

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 3]

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

19th Sitting

2 p.m.

Tuesday, 25th March, 1969

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. R.B. Gajraj, C.B.E., J.P.

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (35)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S Burnham, Q.C.,
Prime Minister

(Absent)

Ministers (14)

Cde. P.A. Reid,
Minister of Finance

Cde. R.J. Jordan,
Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Cde. M. Kasim
Minister of Communications

Cde. H.D. Hoyte
Minister of Home Affairs

Cde. N. J. Bissember,
Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs

Cde. C.M.L. John,
Minister of Local Government

Cde. W.G. Carrington,
Minister of Labour and Social Security

Cde. S.M. Patterson,
Minister of Education

Cde. B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

Cde. S.S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C., **(Absent)**
Attorney General and Minister of State

Cde. M.W. Carter, **(Absent)**
Minister of Information

Cde. H. Green, **(Absent)**
Minister of Works and Hydraulics

Cde. H.O. Jack, **(Absent)**
Minister without Portfolio

Cde. S.E. Talbot, **(Absent)**
Minister of Health

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

Cde. P. Duncan,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Cde. J.G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Cde. W. Haynes,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Hydraulics

Cde. A. Salim,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and
Natural Resources

Cde. J.R. Thomas,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Other Members (15)

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Cde. M.M. Ackman
Cde. K. Bancroft
Cde. J. Budhoo, J.P.
Cde. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
Cde. O.E. Clarke, Deputy Speaker
Cde. E.F. Correia
Cde. M. Corrica
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler
Cde. P.A. Limerick
Cde. S.M. Saffee
Cde. D.A. Singh
Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman
Cde. C.E. Wrights
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.

Members of the Opposition (23)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

Cde. C.B. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition

Other Members(22)

Cde. Ram Karran
Cde. R. Chandisingh
Cde. F.H.W. Ramsahoye
Cde. D.C. Jagan
Cde. E. M.G. Wilson
Cde. A.M. Hamid, J.P.
Cde. G.H. Lall
Cde. M.Y. Ally
Cde. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
Cde. E.M. Stoby (Absent)
Cde. R. Ally
Cde. E.L. Ambrose
Cde. L.M. Branco
Cde. Balchand Persaud
Cde. Bholah Persaud
Cde. I. Remington, J.P. (Absent)
Cde. R.P. Sahoye
Cde. V. Teekah

Cde. R.E. Cheeks
Cde. E. DaSilva
Cde. M.F. Singh
Cde. J.A. Sutton

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly – F.A. Narain
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – M.B. Henry

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**DONATION OF BLOOD**

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I must apologise for our starting a little late but as you know, the blood collecting unit of the Central Medical Laboratory is in our Committee Room and many of our hon. Members have done their duty and have given their pint blood. Those who have not will, of course, from time to time be able to go into the Committee Room and make their donation. All the officers who are advising hon. Ministers are also invited to join in this national exercise as well as those of our visitors who are in the Public Gallery. Blood is needed for all who are ill and there is no difference whatsoever. All barriers are crossed when the need for blood arises and I, therefore, hope that the nation can come together as one irrespective of race, religion or whatever different views they might have.

ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, 1969

The second point I should like to make is in connection with the business of the House. This is the last day on which the examination of the Heads of Estimates will take place and as we had arranged originally, we work until 10 o'clock but this evening, we cannot wait until 10 o'clock to put the remaining heads. It is my proposal, therefore, that subject to the number of Heads which remain to be dealt with, around 9.30 p.m., I shall then suspend all further discussions in order to put the remaining Heads. I should just like Members to know the position.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS – FIRST READING

The following Bill was introduced and read the First time:

Fisheries (Amendment) Bill, 1969. (**The Minister of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources.**)

25.3.69

National Assembly

2.20 – 2.30 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

BUDGET DEBATE

Assembly resumed debate on the Motion moved by the Minister of Finance on 28th February, 1969, for the approval of estimates of expenditure for the financial year 1969, totalling \$146,698,155 (excluding \$29,567,751 which is chargeable by law.)

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

Ministry of Education

The Chairman: When we adjourned last evening, we were on the Head, Ministry of Education and I think we were able to finish only the first of the Heads, which was Head 38. The next one is Head 39 on page 101 and the hon. Member, Mr. Teekah, had indicated his desire to speak.

The Ministry of Trade and Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Bissember): This is not really an Amendment. The note in the legend on page 101 should be deleted. It relates to subhead 4, to provide for reopening of a centre at Skeldon, but it does not really apply to subhead 4.

The Chairman: Is the hon. Minister of Education in agreement?

The Minister of Education: (Mrs. Patterson): Yes, sir.

The Chairman: The printer's devil.

Mr. Teekah: I just wanted to make a few general points.

Mrs. Da Silva: I think the hon. Member, Mr. Sutton, wants to look for his notes. He has just a few general remarks.

Dr. Ramsahoye: Subhead 5.

Mr. Teekah: Under the P.P.P. Government, In-Service Teacher Training started and a network of centres was established throughout. This was necessary because a very large number of teachers in our schools were not properly trained. Because of the great desire to train our teachers, eight in-service training centres were set up in order to cope with the great number of untrained teachers. We had a very scientific programme to have our teachers trained and we were working along with the recommendation made by various UNESCO teams which came here. Presently in Guyana, the situation is very bad in that only two in-service training centres are operating and in the primary schools there is only one trained teacher to every 106 students. The situation is even worse in the secondary schools where there is one trained teacher to every 112 students.

I want to ask the Minister of Education what overall scientific programme the Government has to train those teachers who are actually practising. There are only 43 teachers trained in the Rupununi and 20 in the North West District. The present practice of the Government is to bring down these teachers to Georgetown and have them trained at the Georgetown centre. Prior to 1965, it was the case that at the Anna Regina in-service training centre, many teachers from the Essequibo area were trained and it was also a part of the development plan of the Government to expand centres to the interior areas. Can the Minister say whether it is not wiser for the Government to set up in-service training centres in the interior

areas so as to put out a larger number of trained teachers much more rapidly than is presently done?

Question number three is that in the past a teacher could have entered in-service training provided he or she could satisfy certain minimum qualifications. Unfortunately, the Government has thrown intelligence to the wind and is demanding of teachers that they are at least 25 years of age before they enter in-service training, qualifications disregarded. Does the hon. Minister think that it is a wise thing, an intelligent thing to do, to ask a teacher who has five or six years' experience in the teaching profession to leave the teaching profession now and enter the pre-service centre when it is generally known that "pre-service" training means "before service?"

One would have thought that a teacher with three, four or five years' practising experience would be better accommodated in the in-service training programme rather than in the pre-service programme.

2.30 p.m.

My next question deals with the hardships presently endured by teachers involved in in-service training. Anyone who understands school procedure would know that it is very difficult for teachers to work all day and then train after work. Is the Minister aware of these hardships? When this idea of in-service was conceived it was realised that, after learning the disadvantages from practical knowledge and experience, the whole system could be modified.

Is the Minister (Mrs. Patterson) considering the possibility of having some system whereby teachers could work for a particular number of hours and devote the remaining period of time to training? Has the Government any programme? The teachers are crying out under this labourious task. The P.P.P. Government established eight in-service centres; this Government has only two, and, notwithstanding the pronouncement by the hon. Minister of

Education for our teachers to be trained, what steps the Government are taking to remedy this and have more centres constructed.

The Chairman: the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye.

Dr. Ramsahoye: I wish to know whether the provision at subhead 5 relates to buying of laboratory equipment and materials because the teaching of science is greatly affected by the absence of adequate material. I know that it would be difficult for the Government to provide a complete laboratory for teachers in relation to their work in science subjects, but it ought to be possible for the Government to make a concerted effort to provide a substantial amount every year for this service so that, at the end of five years, there would be a reasonably adequate laboratory.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson: the hon. Member Mr. Teekah made a point that I intended to make except that I would like to go a bit further. This is in connection with the granting, to teachers, of time to study at the in-service centre. Many of the teachers who participate should be mature teachers. It is reasonable to expect that they would not be able to take the strain of working all through the day, making notes at night and then returning to classes afterwards.

I would suggest that the Government consider a scheme whereby teachers could be relieved from work for a term or two terms and given the opportunity of going to the centres to participate in in-service training.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Wilson: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah made a point that I intended to make except that I would like to go a bit further. This is in connection with the granting, to teachers, of time

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I would suggest that the Government consider a scheme whereby teachers could be relieved from work for a term or two terms and given the opportunity of going to the centres to participate in in-service training.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton: Mr. Chairman, there are two or three questions which I would like the Minister of Education to answer on this head. Is there an age limit at which persons could be inducted in the in-service training course and is there any emphasis put on any particular age group? Is there any waiving of the age limit in view of the fact that the need for teachers is so great that if they waive the age limit, should it be that there is an age limit, what would be the position when they have finished teaching the teachers?

I make this point because it has been said that the younger person seeking in-service training is somewhat discouraged by the fact that teachers who have been employed for some time are not permitted to get this type of training and therefore younger persons will have little opportunity. This could be eliminated by the fact that, in the immediate foreseeable future, we will have more qualified teachers to use.

In this particular programme I wonder if any specific inducement would be given to Amerindian teachers or Amerindian students to become teachers, in the light of the great need for Amerindian teachers in the interior.

Owing to the question of certain areas of language difficulty, it appears most essential to get as many young teachers as possible to teach in the Amerindian areas of the interior. I notice

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2.30 – 2.40 p.m.

that, in the same UNESCO Planning Recommendations, 1966-71 to which I drew some comparisons last evening, there is a forecast on the availability of teachers for 1968 and 1969 based on a general forecast starting from 1965/66 and going through and including 1975/76. It would appear that, on this forecast, at least as mentioned in the Report, one could determine teachers' requirements and the capital arrangements that should be made for producing teachers under the Development Programme.

With the project output of in-service teachers, mentioned for 1966/67 as 700 and for 1968/69 as 500 – and it says here that at this time the number of teachers actually in employment and trained should have been 2,570 and 3,300 respectively – and the projected output of pre-service teachers making a total of 2,693, and in view of the fact that the plan for the reduction of trained teachers may have been based on this UNESCO Report, could the hon. Minister tell us what projections will be attained, which will be varied and when, from their present plan, efficient teachers will be produced to take care of our needs?

2.40 p.m.

Mrs. Patterson: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah has raised the question for the third time in this House. The question of teacher training which I did get across to him on previous occasions, that it is the policy of this Government to place emphasis on pre-service training and on in-service training. It is therefore the aim of the Government to produce properly trained teachers. When this Government took over we had to close these centres because, at the time the centres were closed down, there were most dissatisfactory conditions for teachers who had applied to be trained at Anna Regina, for example. In fact, what we have is a much better system. Those teachers are brought to Georgetown and so produce a better quality of teacher to meet our needs. I make the point again, the hon. Member seems not to understand, in-service training is always the supplement to pre-service training and it is on the former that the emphasis will continue to be.

