

# SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 3rd January, 1961

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, Q.C.

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

} *ex officio*

The Honourable <b>Dr. C. B. Jagan</b>	—Member for Eastern Berbice (Minister of Trade and Industry)
„ „ <b>B. H. Benn</b>	—Member for Essequibo River (Minister of Natural Resources)
„ „ <b>Janet Jagan</b>	—Member for Western Essequibo (Minister of Labour, Health and Housing)
<b>Ram Karran</b>	--Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Minister of Communications and Works)
„ <b>B. S. Rai</b>	--Member for Central Demerara (Minister of Community Development and Education).
<b>Mr. R. B. Gajraj</b>	—Nominated Member
„ <b>W. O. R. Kendall</b>	—Member for New Amsterdam
„ <b>R. C. Tello</b>	—Nominated Member
„ <b>F. Bowman</b>	—Member for Demerara River
„ <b>L. F. S. Burnham, Q.C.</b>	—Member for Georgetown Central
„ <b>A. L. Jackson</b>	—Member for Georgetown North
„ <b>S. M. Saffee</b>	—Member for Western Berbice
„ <b>Jai Narine Singh</b>	—Member for Georgetown South
„ <b>R. E. Davis</b>	—Nominated Member
„ <b>H. J. M. Hubbard</b>	—Nominated Member.

Mr. I. Crum Ewing—Clerk of the Legislature

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

## ABSENT :

Mr. Ajodha Singh—Member for Berbice River

Mr. S. Campbell—Member for North Western District

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

Mr. A. M. Fredericks—Nominated Member—on leave

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 Friday, 30th December, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LEAVE TO MR. FREDERICKS

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. A. M. Fredericks, has asked to be excused from meetings during the present week.

## PAPERS LAID

**The Chief Secretary (Mr. Hedges):** I beg to lay on the Table—

Report of the British Guiana Electoral Boundaries Commission, 1960.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

## APPROPRIATION (1961) BILL

## BUDGET DEBATE

**Mr. Speaker:** Council will resume consideration of the following Bill which is in Committee. It is a Bill intitled:

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

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

## COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

**Mr. Burnham:** Mr. Chairman, before we proceed, I desire to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Order in order to have Head 26—Magistrates—recommitted.

**The Chairman:** We have not reached there yet.

**Mr. Burnham:** Mr. Chairman, with respect, I think we have reached Head 27 — Medical. We have already passed

Magistrates, and I am asking for the re-committal of the Head—Magistrates.

**The Chairman:** Yes, I am sorry. In the afternoon we had half-finished an item and, perhaps, I did not put down the Head.

**Mr. Burnham:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (7)—6 Bailiff Interpreters—\$7,884. I have indicated to the hon. the Attorney-General my intention to do this, and I gather from him that he has no objection.

**The Chairman:** Yes, but let us finish Medical, because there is another item that you have asked to be re-committed. Let us deal with the re-committals later on.

**Mr. Burnham:** As you please, Sir.

## New Year Greetings

**Mr. Jackson:** Before I reply to the observations which have been made by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing, may I take this opportunity to wish you, Sir, a New Year brimful of health and happiness; and to the overseas officers who are uncertain at the moment of their future, I would express the wish that if it is the desire of Government that they should serve this country after August, 1961, they and the Government should be able to arrive at suitable terms and conditions of employment. But while they hold their present posts, I wish them a very happy New Year and trust that life for them will be no less pleasant than it is at the moment. I also wish to say to the Council as a whole and to the individual Members that I wish them a happy year.

**The Chairman:** When we adjourned before Christmas, I expressed my personal wishes to Members of the Council for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year, but I will take this opportunity, on behalf of myself and the Members of the Council, to reciprocate your kind wishes for the New Year. [Applause.]

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, MENTAL  
HOSPITAL

**Mr. Jackson :** In reply to the comments made by the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing on my Motion for a reduction of item (9) by \$1, I must say that she has my sympathy in that she has been unable to find someone to take charge of the Mental Hospital, so that those people who are suffering from that peculiar form of illness will not have any early hope of recovery as a result of treatment by a specialist officer. While I offer the Minister my sympathy I am none-the-less compelled to condemn the Government for its failure to tackle this problem efficiently and with positiveness. It is more than two years since this question has been under examination, and on each occasion we on this side of the Table have raised it we have had the same reply: that, first of all, it is difficult to find specialists who would come to this country to take on the job at the Mental Hospital at the salary offered for the post. Then we were told at another time that one of the international agencies was trying to get an expert, and we heard also that they were trying to get a man from Trinidad to come here to take over.

In a world where the demand is greater than the supply, it is usually wise and logical for those who want a supply of what is available to enter into competition for that part of the supply which is required, and I cannot agree that even though the Government did attempt to get a specialist at an enhanced salary, it has done as much as it ought to have done, for if it could not get one at the salary it is prepared to offer, then it ought to have gone one stage further by offering as much as, or more than, is offered by any other country that has need for such a specialist. That Government has not done so makes it incumbent on me to place on record my disapproval of the manner in which it has handled the situation. There are lots

of people who would be happier tomorrow if their relatives in that institution could have come under the care of a highly skilled officer, and I am sure that by this dilatory attitude of the Government the hope in the hearts of those people has begun to wane, for there is no indication that we are going to have a specialist in the near future to take charge of the institution.

We did hear that a Guianese is under training, and that he failed the examination which he went to take. We also heard that six months will have to elapse before that gentleman can return, we hope successfully, but even if it happens that this Guianese returns qualified, what would be our position if, as a result of some accident, he should become incapacitated and unable to perform his duties? We would find ourselves in the same position we are in now, of not having a qualified officer to take charge of this important institution.

This Government has failed to take into consideration the fact that we need men qualified to the highest degree to take charge of this institution, and it is a very miserly arrangement to send one person for training instead of three or four. Every step should be taken to avoid our finding ourselves again in this very difficult and embarrassing position where we cannot treat our mental cases properly.

One other point. With this institution under the Medical Department, is it difficult to see that if the Director of Medical Services gets \$10,080 it is not the best thing to have such a highly qualified specialist officer under the Director of Medical Services and drawing a higher salary? Such a situation is bound to cause confusion and dissatisfaction. It seems to me that the most positive way to deal with the matter is to separate this institution from the Medical Department and let it stand on its own. Government can then bid with other countries to get the very best person to fill the post

[MR. JACKSON]

of Medical Superintendent at the Mental Hospital. I think it would be necessary to change the designation of the institution, for it is wrong to have such a specialist institution crowded with others which are not so specialized. It would thus avoid the embarrassing situation which now obtains, if a specialist officer is secured for the institution at \$14,000 a year while the D.M.S. receives a salary of \$10,000. Government should make a bold effort to secure the services of a suitable specialist to take charge of the institution, and at the same time take the bolder step of sending two or three persons for training so as to obviate similar difficulties at the institution in the future.

**The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing** (Mrs. Jagan): The hon. Member seeks to give the impression that Government has ignored its responsibilities and has failed in this issue. That is entirely wrong. There was no miserly salary offered in an effort to get a mental specialist from India. We offered \$14,748 per annum as a specialist salary, which is not chicken feed in any country of the world. A strong effort was made and we obtained Finance Committee's approval, but for some reason or another — and I believe part of the reason may be personal — he has not been able to give a definite reply. That does not mean that he is the only applicant who can be considered for the job.

