioners is a good deal slower. I sympathize with him, and I myself should like to see the whole system so revolutionized that we would get action quicker than six months or 31 years.

Mr. Jackson: I can see that my friend wants us to create another Board where we can use another Head.

Mr. Burnham: I beg leave to withdraw my Motion.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 17 — Finance — Inland Revenue—be carried out at \$164,860.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FIRE PROTECTION

MAINTENANCES AND RUNNING EXPENSES (FIRE ENGINES)

Mr. Jackson: I move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 3 — Other charges—Maintenance and running expenses (Fire Engines), \$6,000. In view

of the experiences which persons residing in the country districts have had for some time, I think it should have dawned on the Government that there should be an extension of the Fire Services outside of Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Bartica. Every now and again one reads of a fire which has devastated somebody's house in one of the villages, but Government has done nothing to meet this very unfortunate situation which people in the country districts face from time to time. Not so long ago we had a fire in Campbellville where the home of the Morgans was devastated very quickly because of a lack of facilities for fire fighting. We are yet to see any effort made to extend the Fire Services by the erection of substations. This matter was raised last year, but we are still awaiting some announcement. I wonder if the Government could make a statement as to whether, and, if so, how soon it would extend the Fire Services?

The Chief Secretary: The hon. Member has not mentioned any specific village, and I can only give a general answer. The general answer is that in places like Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Bartica where there are centres of population in a small area, and where there are telephones by which one can communicate quickly with the Fire Station, one can in turn expect a quick response from the Station. But in the country districts where a fire can start just as quickly as in an urban area it takes time to get into communication with the Fire Station, and it also takes time for the Brigade to get to the burning house. There are obvious limitations, but if the hon. Member has certain specific villages in mind he may wish to mention them and they will be considered.

Mr. Jackson: One would have thought that by now such a matter would have been brought to the Council by way of action by the Government. I think that proposals were put for-

[Mr. JACKSON]
ward some time ago for an extension of the Fire Services to the East Coast of Demerara, where sub-stations might be erected at some point between Georgetown and Mahaicony, or on the West Coast, Berbice. The main idea is that there should be fire protection for people who live in the country districts, and if I am given an assurance that some positive action will be taken I shall be grateful.

The Chief Secretary: We will consider that.

Mr. Jackson: Thank you. I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

FIRE PROTECTION

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 18 — Fire Protection — be carried out at \$508,817.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

FOREST

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 19 — Forest — be carried out at \$652,639.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

INTERIOR

COMMISSIONER OF INTERIOR

Mr. Burnham: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (1) — Commissioner of Interior—\$8,640. I was looking through the Estimates, and I noticed that this is one of the few

departments where there is no deputy. I am not unmindful of the fact that the present holder of the post of Commissioner of Interior is no "spring chicken" and, certainly, not far from the age of retirement. I would like to know why does this unsatisfactory situation exist?

As I understand it, the Commissioner of Interior is responsible for a very large expanse of our territory — I think all below the fifth parallel. Apart from that, as far as I understand, he is also the protector of the Amerindians. [Interruption.] But he is certainly supposed to be the officer responsible for the well-being of those who inhabit the Interior and, particularly, the Amerindians. I do not know what is the experience and training of the particular individual, but whatever may be his previous experience and training, it certainly seems strange that there is no deputy to such an important post and, apparently, no attempt is being made for the training of someone to take over that post. Perhaps, the Chief Secretary can give us some information on this question.

The Chief Secretary: As the hon. Member is aware, there has been a team travelling from department to department to review the structure of the Service. It has not yet submitted its report and, therefore, I do not know what its recommendations are in respect of the Department of Interior. For all I know, there may be certain recommendations concerning the structure of that department and whether there should be a Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: This is the department I referred to earlier. It was His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, who divided our country into pieces in 1943, and created a Department of Interior. It is time we integrate the Department of Interior back into the whole administration of

local government in this country. I think it is not right that this department should even exist. I do not think it is right to create, and continue to create posts for people who will administer the Interior separate from the coastland and riverain areas. I think some steps should be taken by the present Government to see how we can reorganize the whole system of our local government and integrate the Interior Department back into the general administration of the country, for the good of the entire community. That is why it was necessary earlier today, for the hon. Member for Georgetown North to raise the question of airstrips and air passages in the Interior.