He also mentioned that there was an age limit. This is precisely because we want to encourage young people to have a pre-service training. Where young people who had an opportunity to receive pre-service training go into these schools without any teaching experience then a Pre-Service Programme should be used to remedy this deficiency. The in-service training programme is said to be a temporary one and it was contemplated even by Members on the other side. We have taken positive steps to strengthen a pre-service training programme.

I am asked whether I am aware of the hardship of those who work all day and study at night. I am aware, and I should like to say a special word of commendation to our teachers. I am happy that they have taken on the challenge. I may mention that each potential teacher has classes on three days a week so that the work will not be too heavy. The individual should have the minimum qualification of three years' experience in the school before he or she is given this kind of training. That will have answered the hon. Member Mr. Sutton's question too.

The hon. Members Dr. Ramsahoye and Mr. Teekah asked specifically whether we had any intention of re-arranging the hours. We have no such intention. It was suggested that we change the hours so that teachers will work a certain number of hours and devote the remaining period to training. This poses a problem because as you will see the children will then suffer. Our teachers have accepted this challenge and are coping with the situation.

Others spoke glibly of increasing the number of training centres. There is not only the question of providing potentially trained teachers but there is also the question of availability within that area of the teachers. This availability does not exist and we have to continue to bring teachers to be trained in Georgetown.

In relation to the Rupununi, we have been paying special attention to the training of Amerindians so that they will take their places in the teaching profession. There are Amerindians who participate in the normal course of training. They do not have in-service training and we have had to establish three-year preliminary training courses for these particular

teachers. We are encouraging Amerindians, and I think we ought to think of them in the context that they are Guyanese like the rest of us. All the facilities in the Ministry of Education – our educational system – are open to them.

I think that I have answered all the questions that have been asked.

Head 39, Ministry of Education - \$113,911, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We go on now to page 102.

HEAD 40 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PRIMARY, MULTILATERAL AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 1: items 1 to 6. Subheads 3, 5, 6 (a), 7 and 12.

The Chairman: Any other Members?

Mr. Sutton: Subhead 8 – general comment.

The Chairman: Hon. Members you must make the general comment very short.

Mr. Teekah: I will deal with item 1 to 6 together. The first question I should like to ask is: What is the Government doing regarding the filling of posts of Headmasters for the schools at Kabakaburi Mountains and is the Government aware the parents and students at Winch Wakenaam are extremely unhappy with the behaviour of the present Headmaster?

As a matter of fact parents have accused the Headmaster of drinking bush rum in the school. As a result, they have picketed that school for the past few weeks and, as a further consequence of their feelings on the whole matter, they have kept their children from school for a few days. What, therefore, is the Government doing about this disaster at Wakenaam?

Is the Government aware also that at No. 56 Government School the Headmaster, Mr. Jeffrey Changur, is not performing his duties efficiently because on two occasions officers of the Ministry of Education visited that school and failed to find the Headmaster there. On three occasions the Education Officer, Mr. Cadogan, visited the school and failed to find Mr. Changur. On two occasions Mr. Fox, the Chief Education Officer, went there and could not find the Headmaster, Mr. Changur. I know for a fact that Mr. Changur is a lawyer and it has been alleged that his duties as a lawyer affect his work.

Is the Minister of Education aware of the many problems that teachers face? There are numerous problems that teachers face today. There is discrimination against teachers in particular areas. Take, for instance, Wakenaam: a teacher there has a particular qualification but he has been sent to Cornelia Ida on West Demerara and someone from that area, with similar qualifications, has been sent to Wakenaam. Such unnecessary transfers cause hardship on the poor people.

The Minister of Education said that teachers are doing a commendable job with which she is very well pleased, but is she aware of the unnecessary and undue hardship which these people have to bear? Would it not be better if a little more commonsense could be exercised to have persons teach in the districts in which they reside? Is the Ministry aware also that people have to travel several miles a day, almost 100 miles, to teach at schools in Black Bush? Teachers could very well be found close to that area to teach in Black Bush but nevertheless they are ignored and teachers are recruited from long distances away to teach at the schools there.

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2.50 – 3 p.m.

I wish to draw the attention of this House to the fact that many of the problems of the teaching profession would have been solved if only the Government had implemented what it promised in the White Paper on Education. I quote from page 11:

“Discussions have been held with the Christian Social Council representing the Governing Bodies of Denominational Schools and the Guyana Union of Teachers regarding the establishment of a Teachers’ Service Commission in accordance with the terms of the Constitution. Agreement has already been reached on the establishment of a Commission which will function for teachers in primary schools in like manner as the Public Service Commission for Civil Servants.

Eventually a unified teaching service will be established within the control of the Commission.”

That was written on 4th January, 1968. The Teachers’ Service Commission was conceived a very long time ago. It was conceived during the regime of the P.P.P. Government by the then Minister of Education, Mr. Nunes, because he was not indifferent to the problems of teachers. A Teachers’ Service Commission is necessary and had it been established it would have gone a very far way to eliminate many of the problems teachers have to face. There are many problems. On the East Bank a friend of mine a teacher, has been acting in another capacity and he cannot get an allowance.

As a matter of fact, since last year the Government spoke about discussions having been almost concluded about the Teachers’ Service Commission yet up to today, 25th March, 1969, no Teachers’ Service Commission has been established. Teachers are quarrelling; they are frustrated.

Last year the then President of the Guyana Teachers’ Association, Mr. Ainsworth, described the teachers as orphans of the Government. The Government is so concerned about teachers that last year the President of the Guyana Teachers’ Association said that teachers are the orphans of the Government. I should like to know whether the Minister of Education is not concerned about this matter and I should like her to act swiftly to let us realize it.

Another thing which I should like to ask while we are discussing these items is this: What are the minimum qualifications for a teacher? I am aware that some Education Officers will say four G.C.E. subjects; others will say five subjects. On the coastland persons are teaching with the minimum C.P. certificate. In other cases, for instance at Cotton Tree Government School, teachers with four and five subjects at the G.C.E. Ordinary Level were laid off. They were replaced by teachers with the C.P. If the Minister will check this before she replies she will find that this is so.

Since I am dealing with this question, there is another problem about acting teachers. I want to draw to the attention of the Minister of Education the fact that teachers have been acting for four years. There is one teacher on the East Bank who has been acting for four years and has not yet been confirmed in the post. Why is Government dragging its feet? Why is it pussy-footing on education? Why is it only wasting time? Why procrastinate all the time and confuse and frustrate people and drive them out of the profession?

3 p.m.

Subhead 3: I notice that the sum of \$15,000 is provided for Libraries for Teachers and Schools. I am aware that the library facilities in the schools of this country are very limited. Sometime last year there was a total of about 381 primary and secondary schools and by now there are approximately 420 primary and secondary schools. This amount of \$15,000 to look after the libraries for these schools is very small. After consulting with her Education Officers, the Minister would know that the libraries are in a very poor condition, the facilities are very limited, there are a few number of books and, of course, they are not very helpful to the students. I urge that we should spend more money in this direction because it would be helpful in the education of our children.

Subhead 6 (b), Grants To Hindu and Muslim Organisations: Teaching of Languages - \$4,250: In the White Paper on Education, it is stated that the Government proposes to introduce

courses in African and Oriental languages. We see here that provision is made for the teaching of Hindu and Urdu, but what is being done about Swahili? The Government pretends to be the champion of the Afro-Guyanese in this country. [Mr. Bissember: "All Guyanese."] Why is there provision for the teaching of Hindu and Muslim languages only? Why is there no provision for the teaching of African languages? I challenge the Government to tell the nation why no provision is made for the teaching of Swahili.

Subhead 7, Supplies to Government Schools: The explanatory note states that there is an increase in the number of schools. I know for a fact that, last year, the Government school at Zeelugt was closed down. I am also aware that we are going to have seven multilateral schools. Of course provision has otherwise been made for those. First of all, I should like to know how many Government secondary schools are being provided at present. Seventy-five per cent of the children of this country do not get secondary education. What is the Government doing to increase the number of secondary schools? Yes, there are seven multilateral schools going up, but this is being done under a special IBRD/IDA programme. What is being done apart from this? It is true that the Government relies heavily on the self-help programme for the building of schools, but this ought to be supplemented because it is not providing the large number of schools that is so much desired. I would urge the Government to pay more attention to this so that we could have a greater number of secondary schools and, therefore, a larger number of students would be able to obtain secondary education in this country.

Subhead 12, Travelling Expenses of Teachers in the Interior: This is a very ticklish matter. It is also a frustrating matter for teachers in the Interior areas. I think that the sum of \$27,000 which is provided is far too small. The Government speaks about having well equipped and well trained teachers in the Interior areas, but you cannot just talk about this without acting effectively and deliberately to encourage those teachers to go in those areas. Teachers in the Interior are extremely unhappy about the arrangements being made by the Government for their material welfare. They have said this on several occasions. At the Conference last year, they protested in the presence of the former Minister of Education, Mrs. Winifred Gaskin. They

criticized her for this and still nothing has been done to provide better arrangements for the teachers who are posted to the Interior areas.

Last year the Guyana Union of Teachers made a very reasonable proposal to the Government but, of course, probably through lack of wisdom, that proposal was ignored. The proposal was this: that, at the end of every term, the Government should bring down the head of a school to look after the business of the school. Is this House aware that last year the Ministry turned down that very reasonable proposal? The practice now is to bring down the head of the school and his family only once per year. That is all the inducement that is given. How can you talk about getting more people in the Interior? How are you going to attract these people? Where are the inducements and incentives? Of course the Minister and the officers in the Ministry are well taken care of, but the students are suffering. Of course certain persons have qualifications; they are not interested in others, but our brothers and sisters in the Interior suffer because nothing is being done to attract properly trained teachers to go there. As a result, inadequately trained teachers are the ones who are there, and that is the cause of the chaos and many of the problems.

Mr. Sutton: My remarks will be chiefly directed in the light of the Minister's statement that the aim is that, within a short space of time, the people in the Interior should be treated like everyone else and be integrated into the Guyanese society.

I would also call attention to subhead 6 (a) with particular emphasis on Maintenance of School Radios and the providing of school radios. I have observed that, in certain parts of the Interior, one of the disadvantage is either there are no radios or the radios are not in working condition. I feel that the schools in the Interior have a greater need for radios than the ones on the coast where there is easy access to papers and other news media.