Hon. Members like to attack Government for having no training scheme. In this instance they cannot attack Government on that score because we have a man in training, but through a misfortune he could not return to the country at the end of 1960, as was anticipated. But Government must be attacked in this case for not training three or six specialists. Obviously, Members on the other side of the Table cannot be satisfied and have no wish to be satisfied, but there is evidence that Government has done all in its power to attract specialists and to

train specialists. As I mentioned on the last occasion, there is a young doctor who is willing to work in the Mental Hospital to see if he is really interested in that field, and if he proves to be suitable he, also, will be sent away for training. That is part of our training scheme.

This is not a rich country, and we cannot afford to send dozens of people for training in one field. We have to spread our money over a broad range of services, professions, etc. We have to be cautious with our money, and I can say that it will be rather foolish to over-train in one field. Let us not overlook the fact that, as I indicated before, we are disappointed that in the field of mental specialty we have not yet solved the problem. I may remark that not every problem in British Guiana can be solved by the Majority Party immediately. I agree that Members have every right to expect us to do so, because we have certainly done a fine job so far, and it is understandable that we should be expected to solve every problem, but only supermen can solve in three years 150 years of problems. Therefore, to make a big issue of this is not only unfair but unrealistic. The hon. Member's suggestion is most unrealistic and, perhaps, has exposed a certain amount of ignorance on his part on the subject.

I cannot see how the Mental Hospital can be removed from the supervision of our Medical Department. Mental diseases are important aspects of medicine. You cannot remove one aspect of the problem. To run a mental institution you must have nurses, doctors, medical supplies, etc. All these things are integrated into the medical services, and to remove one part of the Medical Department because of salary grading, is most unrealistic. I would not burden our Director of Medical Services with that suggestion, because it is unrealistic and it has not much value. I am most willing to take up the various matters which Members raise but, unfortunately, this is one which, I say, can be dismissed.

**Mr. Jackson :** I did refer to the miserliness regarding the training of individuals and to the salaries offered. It is better, in my opinion, to have an examination and survey, right now, to find out exactly how many of our youngsters would like to take on extra studies in that direction and let them qualify for the posts — nurses, doctors, etc. We all admit that every medical institution requires nurses, doctors, medical supplies; but is it not true that there are nurses who are specially trained in this field? Why not train nurses to be qualified in mental ailments? It is a specialized job; and that is why I have said that it would be a good thing to have this institution taken away from the Medical Department. You will be able to get an opportunity to train nurses on the spot and, consequently, get a better institution. You need not send all persons overseas. I do not see why this institution cannot be better equipped even though we have heard that we have problems of 100 years' old that cannot be tackled now. Perhaps, this is one which can be tackled over a period of years. If we relax, then the poor people who are suffering there will just have to continue suffering as the situation deteriorates more and more each day.

I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

#### JUNIOR OPHTHALMOLOGIST

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1(20) — Junior Ophthalmologist — \$7,680, first of all, to query why the post carries two salary scales instead of one? They are F12/F8. There is one on the higher scale and one on the junior scale. One wonders why a junior specialist should be on the high scale when he should be on the lower scale.

**Mrs. Jagan :** The hon. Member has asked about the two scales of the Junior Ophthalmologist. I think Members are aware that junior specialists have to serve for four years before they are promoted to the senior posts. I understand that this person is supposed to be promoted during this year.

**Mr. Jackson:** So that we will have two senior Ophthalmologists at the same salary?

**Mrs. Jagan :** Yes.

**Mr. Jackson:** I, therefore, beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** Anything else?

#### ACCOUNTANT

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1(26) — Accountant — \$4,218 to ask whether it is not possible or desirable that this department should carry a Chief Accountant? It is a very big department and I would have thought that, with the extent of the field covered by this department, there should have been a Chief Accountant as well as an Accountant.

**Mrs. Jagan :** As hon. Members are aware, there will be integration. Actually, the integration of the Ministry of Health and the Medical Department starts this month and one of the developments out of this integration will be, as he has suggested, the creation of a new post; and all of the changes in the movement of integration will, no doubt, be brought to Finance Committee. I do not think all the final details of the changes have been completed by the Financial Secretary in his budget, but we shall be getting them during the months to come. However, we are moving in during the month.

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn. [*Pause.*]

**Mr. Jackson:** If no other Member wishes to move a reduction of any item, I would move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 at page 61 —

OTHER CHARGES — TRANSPORT AND TRAVELLING

**Mr. Tello:** I have a simple question to ask under “Other Charges”. I am asking for a reduction by \$1, at page 60 —

**The Chairman:** What are you asking about?

**Mr. Tello:** I am moving the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 2 under “Other Charges” — Transport and Travelling — \$87,000. I would like the hon. Minister to explain how this Head “Medical” becomes entitled to an increase in travelling allowance? The rates have been revised and there is no evidence that there is an increase of personnel; whilst in the case of the Department of Labour there was an increase, at least with the addition of one person who will have to travel. I would anticipate that the same revision that applies to the Medical Department also applies to the Department of Labour. In the Medical Department an abnormal increase is registered, but there is no increase in the case of the Department of Labour.

I made reference to the Department of Interior — that that Department also had the benefit of those revised rates. The Minister, in reply to me, said that that is not her department, but she has made a special study, scrutinized and examined rather carefully the use of the travelling allowances, and has discovered unpleasant things. I simply want to ask

the Minister how can she increase the travelling personnel of one department and not increase the travelling allowance; whilst in another department, which has no increase in travelling personnel, she has increased the travelling allowance by \$12,000?

**Mrs. Jagan:** If the hon. Member wishes to compare the Medical Department with the Labour Department, I will give him the opportunity to do so. If he looks at page 45, he will observe that the actual expenditure for 1959 was \$16,811. The approved estimate for Transport and Travelling for 1960 and 1961 is \$20,340, which means that the actual amount spent in 1959 was less than that provided for 1960 and 1961. Also at page 60, he will find that the actual expenditure under “Medical” was \$84,232 in 1959 and it was larger than the amount provided in 1960, which was \$75,000. In other words, there was less expenditure in 1959 in the Labour Department than there was provision for the next year. In the Medical Department there was a higher expenditure in 1959 than the amount provided for the next year, which meant that the Medical Department had a higher rate of expenditure in 1959 than the Labour Department. Also, if we compare “Medical” with “Labour” it will be seen that “Medical” is a rapidly expanding department.

During my period as Minister of Health, I have insisted that the Medical Department should serve the areas never before served and that, of course, requires increased expenditure. We are now serving all the riverain areas in this country and, naturally, there will be greater expenditure. Actually, in the riverain areas, you will find the subsistence allowances are greater because they are greater distances away from the base. All these things have been taken into consideration. Why these two questions arose, I do not know.

**Mr. Tello:** I am not satisfied with the Minister's explanation, because since 1959 she was told that \$16,000 was inadequate, and before the year was up she came to Finance Committee for approval of supplementary expenditure. In 1960 all they have done is to amend a mistake. Now they have increased the personnel by an extra travelling officer and increased the rate for travelling, but they still want to justify the amount voted. I hope this Council will see that I am right, and that in the future there will be applications in Finance Committee for supplementary expenditure. In the meantime, I hope that nothing will be done to impede the work of the Department. I now beg to withdraw by Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (5) — Technologists — \$50,000.