Mr. Jackson: Even though what has just been said is desirable, the fact still remains that we have a department which needs some strengthening at the moment. Even though we want to abolish it, it is always good that we should put something in the place of something we are going to break down. Since it appears that the Commissioner has to deal with people who live under different conditions than those on the coastland, it seems to me that, until we have struck a balance in this respect, we should have a Commissioner of Interior and a Deputy. The Chief Secretary has not assured us whether the review team in the Public Service would recommend that; but let us assume that it is not part of what they would do, would Government consider that it is something which should be done and take steps to put such a thing before the review team?

The Chief Secretary: The review team is going from department to department. It will visit the Interior Department, and Government will examine the Committee's recommendations.

Mr. Jackson: It is to be assumed they will take care of it; but if they do not, will it be examined by the Government?

The Chief Secretary: Yes, it will be examined as part and parcel of the whole Report.

Mr. Burnham: Apart from the question as to whether there should be a Deputy Commissioner, a new question from the hon. Member for Georgetown South arose—whether the department should be kept in being as a separate department from the Local Government Department. Would the Chief Secretary tell us whether the continued existence of this department is within the terms of reference of this team?

The Chief Secretary: No, it is not within the terms of reference.

Mr. Bowman: Mr. Chairman, there was a time when I shared the opinion that the office of the Commissioner of Interior should be scrapped. Prior to the establishment of that department, the "Interior" came under the Commissioner of Lands and Mines. In view of the fact that we are moving towards self-Government and, as I see it, most of the development of this country is aimed at the Interior, I think we should scrap the Interior Department now. There should be set up a distinct Interior Development Ministry, and the same Commissioner appointed Permanent Secretary to that Ministry. I feel that such a Ministry is necessary, since we are considering the question of moving some of our population into the Interior; also, because of the potentialities which we have there.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I was asking whether the Chief Secretary will tell us if he proposes to have this department abolished, which is a separate matter altogether from a Ministry or Department for the development of the Interior. If such a department were to be established specially for that purpose and Government thinks it fit to do so, probably it will be a matter that will receive the

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full support of this Council; but not for the administration, which is a separate matter altogether from the question of the development of the Interior.

Mr. Burnham: It seems to me that there is some confusion of thought. Whatever might have been Sir Gordon Lethem's object, the fact remains that what is described as "Interior" in British Guiana is a vast area, as I understand it. It is sparsely populated; it is rich in mineral resources; it is forested heavily in certain areas; there are all sorts of problems which are quite different from those of the coastal and riverain areas—and it does appear to me that there is justification for the continuation of this department. It may well be that Sir Gordon Lethem had other ideas—to bring in Syrians or Jews or, as some other people want to bring in, Mauritians. But whatever the original intention for the separation of the Interior Department might have been, I do not think it is relevant. The question that has to be decided is whether it has a *raison d'être*. So let us not bother with the object behind the setting up of the department; and I think once you concede that the Interior is important you automatically concede the necessity for such a department. I would agree, however, that the mere administrative Head of this Department should not *ipso facto* be the protector of the Indians. I know what I am saying and why I am saying it. I now ask leave to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

INDIAN CAPTAINS

Mr. Campbell: I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 9—Indian Captains—\$3,948, in order to ask the hon. the Chief Secretary what is the

number of Indian Captains at the moment? About two years ago the question of payment to these Indian Captains was raised, and I still feel that the amount paid to Amerindian Captains is a bit miserly.

The Chairman: I think an Amendment was made in Finance Committee to substitute the words "Amerindian Captains" for "Indian Captains".

Mr. Campbell: I would like to know the exact number of Amerindian Captains employed at the moment?

The Chief Secretary: I am afraid I cannot say off-hand, but I can get the information for you later.

Mr. Burnham: I wonder whether the hon. the Chief Secretary can tell us what is the monthly salary paid to an Amerindian Captain?

The Chief Secretary: I am afraid I do not know the rate of salary paid to Amerindian Captains, but I can supply the information at a later stage.