I should like the Minister to tell us whether there is any system for providing and servicing interior radios because just to send them and after they had been sent, they are found to be out of order, is a waste of time. I should also like to know whether the Education Department or the Ministry do in fact intend that schools in the deep rural areas should have the benefit of radio.

I turn to subhead 7, Supplies to Government Schools, and I would mention at this stage the most vexed question of textbooks and adequate stationery, not only for the teachers but particularly for the pupils. I shall refer to the UNESCO report previously quoted because I would presume that the idea of these reports is to give a worthwhile guide to solve without the advice of experts. I should like to quote the relevant paragraph from *UNESCO PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS 1966 – 71* on the subject of providing textbooks and I should like the Minister to tell us what progress has been made on this question of textbooks and whether the Government plans to implement any part of these recommendations.

“At present pupils provide their own books and stationery which means that, unless an examination is impending very few pupils have the necessary materials to meet the teaching requirements of the curriculum. It is not unusual to see four or five children crowding over a book, that is not always prescribed by the syllabus. A free issue of textbooks would ensure that the children had at least some permanent prohibitive. It is, however, recommended that consideration should be given to the issue of textbooks on loan to the pupils. On the assumption that a book would normally have a life of four years it is estimated that the ‘per capita’ cost of this proposal would be...”

and it goes on to mention that the cost should be within the means of the country.

It was looked at and some attempt was made to take care of the suggestion. I should, therefore, ask the Minister to let us know if any progress has been made towards providing

textbooks for primary schools and whether any progress has been made in both primary and secondary schools in the unification of textbooks.

I hope, sir, you will allow me to say a few words on subhead 10, which I had skipped. I notice that \$100,000 is provided for examinations. I think the whole House is aware that examination fees are in the vicinity of \$1.50 per subject. I should like the Minister, maybe somewhere around, to tell us where the amount, which is collected as fees, appears, in these estimates.

On subhead 13, School Feeding Scheme, I again ask what arrangements are either made or proposed to be made either now or at some future time, to try to integrate the schools in the outlying areas in the school feeding programme. I do not think there will be much argument when we say, whatever school feeding is necessary anywhere, it is certainly necessary in the rural areas where people have to travel several miles and certainly, the standard of living is accepted to be rather lower than it is in urban areas. What plans are there to make the school feeding programme available to the majority of schools in the country?

Mr. Wilson: My general comments are in regard to the Ministry's policy in getting qualified teachers into schools in the interior. The hon. Member, Mr. Teekah, stressed the aspect of facilities in coming to Georgetown. I should like to stress the aspect of housing. It has come to my knowledge on several occasions that many teachers are reluctant to remain in the interior because of unsatisfactory housing. Madhia is one example. The teacher actually left teaching and remained unemployed because of the difficulty in finding housing at Kamarang. The teacher was forced to leave the interior and come hanging around Georgetown. Eventually, he got a job in a private secondary school. In the North West District, a teacher who now works at Ann's Grove was forced to leave. At Kamarang, the teacher had to live in the logies with the miners. *[Interruption]* He just could not stand the situation.

Subhead 8, Cleaning of Government Schools. It has come to my knowledge that the system of payment for cleaning schools seems to be without any principle. It is very irregular; I know there is dissatisfaction at Zeeburg Secondary School because there, the Headmaster changed up the system and distributed work between two teachers, which caused the teachers to feel that he is discriminating against them.

3.20 p.m.

They want to teach but there is some dissatisfaction. I did not mention subhead 13 as one of my points, but if Your Honour will permit me to speak on it for one minute –

The Chairman: The hon. Member may proceed.

Mr. Wilson: When I was trying to speak on School Welfare Officers time had caught up with me, so I shall take the opportunity now in connection with school feeding. Rather than giving children biscuits and milk, the authorities should look into the question of providing solid food. The system of distributing biscuits and milk is an old one.

It may be found that some of these children come from families who cannot afford to give them even one meal a day and some sort of social assistance should be given to them. The Minister should consider this very successful.

Mrs. Patterson: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah brought to this House a list of several problems facing teachers in identified areas. There will always be problems and it is a good thing. Without problems we would all go stale and never try to exercise our minds. The only thing wrong is not trying to find a solution.

For example, he has mentioned Black Bush Polder where teachers travel many miles to get to the school but I would like to point out that this is a very bad example. There was a house

provided for the Headmaster but he refused to live in it. These are areas where the Opposition members should help. In the case of the Corentyne area, appointment of the Headmaster is being dealt with.

There is a question on the Teachers' Service Commission. Perhaps the hon. Member is aware that the Collins Commission is examining the question. We have no desire to anticipate its recommendations; we have clear views on this and we will look at the recommendations of the Collins Commission and see what can be done.

The hon. Member raised the question of minimum qualifications for acting teachers. It is a very good question coming from the mouths of the very Opposition. I would like to say that qualifications vary from area to area in view of our needs and what teacher potential is available to take these posts. In Georgetown where there tends to be more teachers, one can place teachers who have good qualifications generally whereas, in areas remote from Georgetown, there is not such a spate of qualified teachers.

On the question of Libraries for Teachers and Schools -- [*Interruptions*]

The Chairman: Will hon. Member listen please?

Mrs. Patterson: -- as soon as this Government took over it pushed an intensive programme resulting in the present position of all schools having good libraries. This sum, I would like to say, is mainly used for providing shelves, et cetera. We have received many books as gifts from various sources and these are distributed to schools and will continue to be distributed.

The hon. Member raised the question of Hindu and Muslim Organisations: Teaching of Languages under subhead 6 (b). He made a very good point in that we should teach both Indian

and African languages. I shall immediately address my mind to using this grant to teach both sets of languages.

Subhead 8, Cleaning of Government Schools. I was pleased to hear the point that the hon. Member Mr. Wilson made of the teachers' anxiety to participate in the cleaning of schools. In fact, our policy is to award payment as we appoint cleaners to the schools and we pay them.

Both the hon. Member Mr. Sutton and the hon. Member Mr. Wilson spoke on school feeding. We do provide milk and biscuits to rural and urban schools. This could be increased. Hon. Members know that we receive milk and flour as gifts. I do not think that it will be possible to go back to Mr. Wilson's suggestion of more food. The reason why we are giving out milk is because it is a perfect diet and this is all we can do with the money at our disposal.

The question of travelling expenses of teachers was raised in conjunction with the question of teacher housing. We have, in the past, been building houses for teachers. At the end of last year we built eleven houses. The programme for this year is for 17 schools for these areas which have been mentioned. I was asked how many of the secondary schools have been built and what is being done to places meant for school buildings. The building of schools goes on. There are 28, most of them built during the last four years. We have started building for this year along with multilateral schools.

The hon. Member Mr. Sutton asked about the maintenance of school radios. I would like to point out, if it slipped his memory, that this Government gave a radio to every single school in the country. We endeavour to maintain these radios. The question of supplies to schools was raised. In an ideal world we would like to provide text books but this is not possible. There are other priorities – teacher training and several others come to mind – but as soon as it is possible we shall do so.

Another point on the maintenance of radios with respect to interior schools and this particular grant, those schools have their own radio sets.

I cannot recall who asked about fees and I am not clear what examination was spoken of, but examination papers are sent to overseas boards. In fact, the little amount that is contributed is not at all adequate and has to be supplemented by us. If this is not done we would have to charge the students more; that is why we make this provision.

The Chairman: I think that we have dealt with everything.

Head 40, Ministry of Education – Primary, Multilateral and Secondary Schools - \$12,265,918, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

3.30 p.m.

The Chairman: Page 103, Head 41.

HEAD 41 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION CENTRES

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I just want to ask one or two questions on subhead 2, Equipment, materials, etc – Home Economics and Handicraft Centres and Departments. I notice that there has been an increase in the amount. I should like to ask: How many additional centres there are? Where are these centres?

Mrs. Patterson: Mr. Chairman, to give this list is impossible. I would need notice of this question.

Head 41, Ministry of Education - \$547,471, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We will go on now to Head 42 on the following page which deals with the Government Training College Pre-Service Training Programme.

HEAD 42 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE PRE-SERVICE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I have about four questions on this Head.

Mr. Sutton: I have a few general remarks to make.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to make a general comment. [*Pause*]

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah will begin.

Mr. Teekah: The Head deals with Pre-Service Training. There is always a dialogue between the Minister and myself and she seems to get a little annoyed and tired.

First of all, I had observed that there will only be one Pre-Service Training Centre according to the recommendations made in the Larby Report. These gentlemen have spent a

long time in this country, as a matter of fact six months, studying our educational system. It is stated in the Germanacos Report that the ideal thing is to have one Pre-Service Training Centre because we will be able to save some money to have one such training centre but, having examined the geographic situation of our country it was also suggested that it might be better to have three; one in Berbice, one in Essequibo, and of course the one in Georgetown.

While the PPP was in office there was one at Belvedere and plans were afoot to have another in Essequibo in order to carry out these recommendations. I feel this was a very good recommendation. Unfortunately, the last Government closed down the Centre at Belvedere and was contented to have only one – the Georgetown Centre – it appears that only Georgetown can put out teachers. I find it difficult to understand how the Minister could labour the point about having teachers trained and feel satisfied to have only one Training Centre. It must be remembered that our country has three counties. Why can't teacher training be de-centralized? Why centralise so much and there are so many problems of accommodation. As a matter of fact, when we come to the IBRD grant it will be observed that the hostel is far too small to accommodate the large number of teachers who attend the pre-service training centre.

The point I wish to make is that it would have been a good thing to carry out these recommendations. Notwithstanding the fact that it might have been better to have one training centre from an economical point of view but, one must look also at the number of problems which will arise; and the practical benefits you will have acquired and the speed at which you are to train teachers if a centre is established in each country. All this was taken into consideration and it was suggested that it was better to have several pre-service training centres. This target of three cannot be reached with this present system.

There is another grave problem and which I think is very important. The majority of the students are unable to go straight away to the actual course which is training them to become teachers. A lot of work has to be done in preparing them. I wish to ask the hon. Minister whether she is aware of this, and what steps are being taken to solve some of these problems.

One person whom, I am sure, the Minister knows quite well proposed a correspondence course for three persons. Perhaps this may be the answer. Perhaps a correspondence course could be arranged from the Georgetown Training College and all persons desirous of becoming teachers could register for it. Probably a nominal fee could be charged for the course and thus it might be possible to give preliminary training to prospective students. When they arrive at the centre much of the preliminary work will have been covered and they would go straight away to teacher training.

As a matter of fact the Minister may refer to the cost and may say the staff will be too heavily taxed but since she hopes that her exhortation "Each one teach one" will be a reality, why does she not get those persons who are trained teachers and who are patriots involved in teacher training. Let them give some service so that this will be done and thus eliminate some of the problems and obstacles. Teachers will then go straight to a course that deals with their training and that is what they actually enrol for.