**The Chairman:** We are still dealing with Head 27 — Medical.

**Mr. Jackson:** I am sorry, Sir.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 27 — Medical — be carried out at \$1,306,804.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

MEDICAL — BACTERIOLOGICAL

TECHNOLOGISTS

**Mr. Jackson :** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (5) — 36 Technologists — \$50,000. I would like to know whether there is industrial peace in this section of the Department. I gather from newspaper reports that there was some uneasiness among employees there with regard to their wages, and I would like to obtain information regarding the matter.

**Mrs. Jagan :** I am not aware of any industrial unrest among the technologists. I am aware that technologists have long been complaining about the conditions in the laboratory which appeared to be overcrowded and considered unhealthy. That matter has been resolved, because a laboratory is now being constructed which will provide adequate space. As far as I am aware, that was the main complaint.

**Mr. Jackson:** That is part and parcel of what I would call industrial unrest. As long as it is settled, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 27A — Medical — Bacteriological — be carried out at \$186,277.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

MEDICAL — X-RAY

RADIOLOGIST

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1,000 of Sub-Head 1 (2) — 1 Radiologist — \$7,680. I would like to be told why the two Radiologists are on different salary scales?

**Mrs. Jagan:** I understand that the difference is due to the fact that we have two posts of Radiologists: Dr. Lowe and Dr. Herlinger. Dr. Herlinger will be completing his four years' service this year, and his post will have to be regraded. I also understand that the Treasury Department was not given sufficient notice of the proposed change, and was unable to insert the necessary amendment in the Estimates. The salary will be changed some time during this month.

**Mr. Kendall:** I wonder whether Minister will be able to tell us she has made any provision in

[MR. KENDALL]

Estimates for X-Ray facilities for the New Amsterdam Hospital? I think she is aware that the facilities there are not good.

**Mrs. Jagan:** The question of X-Ray facilities for the New Amsterdam Hospital is tied up with the present project we are engaged in of building a combination Out-Patient Department — Health Centre. We hope to move the Out-Patient Department to the building the Public Works Department is now designing, and we will then have space in which we can expand the X-Ray Department.

**Mr. Kendall:** Does that mean that the X-Ray Department will be placed on the bottom floor as envisaged?

**Mrs. Jagan:** There will be some reorganization in order to get adequate space.

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 27 B — Medical — X-Ray — be carried out at \$102,537.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

MEDICAL — HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

NURSING SISTERS AT LEPROSY HOSPITAL

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (49) — 7 Nursing Sisters at Leprosy Hospital — \$12,216, to inquire why there has been a reduction in the amount provided this year? In 1959 we spent \$13,610; in 1960, \$13,146; and in 1961 we propose

to spend \$12,216. There has been a gradual reduction of the vote, even if the number of people per head is the same according to the Estimates.

**Mrs. Jagan:** I am afraid I do not have the information on that point at the moment. If the hon. Member wishes to table a question, or if he wishes me to give him a written answer later on I will do so. The Nursing Sisters at the Leprosy Hospital are Nuns. I am not certain, but I think it is quite possible that a new Nun may be coming in at a lower scale. It may be a question of appointing a Nun with a shorter period of experience in this field. I would prefer to be given time to give a proper answer. You can either table a question, or I will give you an answer later on.

**Mr. Jackson:** The Minister's reason is not sound, because if there was a reduction in personnel it would have been shown in the notes.

**Mrs. Jagan:** I did not say that there was a reduction in the personnel. It is possible that two Senior Sisters may have left and two junior ones may have been employed in their places.

**Mr. Jackson:** That does not appear in the notes, and that cannot be the reason. I shall be grateful if the Minister will let me have the answer in writing at some later stage. In the light of that assurance, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 27C — Medical — Hospitals and Dispensaries — be carried out at \$4,467,360.

Agreed to.

Head passed.



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND WORKS

**Mr. Burnham:** I do not know whether, in view of the fact that we have finished the Heads dealing with Medical, I can move my Motion at this stage.

**The Chairman:** I do not like going back like that; I would prefer to go back to recommittals once and for all.

**Mr. Burnham:** I was informed by the Financial Secretary that he has his answer.

**The Chairman:** It is not for the Financial Secretary to say when items should be taken in this Council.

**Mr. Burnham:** I shall ask to be excused for about an hour, Sir.

**The Chairman:** We will be here until five o'clock, and since you are coming back it is all right.

The Question is, that Head 28 — Ministry of Communications and Works — be carried out at \$62,735.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HEALTH  
AND HOUSING

PERMANENT SECRETARY

**Mr. Tello:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (1) — Permanent Secretary — \$7,680. I expect that this Ministry is the one to advise Government on industrial relations. I read in the Financial Secretary's Budget Speech: "The details of the proposed revision of the salaries of civil servants have not yet been fully worked out, but a revised structure will be introduced from a current date for the Government Services (including the Transport and

Harbours Department . . .)" Isn't this an innovation in the principle of negotiations? What has been accepted throughout the ages, is that any agreement reached regarding negotiations for wages and salaries should be retroactive.

**The Chairman:** Does that come under Permanent Secretary? We have to deal with the Sub-Heads; you cannot raise a general question on this matter when it does not come under Permanent Secretary. You are talking about the Permanent Secretary, and I am not going to allow a general debate on labour negotiations.

**Mr. Tello:** Sir, are you not allowing it?

**The Chairman:** Not labour negotiations.

**Mr. Tello:** The Minister is a political head of the Department, and his Permanent Secretary is a civil servant in the Department.

**The Chairman:** It is a matter affecting general policy which should have been raised on the Second Reading debate. Members must not take advantage of my indulgence.

**Mr. Tello:** I am just saying this: I certainly bow to your ruling; I always find it a pleasure to seek your advice and guidance, Sir.

**The Chairman:** I do not think the general policy of whether salaries should be retrospective and the question of the bargaining powers of one labour organization with the Government should properly be debated under the Sub-Head, Permanent Secretary. I allowed the question to be asked for you to get information, but when you are going to set off a big debate on labour issues this is not the place for it.

**Mr. Tello:** In view of your ruling, Sir, I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 29 — Ministry of Labour, Health and Housing — be carried out at \$41,020.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 30 — Ministry of Natural Resources — be carried out at \$54,863.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 31 — Ministry of Trade and Industry — be carried out at \$102,263.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### LEAVE PASSAGES

**Mr. Tello:** I move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 23 — Leave Passages, Public Officers, \$300,000 — in order to ask the Financial Secretary whether the sum provided under this item will be spent this year, or whether it is only a token vote? We have been reading in the Press and I have gathered certain information from other sources. I would, therefore, be grateful if the Financial Secretary could give this Council an assurance that it is the intention of the Government to spend the entire amount provided for leave passages this year.

**The Financial Secretary:** The amount provided in the Estimates has been put there to cover expenditure on leave passages. I am not quite sure that I understand the point of the hon. Member's question. If the need does arise the money will be used. That is what it is provided for.

**Mr. Kendall:** I would like to find out from the Financial Secretary whether the sum provided fits into the present Leave Regulations.

**The Financial Secretary:** The answer is "Yes."

#### CONDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND TRAINING COURSES

**Mr. Jackson:** I move a reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 29 — Conditional Scholarships and Training Courses — \$195,000. I would be grateful for some information as to how the scheme operates, and how many persons are under training, because I notice that there has been a reduction of the sum provided in 1959.