Mr. Jackson: Last year the hon. Member for North Western District raised the question of the meagre allowance paid to Amerindian Captains. I remember that some Members on this side of the Table supported him in his plea for higher remuneration for them. He expressed the view that the Captains were the men who kept the people in their respective villages in order; they have to exercise law and authority over the people; and they are the people to whom every villager goes for advice and so on. I understand that all of the headaches and problems of the villages are taken to these Captains, and they are the leaders of the Amerindian people. He also said that they spent all of their time doing this job, and that they should be paid a better wage. I am not quite sure whether an assurance was given that something would be done in this matter, but one would have thought that steps would have been taken to improve the situation.

The Chairman: Was that in Finance Committee, or in the Legislative Council?

Mr. Jackson: I think it was in the Legislative Council, and one would have thought that Government would have taken steps to do something about the matter. I remember raising the point in Finance Committee that some of these Captains have not been paid this very small amount for several months. The information given to me and some of my colleagues who were with me: is that the leader of the village may be somebody who is not always inclined to be a "yes man" for the Administration, and that in such a case pressure was put upon him. As a result of that he is not always paid.

I have not investigated the matter, but the complaint was made in more than one village that some Captains have not received their wages. I understand that because a Captain expressed his mind his wages were withheld from him. Some of us who know what is happening in the Interior are trying to correct things.

Mr. Burnham: Would the hon. the Chief Secretary be good enough to tell us on what basis these Captains were chosen and how they were chosen? I do not know whether the Minister of Natural Resources can give assistance in this matter?

Mr. Benn: The hon. Member for Georgetown North and his colleagues have spent a few days in the North West District and they seem to have gained a lot of experience.

Mrs. Jagan: Most of the Captains are people who are capable of leading the villagers, and in many cases there is no question of selection. The Captains are the leaders in the community, and the District Commissioner merely confirms the people's choice, as I have seen in about a dozen Amerindian villages I have visited.

I must thank hon. Members for their keen interest in Amerindian affairs. I am so enthused by the hon. Member for Georgetown North's new vitality on Amerindian affairs, that I am tempted to invite him on one of my tours to examine some of the achievements that have been made by this Government. As soon as he sees what Government has done, he may be able to speak with equal enthusiasm about the Rupununi.

Mr. Burnham: I am grateful for the information given by someone who is neither the Minister of Amerindian affairs, nor a member of the Amerindian family or tribe. I must congratulate her on her versatility. I asked the question because I was informed by the District Commissioner's Office that Amerindian Captains in the Rupununi are supposed to be elected as Heads of Village Councils and that in some cases the Captains who had been chosen by the villagers were not accepted by the District Commissioner. In one case, only after a row was made on the visit of His Excellency the Governor, the Captain received his allowance.

It appears to me that Government should consider—they seem to be in a considering mood, and I hope that their consideration of this matter would be different from the way they considered the question of increasing the salary of the Assistant Senior Inspector of Taxes—(i) a new system for choosing Amerindian Captain; and (ii) a better stipend for Amerindian Captains, because the maximum an Amerindian Captain is paid is \$10 a month.

It was pointed out by the hon. Member for North Western District on the last occasion when the Budget was discussed that many of these Captains are also rural constables in the area, and that their services are called on by people throughout the day making it impossible for them to pursue any sort of otherwise productive occupation.

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I suppose my friend the hon. Member for Georgetown North is capable of thanking the hon. Minister of Labour, Health and Housing for inviting him to accompany her on one of her tours. If the purpose of the tour is to see the achievements of this Government, it can hardly last more than one hour.

Mr. Campbell: The hon. Minister of Labour, Health and Housing has invited the hon. Member on my left on a tour with her. I wonder whether she would be good enough to extend a similar invitation to me? [Mrs. Jagan: "Sure".] Last year I mentioned that I had been approached by several Captains regarding their meagre wages. They have a deep sense of responsibility; they have been elected by the people in their tribes, and they take on their responsibilities so whole-heartedly that they hardly want to leave their villages. They cannot do other work, because they want to remain in the villages to look after law and order. The Captains are complaining that the little stipend given to them is not sufficient to recompense them for the work they are doing. They have to do the work of a policeman; they have to settle disputes and so on; and they are doing it for a paltry sum.