There is another problem which I am sure the Minister would acknowledge if she consulted with her advisers. It is a problem which has been mentioned on several occasions by one of the Principals of the Georgetown Training College, and relates to the training of experienced teachers along with inexperienced teachers at the centre. At the centre there are persons who have not taught for a single day; they have no prior knowledge of teaching, but they have to do the same course which is being done by persons who are experienced teachers.

One of the former Principals of the College expressed the view that it was a waste of time for teachers with five, six, ten years' experience to be doing the same course as inexperienced teachers. It is not a waste of time for persons who have done certain subjects by experience to do the same thing again with persons who have no experience whatsoever? The course could be cut down by at least six months for those who have already had some experience in the teaching profession. I am sure that this is worthy of consideration. Possibly there could be a special class for those who are practising teachers and another class for those who are not.

Another question which I should like to ask is this: Is the Minister aware of the inadequate allowances being given to teachers at the Georgetown Training College? This is a very serious matter and teachers are very concerned and worried about it but nobody seems to be taking up this matter. The teachers have spoken about it on several occasions, but nothing has been done and they continue to be unhappy.

I should also like to ask how many fellowships are being granted during this year. May I supplement this question and ask what the criteria for issuing these fellowships are?

The Chairman: Did the hon. Member Mr. Sutton indicate that he wished to speak? There were three Members who wished to speak on this Head.

Mr. Sutton: I will not take up much time on the general problem of education which is a major problem. I wonder if the Minister will let the House know what has become of the proposal to make the Government Training College a nucleus for an Institute of Education in the University of Guyana.

Mr. Wilson: On the question of teacher training, the Ministry is now insisting that as many teachers as possible should be afforded pre-service training and gradually in-service training will be eliminated.

In connection with pre-service training, the recruited persons who are taking this course are very young persons who have just left school. It is my view that two years is too short a period to produce a teacher. Formerly, teachers would spend between 4 and 10 years teaching and studying and saving money, then they went to the Training College to get the necessary professional improvement.

I would think that the young person of 18 or 20 years, as envisaged by this scheme, who has just come from school, would need at least four years to be properly trained. Perhaps one

could start with three years training and, as already suggested, a sandwich course could be tried out, as is done in engineering.

Teaching is a very technical activity, because if persons had an opportunity to go into schools and test what they have learnt in the College, it would assist them to appreciate and grasp instructions and directions on their return to College. Perhaps it could be started like this: Five terms in the College, then two terms in some school and back to the College for a final three terms for a professional qualification; or two years in the College, one year in the school and another final year to complete the qualifications.

I think it would be helpful if this point of view could be considered, namely, to extend the course and to put in more practical work. I know that at some time during the final term teachers

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leave the College for a few days and do some practical work, but that is not enough, seeing that these persons are “green.” They go directly from school to the College to be trained as teachers.

Mrs. Patterson: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah started out with the criticism that we have closed down the Belvedere Centre. It is interesting to note that when the Belvedere Centre was closed this decision was taken with the active concurrence of the then Principal who had been appointed by the P.P.P. Government. He had seen the unwisdom of having this Centre open because it was not doing what had been hoped. We recognize the problems of travel and this is why we are having a hostel along with the new training college that is going up at Turkeyen. This is the kind of imagination which has brought improvements from the days when Belvedere was considered the answer.

The hon. Member Mr. Teekah stressed the need for preparing students before they can go on teacher training courses. He also stressed the point that this is not a big problem. There are

few cases where this has been so and they will continue to be so. I merely illustrate the kind of concern we have that teachers be well qualified.

There was a question of some students having some amount of teaching experience whilst others had not. It is a pre-service training course and, therefore, the emphasis is on pre-service. However, this situation will continue. It does not cause too much difficulty at the moment and I can see no reason why it should not continue.

The hon. Member mentioned what he calls inadequate allowance and he went on to say that nothing has been done. Were he to keep in touch with this situation he would have discovered that allowances have been increased for students in both urban and rural areas. A new scale is in operation; it is \$50, \$75 per month.

The hon. member Mr. Teekah asked how many fellowships we have been giving. I should like to point out that we have been giving 20 fellowships in spite of the fact that UNESCO has withdrawn their contribution of 12 fellowships. Nevertheless, we intend to continue and this year we will give 26 fellowships. These are awarded on the basis of academic qualifications and the need of the people in the country.

The hon. Member Mr. Sutton raised the question of what was being done about the proposal to make the Government Training College a nucleus for an Institute of Education in the University of Education. This is not possible at the moment and I do not think it will be in the near future. There is a Faculty of Education – I presume hon. Members know about this – which has done quite a good job in this field and the Government Training College will continue as the training college, the emphasis is being mainly on the training of primary school teachers.

The hon. Member Mr. Wilson queried whether a two-year period of training was not limited for the pre-service teachers. It is not really accurate to say that pre-service teachers get two years of training. They do get two years of training within the College and that training has

a practical side as well as a theoretical side. At the end of that two-year course, they are given what is called a temporary certificate. They are sent into schools for the next two years and they teach under close supervision. If at the end of those two probationary years they have performed satisfactorily, they are only then given a certificate. If they have not performed well, then the probationary period is extended. I think I have answered the questions asked.

Head 42, Ministry of Education – Government Training College Pre-Service Teacher Training Programme - \$185,918, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Shall we turn to Head 43 and at least get an idea of what hon. Members would like to speak on?

HEAD 43 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to speak on subhead 1, item 1, and to make some general remarks.

Mr. Wilson: I should like to make some general remarks also.

Mr. Ram Karran: I should like to inquire from the Minister the Government's policy with respect to training in the Technical Institute.

The Chairman: Shall we say "general," so you could bring it in? I do not think you can deal with training here. We have passed the Head dealing with that but I know that you have not been very well so we will let you speak.

Mr. Wilson: I want to speak on the question of apprenticeship. There are some very strict rules with regard to apprenticeship. I do not think that a youngster above the age of 16 can start a system of apprenticeship. I think that something should be done to relax this rule so that an engineer could be afforded the opportunity of being apprenticed in the strict sense of apprenticeship.

Another point I wish to make is that very often youngsters take what is known as a preliminary craft course, one of these trade courses, but they do not get the opportunity to be attached to an engineering establishment. I think that the Government should consider some system by which the training in the Technical Institute should be integrated with practical attachments to industry, and youngster should not be left like that. Sometimes they go and take a three-month preliminary course and they have to go the next three year for three months. All this time they do not have the opportunity of doing any practical work; they are left to themselves.

Mr. Ram Karran: I know that the Technical Institute is geared to take students up to what is known as the Ordinary National Certificate. This has been so for several years and I understand that when the decision was taken with the authorities -- [*Interruption*] The hon. Minister says she cannot hear; we are supposed to speak to the Chairman. I was saying that for a few years now the Technical Institute has been geared to take students up to the Ordinary National Certificate. However, at the time when this concession – you may call it that – was granted to the school, it was the intention that the standard should eventually be the Higher National Certificate.

There are in this country a large number of graduate engineers, a large number of professional engineers, and I wonder what are the Government's plans with respect to upgrading this whole standard where, at some time in the future – not in the Never Never, but some time shortly – our students, the holders of Ordinary National Certificates, will be able to proceed to the Higher National Certificate.

Only a few days ago a former front bench member of the Government, who is now sitting at the back, made the observation at the opening of the Atkinson Field/Mackenzie Road that, having regard to the large number of consultants who are coming from abroad, our engineers are not being given an opportunity.

My friends on the other side have been saying that the money-lenders require that the consultants should come from abroad and, therefore, our own Guyanese engineers, qualified though they are, are never given an opportunity. If we are going to be able to start from the beginning of the training we have got to change something so that our engineers would have the experience of being consultants to the Government and they would be able to assume responsibility.

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The Technical Institute has got a good record and it has done an immense lot of work. Many students from the Institute have the Higher National Certificate. They have gone abroad and got this qualification but having regard to all these things, I think that the Ministry and the Minister should pay more attention to technical education and move forward to ensure that all opportunities will be available up to the Higher National Certificate.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: We will suspend now until 4.30 p.m.

Sitting suspended at 4 p.m.

4.35 p.m.

On resumption --

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: At the suspension, we had recognized the hon. Member, Mr. Teekah. He may now speak.

Mr. Teekah: I observe that in the Approved Estimates for 1968, \$9,360 was voted. In the revised estimates for 1968, the sum of \$4,680 was actually spent. Why was this so? Was it because of the resignation of the Principal last year? I am aware that the Principal of the Technical Institute during last year was Mr. Compton Pooran and of course, he had to seek employment with private enterprise.

It is a little amusing to know that this Government, which speaks so much about the brain drain and about attracting members of the intelligentsia back home, from its mouthings tries to give the impression that it is interested in people who are skilled, who are qualified, but yet it was so slack as to allow a brilliant Guyanese like Mr. Pooran to leave the employment of Government and seek employment with private enterprise. It is a drain on the Government and a tremendous loss of a highly skilled man whose services the Government may no longer have at its disposal. I want to know whether the present Principal is confirmed in his post.

I should like to ask what has happened to the National Advisory Board which the White Paper spoke about. On page 11, it states:

“A National Advisory Board on Technical Education is to be established to co-ordinate the work of the Technical Institute and to relate training to the areas of need. Membership of the Board will be fully representative of Government, industry, trade and commerce and educational bodies.”

This is another of the bubbles of the last Government – this White Paper, which this Government has said it will implement. Because of this White Paper, so many bubbles have been blown but

not one has been realized. The Government spoke of a National Educational Council. So many things spoken about but how many have been implemented? If the Government does not have a programme to bring about these things, nothing will be realized and this is what this Government has not realized. The Germanacos Report stated that the Government Technical Institute is heavily pressured and in this Report it has been recommended that what ought to be done is that another institute of vocational training and another college for vocational training with three junior colleges be set up.

Actually, it was going to work like this. There was to be a junior college in Berbice, another in Essequibo and the one in Georgetown to be larger than those in Essequibo and Berbice. The idea was to take off the pressure from the Government Technical Institute, let that pressure be cushioned by these three colleges having regard to space, so that those students who have passed through the colleges in Essequibo and Berbice would have more advanced training at the college in Georgetown, and if they still wanted more training, they would go on to the Technical Institute. I suppose it was one of the recommendations in 1964 to develop the Government Technical Institute into one of the faculties of education of the University of Guyana.

I see there is provision for technical institutes or technical centres in Anna Regina and New Amsterdam, but the thing is being unscientifically done because at the Institute in Georgetown, there is so much pressure that the Higher National Certificate course for technicians cannot be done there. I am told that arrangements are to be made for it to be done at the University of Guyana when the new place is opened. This is left to be seen.