**The Chief Secretary:** The sum provided for 1961 is the same as that for 1960, but, if it should be found that it is insufficient, I have no doubt that the matter would be referred to Finance Committee with a view to seeking approval for a supplementary provision.

As regards the number of courses which officers are attending now, perhaps, the hon. Member would refer to the *Hansard* of June last year when I gave what was described as a catalogue of the number of people pursuing the various training courses and the number of scholarships which had been awarded. If the hon. Member wishes more detail I can provide it for him.

**Mr. Jackson:** I do recall that we did have a list of the courses supplied by the Chief Secretary, but we did not have any indication of any big movement

of courses on Administration in the Public Service, and I was wondering whether anything had been done since then to indicate that we had moved towards training people to cope with the new conditions which will arise in 1961. We are being told of integration here and there, and I wonder whether, with the integration we are hearing about, there has been any great movement forward to prepare Guianese for the administration of this country when it has a greater measure of control of its own affairs.

**The Chief Secretary:** A Committee has been formed by Government and its terms of reference are "to examine comprehensively and co-ordinate local in-service training throughout the different Departments, and to prepare a comprehensive scheme for the purpose of training Guianese for the highest posts in the Administration and the technical branches of the country's Public Service."

I am not sure whether the hon. Member is talking about training in general, or whether he is dealing more specifically with the administrative side of the machinery which will be required for the integration of Departments with the Ministries. If it is the latter I would suggest that the matter be discussed under the Estimates head, Public Service Commission, where provision has been made for an increase in administrative cadets.

**Mr. Jackson:** I hope to find other ideas, when the time comes, to deal with the cadetship. Mr. Chairman, I am dealing with the administrative problems. I admit having knowledge of the existence of a Committee which is going, particularly, into the question of training. I think that Committee has been in existence for a year or a little more than a year, and I know that it has not yet completed its task. What I am trying to get at is, there is need at the moment to go outside the terms of reference of that Committee for the purpose of getting along speedily with the task of preparing

people for administrative posts. I understand that the U.C.W.I. has, not so long ago, started a one-year course in Public Administration, and I am wondering whether the Government has observed it fully — whether it has analysed our needs to the extent that it has decided or has not decided to take advantage of the course which is being conducted by a very able Professor in that field.

It seems to me that we require urgent action, and I am wondering whether, in view of the fact that I have raised this point, the Chief Secretary would examine the possibility of using the U.C.W.I. course for the purpose. In Nigeria, I think, there is an institute which has been established for the purpose, and I know that in Trinidad and Jamaica the Governments take very full advantage of the opportunity of training people for the purpose of administration. What is, perhaps, alarming if not interesting or intriguing is the fact that I heard, not so long ago, that a Guianese who had qualified for entry into the U.C.W.I. had not the money to take advantage of his good fortune and the Jamaican Government which heard of this youngster's poverty offered to pay for his training for five years — his entire training period — and has given him the assurance of a job which would last for another five years. This is an opportunity which we did not take advantage of.

I am not blaming anybody. I just want to bring out how active other Governments are to secure people who have ability and train them. I know in another organization to which I belong the Government was advised to use this same machinery of providing a liaison between students in the universities and the Government so that it will be able to get Guianese, before they are qualified, to accept appointments or agree to come back and serve the country rather than wait until they are qualified or accept jobs outside which offer bigger remunerations.

[MR. JACKSON]

I do not know what action Government has taken in such an important matter and at a time when we are about to take on full political responsibilities in August, 1961.

**The Chief Secretary:** As far as the Committee is concerned, the hon. Member will recall that in my speech on the training of Guianese which, as far as I can recollect, was last June, I said that a Committee would be formed and I think I named the composition of that Committee. This Committee has now been formed and invitations were, I believe, sent out to Members last August. An examination of each department is required before a consolidated report can be produced showing the needs of each department.

As far as the U.C.W.I. one-year course in Public Administration is concerned, we have been invited to take advantage of it this year. It is, however, sometimes difficult to spare officers for one-year periods, and I am not in a position to say whether advantage can be taken this year. I can say that it will be considered each year provided we are invited to take part.

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 32 --- Miscellaneous be carried out at \$2,332,544.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS SUBVENTIONS OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL

##### GRANTS TO VILLAGE AUTHORITIES TOWARDS ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 23 --- Grants to Village Authorities towards Adminis-

trative Expenses — \$5,933. I do not know how many Village Authorities there are in the Colony, but I know that we have been told more and more are being created. We, on this side, perhaps, have not very much knowledge but, looking at the figure of over \$23,000 as a Special Grant to the Drainage and Irrigation Board, it seems to me that \$5,933 is a small amount of money to vote for the administration of our villages, when one takes into account that they borrow money and they have to pay interest at the rate of 6 per cent, when one takes into account that there is very much unemployment in the areas, when, perhaps, the rates and taxes are not paid as fully as they should and where, perhaps, the task of administering a village is causing greater headaches to the village authorities than is necessary. I wonder whether it can be considered that this amount is small and can be improved upon so that the tasks before the village authorities can become easier and less burdensome.

**The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Rai):** The Central Government gets no money whatsoever from the local authorities' revenues, whether they are village districts or country districts. What moneys are raised in the Local Government areas are disbursed for the upkeep of those areas. The amount of \$5,933 as Grants to Village Authorities towards Administrative Expenses is disbursed among a number of Local Authorities within whose boundaries Government has certain properties—Post Offices, Police Stations and so forth. Grants are not made to every Local Authority, and the question as to whether Government should give grants to every Local Authority must be based on some reason. No reason has been advanced for Government to give grants to every Local Authority and that is the reason for this vote under this Sub-Head.

**Mr. Kendall:** It is unfortunate that the Minister should give as a reply that grants cannot be given to these Local

Authorities because Government has been given no reason for doing so. I think it is unfortunate because if these Local Authorities — take for example, Buxton and Plaisance and the others — were to close their roads and call on those cars that ply through the villages for a special toll because the contribution from Government is inadequate to keep the roads in a usable condition, I wonder how Government would feel. I think it is the function of Government, inasmuch as it has the machinery for collecting revenue ordinarily. In places like the United Kingdom, Local Authorities have the power to collect certain rates which this Government is now collecting.

I am surprised at the answer given by the Minister, who is in charge of Local Government, that his reason for not giving more aid to these villages is because Government does not derive any revenue from them.

**Mr. Rai:** The hon. Member is giving one side of the picture. Government makes grants to the Authorities for drainage and irrigation works. While it is true that the Central Government collects revenue from motor vehicle licences as is done in the United Kingdom, in the United Kingdom the Local Authorities have to contribute towards the upkeep of schools and the police. In this country Government spends all of the money necessary for primary education and the Police Department. We must look at the picture as a whole.

**Mr. Jackson:** I do not think this item includes taxes for property owned by the Government. If the Government has properties at Kitty, Mahaica and so on, taxes should be paid on them. If that is so, it is all the more reason why this amount should be increased. In almost every village Government has a Post Office or a Police Station, and it will soon be having Government Schools. If the amount is intended to cover taxes which will be paid upon properties owned by the Government, then amount should be increased.

I am sure the properties owned by the Government have been improved on year after year. With the improvement of the value of the property the taxes should be increased accordingly. I am sure that the Minister, having heard the point of view from this side of the Table, will conclude that his points were unnecessary. The intention should be to help the districts or villages to bear their financial commitments.