The former Chief Secretary said that it was honorary work, but the Captains take it as a full-time job. I cannot remember what was the answer on the last occasion when this matter was discussed, but Government has done nothing to improve conditions for these people. If you scrap the posts of Captains and send policemen to work in those areas, then Government will see how much money it will cost. So that if the Government will go into the matter and take the trouble to see whether there is any ground for complaint, I think it will be the most logical, sensible and charitable thing to do.

If I were the Chief Secretary I would not be satisfied with the views of Government officials; I would go and see things for myself. There are grounds for complaint. There was an Amerindian Captain in the Waramuri who was victimized because he told the truth, as a constable, and he has lost his job. Things like that do happen. District Commissioners may give a wonderful report, but there is such a thing as window-dressing. The average Amerindian is a timid creature who does not like to offend, except, of course, he drinks "grog". I would ask the hon. the Chief Secretary to stir himself a little in this matter.

Mr. Jackson: Earlier in the evening I said that I have within me the spirit of the Amerindian people, and that, perhaps, my trip to the Rupununi had quickened that spirit. So that the energy I now have can be understood by the Minister of Labour. I have invited her not to go to those places where a lot of work has been done, which she wants me to see, but I said in Finance Committee that she ought to pay a visit to the Southern Savannahs of the Rupununi, and I would like to accept the invitation to accompany her. But I would prefer to travel across the rivers by Land Rover so that we may enjoy together the difficulties of the Rupununi in the South. I am willing to go with her at any time of the day or night.

Mr. Burnham: After all of these offers and acceptances, may I ask your leave, Sir, to withdraw my Motion? I apologize; I am reminded of the fact that I withdrew my Motion earlier.

Mr. Campbell: If invitations are going around, I would like one to be extended to me.

The Chairman: It is not always true that although the tune is over the melody lingers on. [Laughter.] The Question is, that Head 20 —Interior— be carried out at \$220,880.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

LABOUR

TRANSPORT AND TRAVELLING

Mr. Tello: I beg to move a reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 2—Transport and Travelling, \$20,340—under Other Charges. I do so in order to bring to the notice of the Council what I regard as rather unfair treatment of a very important Department. I have observed an upward revision of travelling allowances by \$3,700 for the Customs Department, by \$12,000 under Drainage and Irrigation, by \$1,000 under Finance—Inland Revenue, by \$280 under Finance—Licence Revenue, by \$4,000 under Fire Protection, by \$3,000 under Interior, and by \$7,900 under Forests. Why is there no revision of the travelling allowances with respect to this important Department, the success of which depends a great deal on the amount of travelling done by the Assistant Inspectors of Labour?

On a previous occasion we tried to point out to the Administration the great error of trying to exercise false economy by cutting down on the travelling allowances of a Department which runs on travelling. I would like to have an explanation. Is it that these 19 officers who must travel are being restricted in their travelling? How is it that in a Department whose officers travel most, there has not been an upward revision of its travelling vote?

I am not aware that there is so much travelling done in the Licence Revenue and Inland Revenue departments that there is need to increase the travelling votes by such large amounts. The travelling vote for the Drainage and Irrigation Department has been increased by \$12,000; the Interior Department by \$3,000; and the Forest

Department by \$7,900—substantial revisions—and in the case of the Labour Department, where there must be travelling, there has been no increase. Perhaps, the Administration has forgotten that the Inspector in New Amsterdam covers the areas from Skeldon to up the Corentyne River, then down to the Abary and up to Kwakwani; and if the industrial peace of the country is to be maintained, we must permit impartial officers to intervene as early as possible.

It is no easy matter to telephone the Department of Labour requesting that an officer be sent at once because there is a strike brewing, and then to hear: "We have exhausted our travelling vote." Because the need was seen for an upward revision of the travelling allowances of other departments, I ask that a similar consideration be given to the Labour Department, which is a vital department.