The Germanacos Report also recommended the abolition of the craft course. As a matter of fact, the Preliminary Craft Course, the Germanacos Report stated, could be well taken care of in the secondary schools, and indeed, with the multilateral schools, it could be completely taken care of at this level. All the craft courses should be abolished too. We had started at the secondary school level, the teaching of those subjects with a technical bias and so having dealt

with them at secondary school level, it was no longer necessary to duplicate them at the Technical Institute. The emphasis was to be on certain practical subjects for motor mechanics, electricians, fitters, machinists, carpenters and joiners.

This was intended to bring about an advance in the field of technical learning so that a developing country like Guyana would have a diversification from this collar and tie work which so many of our students are prepared for in the grammar school. Another thing the Germanacos Report mentioned that was mentioned by the hon. Members, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Ram Karran, was the question of legislating for Government schemes to utilise the services of those persons who had been trained at the Government Technical Institute. I should like to ask if there is a training course for craftsmen with craft certificates in wood or metal work. It was proposed in the Report that a special course be conducted for those persons because there was a shortage of teachers and this would have thrown up the teachers from that level.

4.45 p.m.

Another thing which I want to speak on under this head is that on page 5 of the White Paper on Education, and I have to refer to this because this is the Government's policy, it says:

“Plans under consideration for providing vocational education programmes for Amerindian areas include the setting up of a central technical institute with hostel accommodation and the operation of mobile units with the necessary teaching personnel and equipment.”

This comes under Amerindian Education. So, steps are being taken to set up this technical institute in the Amerindian areas with adequate hostels and with enough space for students. Is this just another of the soapsuds which the last Government blew out? Were they not serious when writing something like this? Was it just for fun that these promises were made knowing that last year was elections year? This White Paper looks rosy and nice but, after the 1968 elections, nothing has been realised.

Mrs. Patterson: The hon. Member Mr. Wilson raised the question as to whether any attempt was made by Government to give these apprentices the opportunity to work on their course. I would like to say that the course he mentioned, the preliminary course, is exactly what it says; a preliminary course. When students attend this course they are attached to business enterprise so they do practical as well as institute training.

Mr. Ram Karran raised the question of opportunities opened to our students in technical fields. I made the point in this House that when the Department of Technical Studies is opened in September or October, depending on when the term starts, these students will enrol for this type of training.

In relation to the training of engineers, again, I have made the point that the ultimate aim of this Department of Technical Studies is to continue training sub professionals; this is the ultimate objective.

In reply to Mr. Teekah, in relation to the Principal of this Institute, he was appointed in July last year; this explains the revised estimates. The Principal at that time left for an attractive post in industry and the present one answered the "back-to-Guyana" call and took up the post. He is there now and is to be confirmed.

On the National Advisory Board and other arrangements which the hon. Member mentioned, at another time I would have indulged in giving the hon. Member a very short lecture on what social education is. It takes careful planning. He says that these were election gambits. I do not know if he expected them to be done between December and March. They will be done as is seen fit in the context of Guyana. We will take into account the needs of Guyana and try to perform at a pace dictated by this country.

Someone asked whether there was a trade class for metal workers; yes, there is. It has been in operation since 1965 on a firm basis and is going well. Since 1961 to 1964 this

Government has taken a fresh and vital look into education. The multilateral system introduces a greater system starting from primary school and goes through university. I have outlined some of this before and will not go over it again.

Head 43, Ministry of Education – Technical Institute - \$398,068, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 44 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

CARNEGIE SCHOOL OF HOME ECONOMICS

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I would like to speak on the whole Head as one.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to make general comments.

The Chairman: Mr. Sutton, do you wish to say anything?

Mr. Sutton: No, sir.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Mr. Teekah: Mr. Chairman, home economics is wrongly dismissed as a secondary subject. As a matter of fact, many people think that much emphasis ought not to be put on this subject, either in primary or secondary schools. In our country today, we find many young women not utilising their time fruitfully. They only aim at certain types of jobs such as clerical jobs. We want to break away from this; for one thing, there are not enough clerical jobs to give to everyone.

A comprehensive programme should be worked out so that something constructive can be done. There is only one school of home economics controlled by the Government. There are classes, I am told, at Hopetown and other places but there is no particular centre functioning.

Prostitution is something which this society finds as evil; yet it is rampant in Guyana today. More and more we find young people, young women, indulging in this exercise. This is caused by the great percentage of unemployment; there is nothing to do so that we find that these

4.55 p.m.

people either have man-power wasted since the female sex is not properly brought into a productive sector of the economy or they indulge in unproductive activity. The Government Members speak about trying to get people to indulge in other things. The Minister of Agriculture once said that people must learn to mess their fingers with mud instead of ink. How will this be brought about? For instance, if you want girls or women not only to look forward to clerical jobs, if you do not want them to waste man-power at home doing nothing, if you do not want them to waste their energy in prostitution, then work out a good programme to have them properly trained.

This country is not only made up of Georgetown or Demerara. What about Berbice and Essequibo? The services of the Carnegie School of Home Economics should be extended into these areas. Why restrict services and facilities to one area only. I am told that there are small classes conducted and nothing scientific has been drawn out; and this Government seems to be happy going along like this. All we hear are a lot of fancy speeches. The people of this country do not want to hear fancy speeches. We need development and improvement. The trouble is that one could talk until thy kingdom come, so to speak, but the Government will not change the Estimates. No matter how logical these arguments are, nothing is ever done.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Wilson: I should like to know whether these girls are being trained for any particular jobs. I understand that they take the City and Guilds Examination. If that is so, I should like to know if steps are being taken for them to go further. Could the Minister say how many girls on the average leave school per year and, whether anything is being done to find out where they go from there? How are they absorbed into the community or the Ministry is just satisfied with training them and leaving the matter there?

Mrs. Patterson: There is a well-integrated programme in home economics in this country. Mention was also made of the fact that there is one school in Georgetown and as he puts it, he understands there is a centre somewhere else. There is a school in Georgetown; there are five centres throughout the country and two new ones are being erected – one is nearing completion. There are thirty-four Departments of Home Economics and five more will be put up this year. These Centres are spread through the length and breadth of the country. [*Interruption by the hon. Member Mr. Wilson.*] I am not speaking of community centres. I am speaking of home economics centres which are different and distinct from those.

The hon. Member Mr. Wilson asked a reasonable question as to whether Carnegie girls are taking any examinations. There is training going on at Carnegie – different types. For example, there are special courses for teachers who are Teacher/Trainees and who do, in this area, the City and Guilds Examinations. In addition to that, there are evening classes. There are other girls who do the three-year course and they do the College of Preceptors Examinations at the end of the school term.

Head 44, Ministry of Education - \$104,942, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We shall turn to page 107, Head 45.

HEAD 45 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Subheads 7, 10 and 11.

Mr. Wilson: I wish to make a general comment.

The Chairman: Any other Member? [*After a pause.*] Well then the hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Mr. Teekah: Subhead 7: Educational Supplies, Equipment and Apparatus, \$14,000. Queen's College is as the highest institution for secondary education in the West Indies. A survey shows that the Laboratory at Queen's College needs developing. It could do well with more equipment. I wish to urge the Government, in order to live up to its standard, to do something about it. The same applies to the Library. I feel that there should be a new supply of books.

Subhead 10, Queen's College Scholarship, \$300. I wish to ask how many scholarships are at present awarded.

Subhead 11, Repairs to Building, \$250. I think that the College could do well with a new coat of paint and I urge the Government to do something to make the college a centre of attraction in this country because most of the cultural performances are held there.

Speaking generally, the curriculum according to the Germanacos Report, it is stated that the curriculum should be more realistic in junior forms; probably upper forms could do well with more diversification there. I urge the Government to look into the matter so that there could be diversification of the curriculum of the upper forms and a more realistic curriculum for the lower forms.

Mr. Wilson: The remarks which I make and the questions which I ask under this Head will be applicable also to the Bishops' High School, Anna Regina Secondary School and Berbice High School. I shall begin by quoting from the White Paper issued by the Ministry of Education in 1968. This is what is said on page 7 about the Common Entrance Examination:

“Further, the Common Entrance Examination is one of the contributing factors to the breakdown in the educational system. Teachers instructing children between ages 7 and 11, tend to concentrate on the Common Entrance drill to the exclusion of all else on the curriculum. The result is that successful Common Entrance pupils enter secondary school minus elementary training in such essential subjects as English composition, history, geography and science.”

I think the criticism has been made by the Principal of Queen's College that when pupils enter Queen's College on the results of the Common Entrance Examination many of them are very suited to enter directly to a secondary course of study. This is, I understand, one of the reasons for the high percentage of failures in English at the G.C.E.

This suggests there is no need for some sort of instruction class in secondary schools in which the children can be given certain instructions. While they are being prepared for the Common Entrance Examination they have no time to develop their reasoning powers. They just memorize and give answers at a flash because these things are drilled into them. I therefore think that before the children are admitted to the secondary course proper, they should be allowed a year to undo the harm done to them during the time that they are being prepared for the Common Entrance Examination.

I should like to find out whether free textbooks are given to children who gain free places. I know in former days when a child passed the county scholarship examination he received free textbooks and also a maintenance allowance. I should like to know whether the children who get free places at Queen's College and Government secondary schools receive free textbooks and a maintenance allowance. If we assume that this examination is to assist children of poor parents to get an education then it would be realized that they all require such assistance.

Mrs. Patterson: On the question of the laboratory at Queen's College, I should like to say the position is not as dismal as the hon. Member would like to make out. In fact, Queen's College does have very good laboratories. I might tell the House that at the moment the University of Guyana uses two laboratories which will revert to Queen's College when the University moves over to Turkeyen. These laboratories have recently been equipped and modernised.

The hon. Member wanted to know how many scholarships will be given this year. I cannot honestly give the exact number of these scholarships. They are worked out on a proportionate basis related to the number of students within the school. There will probably be about twelve.

Repairs to building and repainting: perhaps this is an opportunity for some self-help work for bodies interested in education. For example, schools like Accabre could help in this.

The hon. Member Mr. Wilson raised an important issue which related to the Common Entrance Examination and what happens to students after the Common Entrance stage when they go into secondary schools. He said it relates not only to Queen's College but to all secondary schools. His suggestion is, in fact, a very short term solution to the problem. We on this side are looking at a long term solution, which is to upgrade what is happening in primary schools.

I have already told the House that I intend to replace the Common Entrance system of examination. This cannot be done this year obviously because the examination is on us. It will not be ready for next year, but we are working to get this in 1971. There are a lot of other things which have to be done about training and shaping attitudes to enable us to construct a new examination. I think this new attitude which we are hoping to create at primary schools will solve that kind of problem that the hon. Member has proposed.