With respect to the question that Government gets nothing from these villages, it seems to me that it is not a fair comment or a good ground to deny the villages improved grants. The villages are already burdened with heavy drainage and irrigation expenditure, and they should be relieved of this burden. I know of one village which has always been pleading that it takes a lot of money to keep out the water, but it has to face the financial burden. Georgetown also has its difficulties. We have the sewerage which is looked upon as a country-wide question. Why can't drainage be treated in the same way as you have treated the Boerasirie and Black Bush Polder schemes as Colonial questions?

With regard to the question of roads, I do not see any provision for subvention for the villages. We have subventions going to the Municipalities for streets. Why shouldn't Government provide subventions for the villages that have to keep their roads in proper condition? The motorcars which ply for hire between Georgetown and the country districts have to pass through these villages. It seems fair, in view of the increased traffic which flows through these villages, that the money should be increased. Government should give them a subvention in the same way as subventions are given to Georgetown and New Amsterdam. I am sure that when we take into consideration the extent of the assistance given to these villages, they get a mere bagatelle.

[Mr. JACKSON]

In the last report by the Department concerned, some places received \$41 a year; some \$1,500; some \$6, and some \$30. It seems to me that we can ask the Minister concerned to review this matter and give the villages more money.

**Mr. Bean:** There is one point I would like to make. Some hon. Members on the other side of the Table are suggesting that we pay more money to the Land Surveyor, the Mental Specialists, and so on. If hon. Members would stop and think how much money would be needed to meet the increases they have suggested, they would realize that it would be necessary to make arrangements for an increase in our revenue. It is quite easy to say give the Land Surveyors more; give the villages more, and so on, but we have to find the money to do it.

The hon. Member for Georgetown North says the Black Bush Polder is a parish or Colonial question, but I do not know what he means by that. The people who live in the Boerasirie and Black Bush Polder areas will have to pay drainage and irrigation rates. In no Local Authority do the people pay the full drainage and irrigation rates.

**Mr. Rai:** In every case where drainage and irrigation expenses are incurred by Local Authorities, they are assisted by the Central Government to the extent of 20 per cent. and in some cases as much as 75 per cent. It does not go in as expenses, but it is a special sort of assistance the Government gives to Local Authorities. While I agree that Government does not repair the roads, yet there are other services which normally fall upon Local Authorities such as police, education, and so on. Government looks after the Health Service in the community, and in various other ways the Local Authorities are being assisted. Government does not assist them in their roads, but the people in the rural areas are assisted with other things.

**Mr. Hubbard:** I should like to point out to my hon. Friends that under Cap. 191, Section 70, the Mayor and Town Council of Georgetown are required to contribute to sea defence the sum of \$2,500 annually.

**Mr. Jackson:** I am always grateful to the hon. Member for his enlightenment on matters of the kind. I observe that the sea wall in Georgetown and along the coast has been provided entirely from public funds, and that the people in the villages are also called upon to bear part of the expenses for the irrigation of these lands.

**Mr. Hubbard:** Not sea defence.

**Mr. Jackson:** I think the wall was erected to defend the land from the sea. It seems to me that while in some parts of the world Village Authorities are responsible for education, police, etc., the time has not yet been reached where it can be done in this country. Perhaps that may be possible in the near future when we have reorganized our political pattern.

However, while the Georgetown Town Council is given a subvention for roads, it does not contribute to the education of the people in the city. If you take that as an example, then there is good reason why you should extend that facility to the villages. Georgetown and New Amsterdam are fortunate in having greater wealth than many of the villages. It cannot be said that the villages are on par with Georgetown. I know that the maintenance of roads is the responsibility of the villages, and it is a great burden on them.

The collection of rates in the villages is a burden on the overseer. In order to ensure the payment of rates, they have imposed interest charges on money outstanding. The ratepayers are finding great difficulty in paying their rates. I feel that if the Minister would review this matter on a broad basis he

would find that the amount to the vil-  
lages should be increased. If he gives  
that assurance, I shall withdraw my  
Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE, GRANT

**Mr. Tello:** I beg to move the reduc-  
tion by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (40) — Com-  
monwealth Institute, Grant — \$720, to  
inquire the reason for the reduction in  
the provision. What is responsible for  
this?

**The Financial Secretary:** I am try-  
ing to get the information for the hon.  
Member, but I must confess that I  
really do not understand it at the  
moment. We can go on and I will give  
the information later.

**The Chairman:** Is it possible to  
get the information this afternoon?

**The Financial Secretary:** In a few  
minutes.

**The Chairman:** We will return to it  
at four o'clock.

OFFICIAL RECEIVER

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that  
Head 35—Official Receiver—be carried  
out at \$27,984.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

PENSIONS & GRATUITIES

**The Chairman:** The Question is,  
that Head 36—Pensions and Gratuities  
—be carried out at \$495,373.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

POLICE

**The Chairman:** The Question is,  
that Head 37—Police—be carried out at  
\$3,524,927.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

POST OFFICE

**The Chairman:** The Question is,  
that Head 38 — Post Office — be car-  
ried out at \$1,402, 667.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

POST OFFICE TELECOMMUNICA-  
TIONS AND ELECTRICAL INSPEC-  
TORS BRANCH

The Chairman: The Question is,  
that Head 39 — Post Office Telecom-  
munications And Electrical Inspectors  
Branch—be carried out at \$1,013,454.

Head passed.

Agreed to.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

SUPERINTENDENT

**Mr. Jackson:** I move a reduction by  
\$1 of Sub-Head (1) — Superintnedent.  
\$4,512 — to observe that the salary at-  
tached to this post is inadequate to the  
responsibilities of the officer concerned.  
It is true that the post is under the con-  
trol of the Director of Posts and Tele-  
communications and somewhat under the  
responsibility of the Chief Accountant,  
but the Savings Bank covers a very wide  
field. It has a lot of money and a large  
number of depositors, and it compares  
very favourably with Banks of its kind  
in other parts of the world. To put the  
Superintendent on the All scale is to  
underpay him for the responsibilities he  
carries.

It also appears to me that, because  
of the pattern which the Bank is follow-  
ing, there has not been sufficient supervi-  
sion of its operations as far as George-  
town is concerned. There was recently  
some trouble there which, had there  
been proper supervision, might have been  
discovered earlier and the loss would not  
have been as great as it was. I am not  
accusing anyone in the Department it-

[Mr. JACKSON]

self of inability to provide proper supervision. I am suggesting that the question of the Superintendent's remuneration should be examined at a higher level, and also the question of the extent to which he should be sustained by the staff in the supervision of the Bank.

**The Financial Secretary:** There is a review team looking into the staffs of the various Departments, and it is proposed on the basis of their inquiry, to consider particular executive posts and to see that they are properly graded within the Department to which they belong.

**Mr. Jackson:** I admit having knowledge of the Structural Review Committee but they are examining what there is to see whether there can be any movement one way or another, and they may recommend other posts of a higher level if they so desire, but that still does not take care of the point I am making as far as the Superintendent of the Bank is concerned. Let us assume that the Committee do not recommend a higher salary for the Superintendent, the fact remains that it is the Bank which is responsible for millions of dollars of deposits. I think the Financial Secretary should be willing to transfer one of the Treasury officers to the Savings Bank, as we have had the Accountant-General transferred to the Housing Department as Commissioner of Housing.