Mrs. Jagan: The hon. Nominated Member is seeking an increase in the travelling vote for the Labour Department. If he will observe, the actual expenditure for 1959 was \$16,811, and for 1960 and 1961, the estimates are at \$20,340 which, as you can see, is almost \$4,000 above the actual expenditure last year, which will allow for the recent increases that have been made.

Apart from that, I would like to remind the hon. Member that this Government, while certainly not wishing nor allowing any of its normal and special activities to be curtailed, is seeking economies. We are not a rich country. Our administrative costs have been stretching and growing. Caution and care must be taken to keep down administrative costs. At least, I am sure the "Opposition" would agree with me.

In the departments which fall within my portfolio, I have insisted that there should be very careful scrutiny of

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travelling expenses, for we have uncovered, in the several departments under my Ministry, unhealthy practices within the travelling votes, and we are doing our best to cut out certain rackets which had been existing for many years past. One of the best ways to encourage rackets is to push up travelling votes and let everyone feel there is plenty of money; and then one will find that a trip of 20 miles would be listed as 42 miles.

I was talking to the Minister on my left who showed me certain practices he has uncovered in one of his departments where travelling votes had been excessively high. Employees of the Government had been putting down ridiculous figures for mileage.

I am not anxious to increase travelling votes where I feel they are not necessary. I agree with the Member that we must not be so tight-fisted with the money that our labour officers cannot be free to carry out their normal duties; and, also, that they should not be prevented from travelling when exceptional circumstances arise. It is interesting to note that the department itself puts up these requests for votes. We have not chopped down the travelling vote. This is the business of the Government and the business of the Ministry, and we have gone into this. The hon. Member is not in my position to have to make these decisions, but I can assure him there is no need for an increase of the vote.

Mr. Tello: It is very interesting to hear that the request came from the department itself, but I cannot allow it to go unchallenged, especially when the Minister goes out of her way to say that it is a racket. On page 44 of the Estimates—Interior—we see \$27,270 was voted in 1959; in 1960 it went to \$33,000; and next year it has gone up to \$36,000. I would not accept this

'racket' explanation as a palliative for not having an upward revision of the travelling allowance. Even if the officers of the Department of Labour were to cover the same mileage as had been done in previous years, why is it that they do not enjoy the benefit of this upward revision of allowance? But, having been satisfied that it is their own request—they must have gone into it, I suppose—I will have to be content with that.

Mrs. Jagan: The hon. Member's reference to the Interior Department is not quite correct. Different departments have different needs. In some departments there is different work. There is travelling wider afield. I am not aware of the extent of the transport and travelling of the Interior Department, but I have no doubt that the transport and travelling has increased; and it is quite unnecessary to draw a parallel.

Mr. Jackson: What interests me is this: The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, in reply to the hon. Member who raised the question, said she has uncovered certain unhealthy practices. If a Minister of the Government can openly declare that she has discovered unhealthy practices in the expenditure of the votes, then it is only fair to ask her to say what has been done by her to take care of the situation and what she has done to prevent recurrences of those unhealthy practices — whether any action has been taken against these persons?

Mrs. Jagan: I want to make it perfectly clear that I was referring to the Departments within my Ministry, and I did not point to any particular one. Certainly when these improper practices are found out they are corrected.

Mr. Jackson: I did not accuse the Minister of naming any particular Department. She spoke broadly of her

Ministry, and I referred to it broadly. Improper practices call for heavy penalties. I am happy to hear that steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of such practices. Having uncovered these improper practices in the Department, the officers concerned should be brought to justice. I do not think it is right to make such general comments about improper practices in any Department. When we are dealing with two or three Departments under one Ministry, it seems unfair to make such general comments because Members may be led to think that such improper practices are carried out in all Departments.

Mrs. Jagan: We are discussing the Labour Department in Committee, and this is not the time and place to go into such details. I invite the hon. Member to visit my office whenever he has time, and I will discuss the matter with him.