The hon. member also asked a general question about what does the granting of free places entail. It does not involve the granting of textbooks. However, there is a small sum of money which is used for needy cases. It is used by the Ministry to help students who have a particular problem in the acquisition of textbooks.

Head 45, Ministry of Education – Queen’s College - \$335,107, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 46 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

BISHOP’S HIGH SCHOOL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I wish to speak on the whole Head, sir.

Mr. Wilson: I shall take the opportunity to make a short comment which I should have made under the previous Head.

Mr. Teekah: It is typical of the Government Members that when certain criticisms are made from this side of the House there is the reply, “That is not so; something has recently been done.” However, that is their prerogative.

Now, about the Bishop’s High School. The students do not have the facilities of a library. The Minister will say, “But there is a library there. Why don’t they have it?” But the library is locked up all the time and the books are thrown about all over the place. That is true. They are damaged. Supplies have not been put in recently. If one visits the school one is shocked to see the state of the library. A library is a very important facility in a school, yet the students are denied the use of one at Bishop’s High School.

The auditorium at the school is very small. The Minister of Education visited the school recently and I want to know what the Government is doing about the auditorium. There are no chairs in it and I was told that when the Minister of Education went there on the last occasion and was told about the need for chairs in the auditorium, she told them, "You must learn to squat."

5.15 p.m.

You have one of the best schools in the country but there is a very small auditorium and no furniture. I recall that, long ago, this place used to be the venue for many national debates. The finals for the Patrick Dargan shield used to take place at that school. But what has happened to all this? I would therefore urge the hon. Minister of Education, who is an old girl of that school, to try and have the library functioning properly and not take a very hilarious attitude to this matter and say that this is not true. There is no proper furniture, books are not properly catalogued. With respect to the auditorium, I should like to say that it needs furniture.

I am told that when the Prime Minister visited this school prior to the general elections last year, he said that if the elections were won by the P.N.C., he would paint the Bishop's High School. I call upon the Government to carry out this undertaking by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Wilson: The Bishop's High School, along with Queen's College and the other secondary schools, cater for students who have won free places. This Government boasted about its policy being one to make the small man a real man. If the Government really intends to carry out that policy, it has to begin with the small man's child. It is no use giving the small man's child a free place in a school if that child is not given certain assistance. I refer to books.

An hon. Member referred to what has been recommended by one expert in his report about the lack of textbooks in schools. It is a fact that many children who win free places are not able to perform satisfactorily because they do not have the text books and it is useless for the

Minister to say that cases of hardship are being considered. It should be a general policy that, unless a parent waives the right, every child should be entitled to free textbooks. [Mr. Kasim: “Why didn’t you provide them?”] The hon. Minister is asking, “Why didn’t you provide them?” Well then we are not here to make progress! We must progress, we must go forward. It is no use looking back. If we were in the Government, by now we would have been providing them.

I want to mention not only the question of free text books and maintenance allowance but also the question of travelling. Many children from the country win free places in secondary schools in Georgetown and their parents have to pay for them to travel to town. Sometimes they have to deny themselves lunch and go hungry. You cannot expect hungry children to perform satisfactorily in comparison with children who are well fed. When I spoke about free travelling and transportation the other day, I understand that the hon. Minister of Communications said that that was not his responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Minister of Education. I want to say that if the Government really wants to make the small man a real man, the Minister of Education ought to provide free travelling for children who win free places in secondary schools.

Mrs. Patterson: I am beginning to be a little depressed at the kind of questions being asked by hon. Members on the opposite side of the House. I do not think that it is helpful for them to make the kind of accusations they have been making. For example, the comments by the hon. Member Mr. Teekah with respect to the B.H.S. library are very inaccurate. I am sure that the hon. Member has not acquired this information direct and I would suggest that he change his source of information and get an accurate source of information. I do not want to take up that because I think it is frivolous.

The hon. Member’s comments about the auditorium are quite true. It is small and the girls sit on the floor. They have always been sitting there since I have been there. I think there is nothing wrong for students of the B.H.S., one of the best secondary schools in the country, to sit on the floor of the auditorium. It is true that I encouraged this. I have told those girls that it is good for them to do that. They have enjoyed sitting there and they will continue to sit there.

The hon. Member raised the question of free textbooks, travelling, and the whole question of free places in secondary schools. If we look back a little we will remember – [Mr. Wilson: “Do not look back, look forward.”] – that we had a system of scholarships where the children who were granted scholarships were given free books and general maintenance allowance.

When the P.P.P. took over it saw fit to cut out the book and maintenance allowance and established a system of free places. When our Government took over, we went further than this and we made all Government secondary education completely free. In other words, when the hon. Member talks about free places, he speaks about all secondary schools within the country.

As I have said before, and I say again, the Government is not opposed to the idea of giving free text books, but one has to plan in terms of resources available, and this is not possible at the moment. We prefer, rather than giving free textbooks to a few children, to make all secondary education free and we will continue, within the limit of our resources, to give free textbooks to the most needy cases.

Head 46, Ministry of Education – Bishop’s High School - \$237,534, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We will turn to page 109, and we come to Head 47.

HEAD 47 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ANNA REGINA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to ask one question on this Head.

25.3.69

National Assembly

5.15 – 5.25 p.m.

The Chairman: Only the hon. Member Mr. Teekah will speak on this? [*After a pause.*]
Go right ahead, hon. Member.

Mr. Teekah: I know for a fact that the Anna Regina Secondary School is to be converted into a multilateral school. When does the Government hope to complete this project?

Mrs. Patterson: It is estimated to be completed by 1973.

Head 47, Ministry of Education – Anna Regina Secondary School - \$102,567, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 48 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

BERBICE HIGH SCHOOL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: I should like to deal with the Head as a whole.

The Chairman: Would any other hon. Member like to speak? [*After a pause.*] The hon. Member Mr. Teekah will proceed.

Mr. Teekah: The Berbice High School has for a long time been the contemporary of Queen's College and Bishop's High School.

5.25 p.m.

As a matter of fact, this school was the leading school in Berbice for a very long time. Unfortunately, much attention has not been paid to it and is not being paid to it although it is the

second Government since December, 1964 and the school is deteriorating all over. There is physical deterioration of the buildings. As matter of fact, one of the buildings is dilapidated. The building is old. Repairs need to be done. Apparently, nothing has been done.

The whole service which the school offers now is very poor and if one is conversant with what is happening in Berbice, one would know that private high schools have stolen the lead in that county. I can call one name - Berbice Educational Institute. It is recognized as the leading school in the county. The standard of the Berbice High School has dropped very low and I should like to know what the Government is doing.

First of all, I am told there is an enrolment of 471 students. Last term, I am also told, 60 students should have been taken by that school but because of the incapacity of that school, the students had to find places in private schools. I am sure you would like to know that the capacity of the Berbice High School is much smaller than private schools in the county. How can the Government allow such a thing to happen? Because of complete neglect and carelessness, imagine, private secondary schools have gone far ahead of this school. What is the result of all this? The result is that parents cannot get their children in that school. There are better private secondary schools but the major problem is that the schools charge fabulous fees. Does the Government want the students to go to private secondary schools? Is it opening the way to private enterprise in education, costing the people a lot of money, \$30 to \$45 a term? This Government has failed miserably in education.

The treatment of the Berbice High School is indicative of the treatment received from the Government. I call upon the Government to do something about the school. One of the buildings is so broken up and shabby and the place is falling to pieces, and when nothing is done, it means people have to pay money. When they cannot pay money to send their children to high school, very soon, we will have a nation of illiterates and semi-illiterates.

May I point out that many private secondary schools are mushrooming all over the county, with a lot of quack teachers, and who stands to lose? The students! The Minister should be concerned over unscrupulous principals fleecing the people. Nothing is done because its own school is allowed to deteriorate physically and otherwise. I ask the Government to treat the matter with the utmost priority. What needs greater priority than this?

Mrs. Patterson: Had I not had the pleasure of visiting this school myself, I would have been alarmed by the picture painted by the hon. Member on the other side, unless the Berbice High School which I know is a different entity from the Berbice High School he knows. The dilapidation that he knows has either been remedied or a fairy godmother has passed. It is true that one of the buildings is old and dilapidated but the entire complex is a different building.

In addition, he is not correct when he says that 60 students could not gain admission last year. What in fact happened is that we could not find enough students to fill the school on the basis of the Common Entrance Examination. We had to create Berbice a separate area and award scholarships and an additional number of 60 students were taken in by the school. There were none turned away.

Since we have taken over, the position in relation to graduate teachers has improved. There were two graduate teachers when we took over the school. We have since been able to get seven. We have since set up a home economics Department so that the girls at the school will have training in this area which they have never had before. We have at the school a library which is a new thing. I have seen it myself. It can be expanded but this is something new and an improvement made in the school. We have changed the furnishings. All the old furnishings were removed and we gave them new furnishings.

I wish hon. Members would be a little more responsible and more accurate when paying attention to sources of information. I appreciate that hon. Members themselves cannot visit every area but let us have reliable informants. I think I have answered all the questions.

Head 48, Ministry of Education – Berbice High School - \$174,024, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION XVII – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question proposed that this Division stand part of the Estimates

Mr. Wilson: Subheads 1, 6 and 9.

Mr. Teekah: Subheads 1, 5, 8, 15, 16, 18 and in general.

Mr. Wilson: Turning to the White Paper, I read from page 6:

“The system of secondary education most favoured for the full development of the potential of the Guyanese child is of the comprehensive and multilateral type.”

5.35 p.m.

Now I see here subhead 1, Primary, Multilateral and Secondary; I would like to know what the difference is between multilateral and secondary, if there is any, and what is the difference between comprehensive and multilateral? In the case of the latter, from what I heard the hon. Minister (Mrs. Patterson) said some time before, I would like to know how many categories or streams or courses are catered for?

As regards subhead 6, \$1,000,000 was allocated in the 1966 – 1972 Development Programme for teachers' houses. Only \$36,000 odd was spent during 1967/68 but there is no provision for 1969. Will our teachers not be given houses? If they will, then why is no provision made this year?

\$300,000 is asked for school libraries for a 6-year Development Programme. This is inadequate. By some means funds should be found to include textbooks in the report referred to by the hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

The Chairman: The hon. Member Mr. Teekah.

Mr. Teekah: If I speak generally I will cover the subheads and will not be long. This head deals with the construction of schools; this is very important and there is indeed a very great shortage of schools. Primary schools are overcrowded; secondary schools are overcrowded. So that we are very happy to know that the Government thinks that constructing schools is necessary. I see that certain new schools are under construction and this is a very good sign.