**The Financial Secretary** I shall go into the matter.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 40—Post Office Savings Bank—be carried out at \$61,932.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

### PRISONS

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 41—Prisons—be carried out at \$519,638.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

### PUBLIC DEBT.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 42—Public Debt—be carried out at \$3,162,935.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Mr. Jackson:** I promise that I shall not repeat what I said before. First of all, I would like to know under which item Cadetship comes.

**The Chief Secretary:** Item (6) Sub-Head I, under Establishment.

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move a reduction of the item by \$1. First of all, these are officers who have been chosen for training. I am not quite sure whether it is a one-year or a two-year course, whether they go overseas, or whether they get their entire period of training in the Colony. I shall be grateful if the Chief Secretary will inform me as to the method of training.

I want to congratulate Government on this Cadetship because it is something which should have been started on a bigger scale long ago. I think the concept of Cadetship commenced in 1952 when the Colonial Office gave an indication that that ought to be the pattern, and I think that from 1953 Jamaica and Trinidad launched a Cadetship programme on a very much larger scale than we are doing at the moment. It is said that Jamaica and Trinidad have been sending as many as 30 persons under the Cadetship programme at one time, and as a result of the large-scale activities of those two Governments they now have a Service which meets almost all their requirements. So that they are not now pressed for officers as we are.



This is not an attempt to blame anyone in the present Government entirely for the failure to embark upon a very bold policy with respect to Cadetships, but it ought to be pointed out now that if we had in our anticipation done as Jamaica and Trinidad have done, and perhaps as Nigeria and other like countries have done, we would have been better able to take care of our present situation. I think that every cadet has to serve two years, after which he becomes eligible for promotion to a higher level. This brings about a great degree of dissatisfaction, because there are lots of officers in the Public Service who are qualified by experience and who are doing a lot of work now which merits acknowledgment. I admit that cadets are doing a useful job and that they should be given every encouragement to look to the Service for their future. I admit that they should not be stifled because they are the ones who will take care of the nation in the future, and I say that those cadets in the Service at the moment and those who will be trained in the near future should be made to feel that they are doing a good service.

There are people, who are not in the field of cadetship and carrying the brunt of the work, who will have to help these cadets when they assume their duties until they become more expert and who are suffering and will continue to suffer if they are not placed a step forward. Is there any guarantee that these people who are now carrying the brunt of the Service would advance to posts of the administrative type when the cadets return to the Colony or when they have served their two years of training?

There is a certain amount of dissatisfaction in the Service; and I want to draw Government's attention to this. While cadetship is a good thing, and while we ought to send more and more people away on training or to have more and more of them on the estimates, we ought

to examine how we can take care of the men who are almost working themselves to stumps. I know quite a number of them who are working morning, noon and night giving of their best to the Public Service, and they are going to suffer as a result of this cadetship scheme, for when the cadets come back they will become senior to those in the Service. I should be glad to hear what is being done, not only about the cadets but about these people who are the backbone of the Service.

**The Chief Secretary:** The reason for increasing the number of Administrative Cadets from the figure of 6 to 18 is in order to make provision for filling the Ministries with trained administrative officers when the departments are integrated into the Ministries. The position at the moment is that we have six Administrative Cadets provided for in the 1960 Approved Estimates and a few months ago, in 1960, supplementary provision was approved for a further six cadets. The first batch of cadets approved in the 1960 Estimates will be trained by 1962, and those for whom approval was given by supplementary provision three months ago, will be ready in 1963. A further six will be recruited in 1961, and they should be ready in 1963 or early in 1964.

Entrants for the administrative service come from two sources. One is "in-service." The qualification for a member of the Public Service to be promoted an administrative cadet is that he should have had at least two years' experience in the clerical service. Then there is recruitment by direct entry; the general qualification being that he should be in possession of a general degree or other academic or professional qualification from a recognized university.

With regard to the "in-service" officer who wishes to become a cadet he, first of all, has to take a preliminary examination. Perhaps, we may call it an elimination examination to get rid of those who are obviously not

**[THE CHIEF SECRETARY]**

suiting or up to the required standard. Those who succeed in passing this examination then have to take a competitive examination which is under the control of the Government Board of examiners.

As far as outside candidates are concerned, or those recruited from outside, they are interviewed by the Public Service Commission for suitability, and they take no further examination at all.

When a candidate is appointed, therefore, he either comes from in the Service or from direct recruitment from outside, and in either case he becomes an administrative cadet for two years. During that two-year period cadets are attached to departments for anything up to six months for the purposes of gaining practical experience and a general appreciation of the work in the Public Service. If possible, also, during that time they may attend an overseas course which is held at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge or London. After this two-year period the officer ceases to be a cadet and becomes an administrative assistant.

**Mr. Jackson:** I am grateful for the explanation which I have had as to the method of in-service training after the process of elimination and so forth, and about persons who have qualifications from one of the recognized universities. It is clear to me, however, that the salary attached to the cadetship is not attractive enough to encourage many of the qualified people. I bring this to the notice of the Government because it is something which is, perhaps, preventing it from getting the best qualified persons into the Service.

I need not worry about any sarcasm because I know that there are industrial concerns in this country which are competing with the Government for the best trained personnel. Not so long ago a woman who was qualified in the field of Education did not join the Public Ser-

vice. She joined a commercial concern instead, because of the difference between the Government's salary scales and the salaries paid to individuals with her qualification by other employers. I remember asking the question not so long ago: "How many people have left the Service in certain categories?" Government would find itself always losing the best qualified people because it does not offer enough attraction by way of salaries to qualified people. I am making this point because other Governments recognize that when they have people with university qualifications they should take care of them in no uncertain manner. I think in Trinidad and Jamaica, the salaries paid to get people with that qualification are higher, by far, than those which are paid in this Colony.

I also made the observation that there are people who have qualified in other fields later than at the age of 28. I think the age for the cadets is 28, so that at the age of 30 they will have the opportunity of being appointed to the post of Administrative Assistants. There are people in the Public Service who are qualified at a later age than the age group of the cadets, doing as much work as, if not better than, the cadets would at that age and who are carrying the brunt of the Service. It is my view and the view of the men themselves that they are suffering because no account is taken of the work they are doing. There should be a different approach in dealing with the promotion of those who are actually doing the job as compared with the cadets.

**The Chief Secretary:** Sir, with regard to the remuneration not being sufficient to attract Administrative Cadets, obviously, the salaries that are offered to these cadets must be related to the subsequent salaries that the cadets will get when they are promoted Administrative Assistants. The salary of the Administrative Cadet is in the scale A12 which runs from \$3,048 to \$3,840; and the Administrative Assistant's salary is in the scale

A7 which runs from \$3,696 to \$4,560. It would, therefore, be difficult to improve the salaries of Administrative Cadets because, if you did, they would be very nearly on the same salary scale as the confirmed officer who is the Administrative Assistant.

As regards the ages, for the "in-service" officer, he should be between the ages of 24 and 28; and as far as the direct entrant is concerned, he should not be older than 27.

**Mr. Jackson:** I think I made the point regarding the age factor; I mentioned up to 28 years. You are asking people with degrees to join the Service. Let us assume that a man or woman has a B.A. degree, what would he, as a master at Queen's College, or she, as a mistress at Bishops' High School, receive? What is the difference between the salary of a Cadet who has a B.A. degree, and that of a master at Queen's College with similar qualifications?