Mr. Jackson: I seem to be in the Minister's favour this evening. I have been given two invitations by her, and I am wondering whether it would be fair for me to refuse them. She has invited me on a tour with her, and she now invites me to her office to discuss this matter. I wonder whether some Members will think that I am making a deal with the Minister. On one occasion an hon. Member accused me of making a deal with the P.P.P. because I was a member of a certain Delegation. I would not refuse to examine any information I could get on this matter, because it would put my mind at rest regarding the working of the Department. It is a pity the Minister made such a general statement on the Departments. It would have been better for her to have referred to a particular Department so that we would know where to look.

Mr. Telio: I am sorry I have to refer to this matter again. The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing says that she has been carrying out a close scrutiny into the way in which

officers are using their travelling allowances. She said that certain Departments need a greater amount of money for travelling allowances than others because of the expansion of work. If I understand her portfolio correctly, she is the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.

When I look under the Head of Medical I see that there is an increase of \$12,000 for "Transport and Travelling". The note states "Revision of rates of travelling and subsistence allowances". The only Department in Her Majesty's Government which does not enjoy this increase is the Department of Labour. I have a special regard and interest in the Labour Department, because a great deal of the success of the work Labour Unions are trying to do depends on the Labour Department answering the calls of our workers quickly.

Mr. Burnham: May I interrupt this display of affection between the hon. Member for Western Essequibo and the hon. Member for Georgetown North to remind the good Minister that she has not said whether disciplinary action has been taken where irregularities have been discovered. As I understand it, even though internal discipline may be meted out to an officer who alleges that he has travelled 30 miles when he has only travelled 20 miles it is still a criminal offence. I would like the Minister to state whether disciplinary action was taken when irregularities were discovered, or whether she had made reports to the Police Department.

It is not good enough to talk about rackets without producing evidence. When we talk about rackets in the Milk Pasteurisation Plant we know what we are talking about. The Minister of Natural Resources says one thing in private and another thing in Council. We want to know whether the Police Department was informed of these irregularities the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing speaks about.

Mrs. Jagan: I am happy to notice the hon. Member's concern in this matter. I am a Minister concerned with policy and saving Government's money. The hon. Member knows that a Minister cannot discipline a civil servant. These are intimate questions.

Mr. Burnham: Something has come over the hon. Minister of Labour, Health and Housing tonight. She extends invitations to Members on this side of the Table, and now she talks about intimate questions. If my remarks made me appear to be intimate, may I apologize. Were the police called in? Certainly a criminal offence is a criminal offence; it should be investigated and the culprit brought to justice.

So far as discipline under General Orders is concerned, that is a matter for the hon. the Chief Secretary; but so far as reporting the matter to the police is concerned, it is the duty of every private citizen as well as a Minister to report such matters to the police.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: It is true that several rackets are going on. I know of a few cases where an officer goes on duty 20 miles away from his home; travels back 20 miles for his lunch, and charges the 40 miles to the Government—he is paid for 40 extra miles. It is not exactly a criminal offence, but he is cheating the Government of British Guiana. It is the duty of both sides of the Council to take care of Public Funds. This sort of thing has been going on in several places for a long time, but the interest of the public is of such that very few people have a good knowledge of what is taking place. So far as rackets are concerned, it is very difficult to prosecute successfully in this type of racket.

Mr. Burnham: If lawyers did agree on all occasions many of us would starve. There must be differences of opinion, but when an hon. and learned Member of this Council says that it is

not a criminal offence when an officer is representing on a voucher that he has done 40 miles on duty when it is really 20 miles—

Mr. Chairman: We need not go into the question of whether or not it is an offence at this stage.

Mr. Burnham: If that is a fact, it seems to me that it is a public duty on the part of this legislator to attract such irregularities to the attention of the proper authorities. There is no point in merely referring to irregularities, if you have no desire to bring the culprits to justice. Let us have the matter investigated and the culprits sent to gaol in the same way as the officer in the Land Settlement Department.

The Chairman: We have had enough on this question.

Mr. Tello: I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman: The Question is, that Head 21—Labour—be carried out at \$187,479.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

Council resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move that the Council adjourn until 2 p.m. on Friday, 30th December, 1960.

Mr. Speaker: The Council is adjourned until 2 p.m. on Friday, 30th December, 1960.

Council adjourned accordingly, at 10 p.m.