It is good to say that schools are under construction but what is important is this: how many schools are under construction? Maybe it is two or three! The present conflict between this side of the House and the other side is that we try to see this whole thing as a very important matter education wise.

We believe that education ought to be the gem of the Government's programme; it should be one of the brilliant stones in their crown. When the P.P.P. was in Government that was how this matter was treated; education never had such a push as under the P.P.P. Now all that is done is building a couple schools here and there which can never solve the problem of overcrowding. \$380,000 is being used for this exercise. It is a small sum when, all over the country, there is overcrowding.

Take the Overweening school for example. The school is there but has no desks and no benches; it is merely a waste. The Government approaches the matter in an unscientific and slipshod manner. A comprehensive programme ought to be worked out.

The legend at subhead 5 reads: "To provide for the purchase of equipment." For a very long time, the blind, the physically deformed and the educationally subnormal child has been neglected in this country. Most of the work done in this field is being done by the Red Cross or the Institute for the Blind as Government has no programme for them. Something positive should be done instead of leaving the burden on other organisations. Work out a programme for them; do not leave them out because they are physically handicapped. What this Government lacks is proper planning.

25.3.69

National Assembly

5.35 – 5.45 p.m.

UNESCO makes recommendations but this Government does not accept their advice. I urge the Government to do something for these people. This sum should have been much more than \$5,000 and a much greater programme should have been worked out by the Government.

Where are these sites? How many have been bought?

I notice here a small sum of \$20,000 as against the sum of \$440,000 for the Technical Institute, New Amsterdam. The legend says: "...Foreign Loan anticipated." Where does Government anticipate this loan? How early will we get it? Is not this school at Anna Regina on the same basis as the New Amsterdam school?

Subhead 16, University of Guyana, \$2,452,000. This University is the place where higher education is given to students. I am concerned about this institution because it is not being tackled very seriously.

5.45 p.m.

For example, there will be no hostel at Turkeyen for the students and we are told that it is hoped that money will be found by this fund raising drive which His Excellency the Governor-General is spare-heading at the moment. But as one goes through the Estimates it will be observed that money is wasted in other places. Why can't we get a proper hostel? Is the

Government aware of the fact that the students suffer tremendously because they do not have a hostel? I will show you how. Firstly, there are students from Essequibo and Berbice. In most cases these teachers are able to get transfers to somewhere near to Georgetown but, what about those who cannot be transferred? It means that they will not be able to attend University. I know for a fact that when the new buildings are opened day classes will be held.

The other problem is this: If you talk to the students they will all tell you that they cannot get together so as to be able to discuss matters of interest and as a result learn from each other. Mr. George Caves who has been recently appointed a lecturer at the University of Guyana had this to say in a magazine called *The Guyana Teacher*. I quote from page 35:

“But perhaps the greatest disadvantage that the graduates suffered were lack of full-time classes which would have enabled study to be leisurely, and lack of students’ residential facilities. The former disadvantage will be overcome next year when full-time classes commence in the new University buildings to be erected at Turkeyen. The latter disadvantage will be with us for some time yet. However, it has been U.G.’s great good fortune that the members of the staff have always thrown open their homes to students so that groups may meet, chat, discuss, debate, and argue, each in the process gaining from each other one.”

It is the habit of this Government to say that everything one says is incorrect, it is for this reason I took time off to show that an individual who is now appointed lecturer at the University of Guyana has observed that there is lack of facilities. The Minister is going to say in her reply --

[Interruption]

The Chairman: I do not think the hon. Member should anticipate what the hon. Minister will say.

Mr. Teekah: If the hon. Minister is going to say that the Government does not have the money and \$1 million is needed to get this hostel; that is not true. The reason why the Government cannot find money is because it has to spend \$1.2 million on the Ministry of Information, and frankly speaking, this is money being wasted. Why can't G.B.S. be the

responsibility of the Ministry of Information? If that is done, I feel that there will be a lot of money saved and that money could be used for the advancement of our educational system. We could have a hostel at Turkeyen because there is a lot of money wasted in other quarters.

The Chairman: I think the hon. Member has repeated that too often. You have made your point which I think is a very good one. You should go on now to subhead 18.

Mr. Teekah: Loans to students, \$262,000. I should like to know who these students are. I notice here that the students will be pursuing courses locally and abroad. Could the hon. Minister tell us why students who are pursuing courses locally must have loans? Are they students at the Teachers' Training College? Perhaps, then one could appreciate that fact. I trust that it is not used discriminately or partially, and that these loans are not given to individuals because of political persuasions. These are public loans and the public ought to have its money impartially spent and wisely too.

Mrs. Patterson: The first question was on primary multilateral secondary schools. I have spoken on this several occasions. The secondary type of schools we have is a post primary education. The question of text books, I have already commented on that. The hon. Member Mr. Teekah wanted to know the number of schools now under construction. There are fifteen new schools at the moment under construction. There are twenty-three new schools to be constructed as provided for in the development programme, and there are three new schools just completed. There was the question of teacher housing. There is no sum appearing under this Head because it appears under Community Development. There is an allocation for teachers' houses. A question was also raised as regards the Red Cross. I think that the hon. Member on the other side is making the point that the Government should encourage others. The Government does so, and provide them with teachers and all the equipment.

The hon. Member made the point that there was no hostel for students and no place for them to get together. Again, it is a question of planning. When we took over this University it was an evening institution. It was not meeting the kind of need we have in the community. We have taken the very bold step of establishing the goal of making the University a day University and we have gone to the trouble of securing funds to put a campus at Turkeyen. This is phase 1; consideration of the hostel comes under phase 2 of the plan. The hon. Member himself mentions that a Committee has been formed which will spearhead the raising of funds for this second phase. One of the things included in the second phase is the hostel.

The problem of no place to get together will be solved now that the students have a campus to themselves. We hope that they will not form a separate group but that teachers who will be in the compound will be able to get together with them and exchange views.

There was a question on the Technical Institute at Anna Regina. The sum of \$20,000 was anticipated. It is no longer anticipated. The funds have already been acquired in the form of a gift from Esso and some of the equipment is already at Anna Regina.

On the question of loans to students, the people who get these loans are overseas students. The others are the teachers who are being trained in multilateral schools, in in-service and pre-service. I do not understand the point the hon. Member made with regard to loans to teachers. In fact all these people apply for loans and nobody is restricted. We do not even have a committee to process this. Any teacher doing pre-service training can apply for a loan and they do get. In a number of cases I have even gone so far as to increase the loans to teachers.

Division XVII, Ministry of Education - \$3,943,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION XVIII – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

IBRD/IDA PROJECTS

Question proposed that this Division stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Teekah: Mr. Chairman, I know it is a little troublesome to have me getting up all the time.

The Chairman: I do not think the hon. Member needs to make an excuse. He has a right.

Mr. Teekah: Thank you, sir. It is very important that we question these things. We have to criticize what we think should be criticized because public money is being spent and ought to be spent wisely. Another reason is that education is very important in this country.

Now the I.B.R.D. project may be the essence of it. The project is aimed at several things. I shall quote from page 17, Schedule 3 of the loan contract, Credit No. 139 GUA, dated January 31, 1969. It is called the Development Credit Agreement (Education Project) between Guyana and the International Development Association. It states:

- “1. One new Teacher Training College with 280 student boarding places...
2. Five new secondary schools, with 20 staff houses.”

These will be multilateral schools. Then there will be the conversion of two secondary schools, one at Anna Regina and one at Annandale. Part B states that fellowships will be granted in various fields.

First of all I am a little worried about the large consultant fees. Perhaps this is typical of foreign loans which the Government is able to get. Let us take, for instance, the Teacher Training College. We are going to have a new Teacher Training College constructed and it will

have 280 student boarding places. The total enrolment will be 660. The Minister has said that pre-service training or teacher training will not be particularly decentralized and therefore the emphasis will be on the Georgetown Training College.

Now, the College will cater for 660 students and assuming that all places are taken up, assuming also that there is an equal proportion of students from the various counties, it means that 220 students will be enrolled from each county. There will be only 280 boarding places. Why only 280? If students are to come from Essequibo and Berbice, the Minister will probably be able to say how they are going to be boarded, because there will be 440 students from these two counties, assuming that places will be evenly distributed. If there are only 280 places where are the others going to be boarded?

Now concerning the places where these multilateral schools will be established. The concept of the multilateral school is not new. May I hasten to say that the P.P.P. Government originally conceived the idea of such schools, but what we are trying to do was something more comprehensive? According to the terms of the Agreement the multilateral system:

“after providing students with a common base of general studies, would screen them according to aptitude, ability and interest for further schooling in distinct curricula streams such as humanities, science, technology, agriculture and commerce.”

Now, take for instance technology and agriculture. We have many centres all over the country at which these subjects are done. For example, I noticed that one of the schools will be built at Mahaica. If you want your student to have technical training then one would assume that you would set up these schools in the areas where there are no such facilities.

6.05 p.m.

For instance, Mahaica is fairly far away from any good school of technical training, for example, the New Amsterdam Technical Institute or the Georgetown Technical

Institute. Mahaica would be a good place to have a multilateral school. Wismar is also a good place to have a multilateral school because there are no technical schools around and there may not be good facilities for doing other subjects like commercial subjects. The University is very far away also.

But what about Ruimveldt? I would have thought that the students at Ruimveldt could make use of the facilities at the Technical Institute. As a matter of fact, I am aware that one or two schools in Georgetown do make use of the facilities granted by the Technical Institute.

In the country areas secondary education is very limited, there are few secondary schools, but in Georgetown there are many secondary schools. I would have thought that the Government would not have considered a multilateral school at Ruimveldt because commercial subjects can be taught at the Technical Institute – at least they used to be taught there; I do not know if the Government has stopped that – and there are other private schools which teach commercial subjects. Access to these subjects and technical education also is not difficult, is easily obtained, Ruimveldt being close to the Technical Institute in Georgetown and it is not difficult to have the students enrolled at the Institute. Then again the University is very close also, so I question very much the wisdom of having a multilateral school at Ruimveldt.

With respect to the one at Vigilance, this also falls in the same category because it is not far away from the centres at which you would be able to have commercial and technical subjects done.

The same thing applies to New Amsterdam also. You are going to have a new Technical Institute set up there and there are many places where you can do commercial training. I wonder why it is proposed to have a multilateral school at New Amsterdam.

The same thing goes for Annandale because it is very close to Georgetown and it falls in the same category as Ruimveldt and New Amsterdam.

There is a secondary school at Anna Regina and a Technical Institute is going to be set up. I do not know why you are going to have a technical school and a multilateral school there also.

I suppose the loan is granted for this purpose but I feel that, instead of putting these schools in areas where the people are better off, a thrust should have been made in the field of secondary education so that there would have been more secondary schools constructed generally all over the country where there are no secondary schools and where access to technical studies is very difficult. There are Interior areas that were mentioned earlier. What about those areas where there is nothing at all?