**The Chairman:** I do not think that will take us much further. I understand that if you take a Cadet out of the scale of Administrative Assistant you will upset other scales. No final judgment can be decided here, so if the subject has been sufficiently aired there is no point in going further.

**Mr. Jackson:** I agree that if you put him in a different grade you will be giving him the salary attached to his final post, but the fact remains that we are not getting the officers.

**The Chairman:** What is the point in saying that over and over again when you cannot do anything about it?

**Mr. Jackson:** I want to show that as long as this pattern remains, we will not attract the best people to the Service.

**The Chairman:** Well, you have made your point.

**Mr. Jackson:** I expect that my point will be given consideration. I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 43 — Public Service Commission — be carried out at \$203,315.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

**The Financial Secretary:** Sir, I am ready with my answer. The normal contribution is \$720 per annum, but in 1959-60 we gave a special capital grant of \$960. The matter was explained in the 1960 Note in the Estimates.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

##### DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (2) — 1 Deputy Director of Public Works — \$7,920, in order to obtain information regarding the time this post will be filled. I understand that it is vacant at the moment.

**The Chairman:** While the information is being sought, let us see if there is anything under Head 44A.

#### PUBLIC WORKS AND SEA DEFENCES — ANNUALLY RECURRENT

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 44A — Public Works And Sea Defences — Annually Recurrent be carried out at \$3,759,451.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

**The Minister of Communications and Works** (Mr. Ram Karran): The post of Deputy Director of Public Works and certain other posts under this Head have not been filled, because Government proposes the reorganization of sections of this Department with the Drainage and Irrigation Department. It is recommended in the Graham Morgan Report which is not yet before this Council. I think the reorganization of these Departments is justified.

**Mr. Jackson:** Will the Drainage and Irrigation Department and the Public Works Department be combined as they were some years ago?

**Mr. Ram Karran:** Government is considering the Report of Mr. Graham Morgan, but it has not yet made up its mind whether the Departments will be as formerly or otherwise. The matter will come up for a decision in due course.

**Mr. Jackson:** Will that be done next month, or the next six months? The officers should know what they have to face. Will this reorganization affect engineers and assistant engineers?

**Mr. Ram Karran:** I hardly think so; we can use a greater number of engineers than we have at the moment. The reorganization I have referred to embraces mainly the administrative section of the Department.

**Mr. Jackson:** That means that it may be necessary to abolish either the post of Director of Public Works or Director of Drainage and Irrigation; or either the Deputy Director of Public Works or the Deputy Director of Drainage and Irrigation when the Departments are integrated?

**Mr. Ram Karran:** It is quite possible that one of the suggestions made by the hon. Member will be followed, but there is no certainty at this stage.

**Mr. Jackson:** In view of the reply given by the Minister, I beg to withdraw my Motion. I hope that the Report will be placed at the disposal of hon. Members when the time comes, so that we can examine it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## ENGINEERS

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (8) — 14 Engineers — \$66,000. The Minister says that the integration will not affect engineers, but I would like to know how soon will the 8 vacancies for engineers be filled?

**The Chief Secretary:** At present there are 4 officers who have been awarded scholarships. It is hoped that they will qualify as engineers and return to this Colony either late this year, or in 1962. We have asked the Secretary of State to engage 6 engineers for the Public Works Department.

**Mr. Jackson:** I take it that by 1962 we shall find the Public Works Department fully staffed with qualified engineers. I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

## SENIOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYOR

**Mr. Jackson:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head 1 (27) — 1 Senior Hydrographic Surveyor — \$5,760, to ask why there are Technical Assistants on varying salary scales, bearing in mind that Government has people in the same status and category of posts? I see that they are doing the same type of work as the Radiologists and so on.

**The Financial Secretary:** There are three grades of Technical Assistants: the new-comers, who have just joined, on A

18; the more senior officer, on A 14, and the very senior officer, on A 12. The new-comers have the basic entry qualifications, but it takes a great deal of experience to make an officer a good Technical Assistant.

**Mr. Jackson:** While I do not agree with the premise of the Financial Secretary, I beg to withdraw my Motion. I will discuss the matter with him.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 44 — Public Works Department — be carried out at \$1,302,367.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT

##### THE DIRECTOR'S CONTRACT

**The Chairman:** It is now convenient to go back to the three items which were left over. One was under Land Development.

**The Financial Secretary:** The answer is that the contract of the holder of the post of Director of Land Settlement expires on the 31st of December, 1961.

**Mr. Burnham:** Before I ask leave to withdraw my Motion in view of the information which we have now received from the Financial Secretary, I wonder whether he can tell us whether Government proposes to renew the contract, or has been training someone to take over the onerous duties of Director of Land Settlement?

**The Financial Secretary:** I cannot say. It is a matter for decision.

**Mr. Burnham:** I am aware that it is a matter for decision, but at least the Financial Secretary can tell us whether his Government, anticipating the

end of the contract which involves a very high remuneration, has taken any steps to see that there can be a successor from the Civil Service at a lower remuneration and giving as good service.

**The Financial Secretary:** There are other officers immediately below who would be suitable for promotion to whatever post it is decided to substitute for this post, or to fill this post, when the reorganization of the Ministry has been determined.

**Mr. Burnham:** Do I understand that consequent upon the reorganization of the Ministry there is a possibility of the post of Commissioner of Land Development being restored?

**The Financial Secretary:** It may well be so, but the decision has not yet been taken.

**Mr. Burnham:** Can the Financial Secretary indicate when that decision will be taken in view of the fact that we do not have more than eight months from today?

**The Financial Secretary:** I can only say that it must be done before August next.

**Mr. Burnham:** I hope so, because I do not want to be saddled with the necessity to make that decision. [*Laughter*]. In the circumstances I ask leave to withdraw my Motion.

Motion by leave, withdrawn.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 23 — Land Development be carried out at \$613,071.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### MAGISTRATES

##### BAILIFF INTERPRETERS

**Mr. Burnham:** I move the recommendation of Head 26 — Magistrates — for the purpose of moving a reduction by \$1 of item (7) — Bailiff Interpreters, \$7,884.

Agreed to.

Head 26 recommitted.

**Mr. Burnham:** It would appear that since 1956, if not before, the holders of these six posts have made representations for a re-designation and also for re-classification. There was a time when there was need for interpreters in the Magisterial Department, but according to my instructions there is no longer any need for that, and what has in fact happened is that these persons who are classified as Bailiff Interpreters are carrying out the duties of clerks in the ordinary Clerical Establishment. In some cases some Magistrates have observed that if they were to be relieved of their particular Bailiff Interpreters who were working as clerks, it would be difficult to replace them.

It has been the consensus of opinion of Magistrates, the Registrar and, I think, also the Minister of Labour, that something should be done about this particular item. It seems to me that since the classification Bailiff Interpreter will fall into desuetude immediately, it would be better if those persons were drafted into the Clerical Establishment and given the opportunities for promotion. I understand that it is the view of the Chief Secretary's Office that these individuals can find promotion as Marshals of the Supreme Court, but that is hardly likely in view of the fact that those posts are reserved for another section — Collecting Officers and Bailiffs. I think that justice demands that these persons should have some reward for their service and be given an opportunity to get the same type of promotion as is available to those who are in the normal Clerical Service, and who do no different work.

**The Financial Secretary:** Bailiff Interpreters are of two grades, the senior grade enjoying the same salary scale as a Class 1 clerk. I have seen some papers

recently on the question of their designation, and I confess to some doubt myself as to whether the particular designation is justified by the duties these Bailiff Interpreters perform, but the difficulty about absorbing them into the Clerical Service is that they have not the basic qualification required for entry. The fact is that they are enjoying the same salary scales as Class 1 and Class 11 Clerks.

**Mr. Burnham:** That answer is very facile. One Bailiff Interpreter is on the scale A 14, and one of the five others actually holds the G.C.E. but has not yet been absorbed into the Clerical Service, contrary to the undertaking by the Government. These officers are doing good work, and the absence of qualifications has not been in any way inimical to the performance of their duties. In fact one Magistrate opined that his particular Bailiff Interpreter was doing better work than the Class 1 clerk he had before. In these enlightened days, although we always seek to have the best qualifications, it does not mean that we should ignore a person's ability if he can show it. A man should be remunerated for his ability and his service. I know certain Heads of Departments who only had one certificate, and that was their birth certificate.

**Mrs. Jagan:** On this issue I am obliged to play a different role from my usual one and join with the hon. Member on the other side in urging the Establishment Department to give careful consideration to this matter. I have already forwarded a letter to the Department pointing out what does appear to be a great injustice. In fact I have seen a testimonial by a number of Magistrates under whom these gentlemen have worked, and it seems to me that the work they are doing is entirely different from the classification under which they are employed. The experience they have gained during the years has certainly made up for any lack of educational qualifications. But as the matter has been referred by

me to the Establishment we can only urge that it be favourably considered. I know that they have been working patiently for a number of years, and it seems to me that we have reached the stage when we cannot always follow every rule laid down. I am hoping that there will be an early consideration of the matter.

**Mr. Burnham:** I am not unappreciative of the fact that I find myself riding the same horse as Lady Godiva. I still prefer to hear from those Ministers who deal immediately with the Establishment.

**The Financial Secretary:** In the circumstances, I shall consider the matter.

**Mr. Burnham:** I ask leave to withdraw my Motion.

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 26 — Magistrates be carried out at \$352,978.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 45 — Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages — be carried out at \$64,319.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

#### REGISTRATION — BIRTHS, ETC., IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

##### DEPUTY REGISTRAR GENERAL

**Mr. Burnham:** I beg to move a reduction by \$1 of item (2) — Deputy Registrar General, \$4,512. I recall that last year I directed the Financial Secre-

tary's attention to the fact that this Department is a very strange one, for when you look at the salaries of the Registrar General and the Deputy Registrar General you see such a hiatus. One is \$7,200 and the other \$4,512 per annum, and I do not think one can find such a disparity in any other Department. I am sorry, there is a similar disparity under Legislature between the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk. I was told that these things were to be considered when we came to consider the Gorsuch Report.

**The Chairman:** We have already passed Head 45; we are now at Head 45A.

**Mr. Burnham:** You will pardon me Sir, if I cannot keep up with your pace.

**The Chairman:** But you are a much younger man.

**Mr. Burnham:** I understand that the youngest man did not win the 100 meters race at the Olympics. In the circumstances, I beg to move a recommittal of Head 45. I shall not be long. I would just like to hear what the Financial Secretary has to say.

**The Financial Secretary:** It is difficult to answer a question like that unless you sit down and really consider all the merits of the case. It must have been for very good reasons that it was agreed on that basis originally.

**Mr. Burnham:** May I, with regret — As I understand —

**The Chairman:** In effect, I understand the Financial Secretary to say that there is no firm answer that he can give you at the moment, only if he had a look at the file — if I understand the Financial Secretary aright.

**Mr. Burnham:** Your Honour's paraphrase is most accurate and it does agree with the Financial Secretary's answer, but the fact is that though the personality of

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the Financial Secretary is changed, the office has not. This undertaking was given last year and I do hope that the present holder of the office would be a little busier about giving consideration to this matter than, obviously, his predecessor has been.

I beg to withdraw my Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

REGISTRATION — BIRTHS, ETC. —  
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

**The Chairman:** The Question is, that Head 45A — Registration — Births, Etc. — Immigration Department — be carried out at \$21.942.

Agreed to.

Head passed.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

NURSES AND SERVANTS, THE PALMS

**Mr. Burnham:** I beg to move the reduction by \$1 of Sub-Head (12) — Nurses and Servants, The Palms \$149,973. Before what is known popularly as the D'Andrade Report, the nurses at The Palms were all of the same category. They were paid the same salaries, they did the same type of work and, particularly, they were all given the same consideration. Subsequent to the implementation of the D'Andrade Report, it was agreed what the salaries of the certified and uncertified nurses should be. That was agreed upon and accepted by those workers and the organization that represented them in the industrial field. The D'Andrade Report also recommended the designation which is now known as ward aids and the proposal was that uncertified nurses would be so designated. That was settled as far as my own know-

ledge goes; and the agreement was that whoever comes in subsequent to that Report would be so regarded and so designated, but not those who were there before.

I understand, and with some knowledge, that there is dissatisfaction which is existing at The Palms at the moment with regard to the redesignation of uncertified nurses as ward aids. I am almost certain that the people who are already employed are not unaware of the fact that changes and conditions are only applicable to those who are entering the Service and such changes as envisaged can never apply to people who are actually in the Service. I do not know what the Financial Secretary or Chief Secretary contemplates doing now that they have heard that there is great dissatisfaction among the people who were employed on the job before the D'Andrade Report became a matter of policy.

**The Financial Secretary:** There were two classes to be dealt with — the certified and uncertified nurses. The uncertified nurses were placed on a special scale that was peculiar to them; and the certified nurses came under the same hospital scales, and that is still the same. Nothing has been changed in that respect.

**Mr. Jackson:** What is being admitted, now, is that they will be called ward aids. It was agreed that where you are going to have a change in working conditions as a policy, that this change in conditions would apply only to those who are entering the Service. The designation "ward aids", which the Financial Secretary is aware of, should not be applied to people who are called uncertified nurses. An attempt is now being made to designate them as such. The point I want to get at is whether Government had meant, with its policy, to go back upon what it had agreed on and whether —

**The Financial Secretary:** I do not know of any change in policy.



**Mr. Jackson:** So that if it become known to the Government that the uncertified nurses are now concerned and are on the point of becoming embarrassed at the position, would Government recognize its policy — the policy of industrial relations — that new terms and conditions of employment can only be, by agreement, applied to those who are already in the Service, but that it can apply, without any agreement, to those who are now entering the Service? Would Government take cognizance of the point?

**The Chairman:** Would you like to leave this here until tomorrow, to give the Financial Secretary an opportunity to look it up?

**Mr. Jackson:** Yes, Sir.

**The Financial Secretary:** I beg to move that Council resume.

Question put, and agreed to.

Council resumed.

#### ADJOURNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

**The Chief Secretary:** Last Friday, I proposed that this week we should have sittings from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., and from 8.00 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. I think, this afternoon, we have made some real progress. I have also discussed this matter with hon. Members of the "Opposition" and I have been given the assurance that this Budget will be completed by the end of this week without having the need for night sittings. Under these circumstances, I now move that Council adjourn until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** Council is now adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock in the afternoon.

*Council adjourned accordingly, at 5 p.m.*