I observe that, at Anna Regina, the number of boarding places for students is going to be 150. Why are there only 150 boarding places at Anna Regina? Anna Regina has the best secondary school in the county of Essequibo and the Larby Report had made certain recommendations concerning Amerindian education and the setting up of hostels in these areas so that the students would be able to board close to the schools. This is a very difficult problem for the students in those areas. As a matter of fact, the main problem of Amerindian education and the main bug of the students there is the fact that they have to travel very far to reach these schools.

Now there is going to be a multilateral school at Anna Regina. This is probably going to be the best school in the county and at that end. Now one would have thought that, in the absence of provision for secondary schools in the Interior areas, the Government would have provided a hostel and brought a large number of the students from the Interior area to Anna Regina. This would have gone a very far way towards solving the problem of limited Amerindian education.

It is very unfortunate that there is an enrolment of 920 students but there are only 150 boarding places. I would also ask the Minister, through you, whether these 150 boarding places

would be given to those students from the Interior areas, or anybody, for example, people from the coast, Charity, Pomeroun. Certainly, if you are going to spend so much money here, you ought to give priority to the Amerindian students whom you should bring to the school at Anna Regina and board them there.

Subhead 5, Fellowships and Project Administration - \$100,000: I notice here that it is intended to train two specialists in guidance and in speech and drama, respectively, for the Government Training College (2 man-years). My question is, "Where are these two persons going to be trained?" The same question applies to the three supervisors in technology, science and English, respectively (3 man-years complete) for the secondary school inspectorate in the Ministry of Education. It is also intended to train one Departmental head (one man-year), one teacher in commerce (3 man-years) and three technical teachers (6 man-years) for the multilateral schools. I wish to ask where these fellowships will be taken up and I hope very sincerely that they are not going to be taken up in places where the slant is put on the perpetuation of bourgeois ideology.

Finally, I wish to say that if this whole project is handled properly – I have noted the good terms of the contract, the rate of interest, etc. – the Government can get maximum use of this. But I am not sure, because the fact is that certain provisions are already laid down here and I do not know if they have been changed. If they are not changed, although the terms of the agreement, with respect to repayment of loans, etc., are good, we may not be able to make the best use of the project. All in all, I wish to urge the Government, since this is the last Head on education we are discussing, to take a very serious view on education. The highest possible priority ought to be given. What we want is action and not talk. I know for a fact that education has to be taken care of among the various other projects that the Government is undertaking.

But then do not affect yourself adversely by allocating large sums of money otherwise and then say, "We do not have enough money to spend and it has to wait until the appropriate time." The process can be very much speeded up if we can approach the thing in a sensible manner and we shall give full cooperation providing the Government lives up to its White Paper.

Finally, I wish to urge the Government to get the committees and commissions set up as early as possible and if we are represented there, we will give our sincere best wishes. It is for the Government to accept them. We have done our part.

Mrs. Patterson: I should like to assure the hon. Member of the Opposition that we take responsibility seriously and that is why we have negotiated this loan, that is why we conceived this idea; that is why we are pushing forward with it expeditiously and effectively. The first question he raised concerned the large sum allocated for consultant services on the concept that it is too large, but I wish to assure him that it is put up for work as it is done and we keep a firm eye on what is done.

He next went on to mention boarding provision for 280 students only. We have moved from a position where we had 610 students and it is essential, therefore, that we plan carefully and plan realistically. No college can afford to provide boarding facilities for all these students. This will supplement what arrangements they will make on their own initiative to secure placements within the area.

He deals with the whole concept of multilateral schools and raises the question of siting and housing. These are important issues. I should like to assure him that we have given them careful consideration and we have worked out our siting with the help of the experts who came to examine the project. He does not think that in the Georgetown area, a multilateral school should be set up because there are so many secondary schools in Georgetown. I wonder if the hon. Member would be amazed to hear that in relation to school population, secondary schools in Georgetown are much fewer than in the rural areas because Georgetown has in the past been

neglected when provision for secondary education was made. There must be emphasis on technical education in the urban area because our industrial workers come from the urban area. I should like to make a general point. I think the hon. Member feels that all the multilateral schools will have the same emphasis in the streams they offer. In fact, there is a great deal of effort put in the weighting that we give to each stream so that in an agricultural community the emphasis will be on agriculture and in urban communities the emphasis will be on technical training. These schools have been sited in catchment areas to draw in students from around.

There are 150 boarding places at Anna Regina in addition to the teacher's college and to say that Georgetown has been singled out for priority treatment is grossly inaccurate in relation to provision of boarding places.

Fellowships and Project Administration. The hon. Member raises this question of training in specific categories and he wanted to know whether all the training would be done in Guyana. Until we have facilities for training here, they will go mainly to Canada and the United Kingdom. I hope I have answered the questions that he raised. I am willing to discuss with the hon. Member, the whole multilateral system.

Division XVIII, Ministry of Education, IBRD/IDA Projects - \$446,600, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Before we go on, I should like to say – of course, I think this is known to you, that it is not normal for the Speaker to be involved in the expression of opinions in this House except when he thinks that he might mirror the view of all the Members of the House – that we have listened to an extremely interesting dialogue and a verbal confrontation between the hon. Members, Mr. Teekah on the one hand and the Minister of Education on the other hand and I think all of you would like me to offer congratulations to both.

In the case of the hon. Member, Mr. Teekah, I think he has shown clearly the thorough study he has given to the Government's education policy. I am sure all hon. Members were impressed with the presentation of his case which was done with courtesy and yet with firmness. I think that is something that we ought to take note of and try to emulate if we can. In the case of the hon. Minister of Education, she dealt with all the questions fully with expert facility. I am sure that with so many diverse Heads with which she had to deal, she showed an inherent knowledge of the subject and a desire to bring about a better future for all our people educationally.

Now hon. Members, having finished with the Ministry of Education, may we turn to the last of the Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, page 136, Head 61.

HEAD 61 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Head 61, Ministry of Finance - \$206,523, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 62 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Sutton: Subhead 13.

Mr. Ram Karran: Subhead 9 and subhead 18. I hope the hon. Minister will tell us under Sundries, exactly what is the position with respect to the bingo fund.

Some time ago this exercise was mentioned and presumably it was begun so that a new hospital could be built. We have gone through the Estimates and the hon. Minister of Health (Dr. Talbot) told us that no new hospital is expected. I understand that the bingo project is going on and there are all sorts of rumours which tend to bring discredit to the Government and to the country. Speaking on behalf of the Guyanese people not associated with the Government, I think that the hon. Minister ought to tell us what the position is with respect to the bingo.

Going through these Estimates page by page, we find that the sum for entertainment including this head make a total of \$347,000 odd. I have been going through, very casually, an examination of some of the heads and, believe it or not, this sum which the Government is spending on entertainment is greater than that spent for the Head of Governor General, for the Audit Department, for the Public and Police Service Commissions, for the Probation and Welfare Departments, for the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Communications, Civil Aviation Department and Queen's College. It would cost us \$375,000 to keep 58 medical officers in the hospital – not much more than the Government is spending on entertainment; what is more, having regard to the Granada film "The Making of a Prime Minister," we understand and any decent person would understand from that film that the Prime Minister was not a proper delegate and, not only did the Prime Minister gate-crash but I understand that he has caused immense embarrassment to his wife by taking her out of this country and paying her allowances to which only civil servants are entitled.

I think that the time has come for the Government to stop this type of thing and ensure that public funds are utilised properly. *[Interruptions]* I would like to hear the hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. Reid) deny that this was so, that the Prime Minister took his wife out of the country and gave her such allowances. We should be ashamed to have something like that come before us.

The Chairman: It is 6.30 p.m. I understand that the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs would like to say something.

Mr. Bissember: I have had a discussion with the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and we reached a decision to continue the sitting until 7.30 p.m. so that we can complete this and discuss the three other Motions which are not controversial. I do not know if you, Sir, will agree to that.

The Chairman: Do you think that we can finish by 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Bissember: Yes, sir.

The Chairman: I would like to hear from the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran.

Mr. Ram Karran: Well, I do not think that the Motions are controversial and it really is dependent on what the hon. Minister of Finance, in moving the Bills and Motion, has to say. If there is anything controversial, we would like to debate on it.

The Chairman: Well, I have no objection to this request.

Mr. Ram Karran: We agree to it.

The Chairman: Very well. We shall now continue. Mr. Ram Karran has just spoken. The hon. Member Mr. Sutton may speak.

Mr. Sutton: Mr. Chairman, we see here a figure of \$140,000. I am sure that almost every hon. Member of this House is aware of the fact that services from the Crown Agents were originally designed to be services to the colonies particularly in those areas where standards of awareness of the intricacies of trade were not considered adequate. The Crown Agents are registered agents. To ensure proper contact between the manufacturing suppliers and the needs of the then colonial Governments, a service was provided whereby when goods were required this agency could be contacted and they would contact all the possible manufacturers of the type

of goods required with a view to getting the best, pricewise, bearing in mind the standard and quality required. Since this concept originated several hundred years have passed. The majority of places which provided the major operations for the Crown Agents are now independent territories.

The territories themselves are not independent only but, long before this, most of the territories became sufficiently important trade-wise as to have manufactured not only in the United Kingdom but all over the world, appoint resident agents in the territories concerned. Perhaps the average hon. Member of this House does not realise that the country is now, and has been some time, paying twice for the same service. In every single case in Guyana and the major places of the Caribbean, any manufacturer who can claim to be a reputable manufacturer is represented by a resident agent and the agreements are such that those resident agents are paid commission on all goods from those specific manufacturers which come into the country irrespective of whether those goods were sold by the agent or even seen by the agent or whether that agent had anything to do with originating of the transaction or not.

What is remarkable in this situation is that, I am aware of this of my own knowledge being a member of the Commission Agents Association, attempts have been made over the last fifteen years to bring this to the attention of the Government but they have never stopped, for some reason or other, to listen to the details. I think that the Agents always wanted to sell direct to Government and, as a result, the atmosphere was created that the Agents were after profits for themselves.

6.35 p.m.

I am saying at this point that the issue has always been confused by the retailers and the wholesalers, of goods sold directly over the counters, separate and distinct from the operation of bona fide representatives and the manufacturers themselves. I repeat, particularly for the benefit of this House as a whole, and the Government, that a Committee should be set up in order to

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investigate the workings of the Crown Agents in relation to the fees paid to the Crown Agents for their services to the country.

I am not suggesting that all the services performed by the Crown Agents are useless, because some are financing services. In the servicing of long-term loans, the Crown Agents are strictly financing agents. As far as the floating of loans and foreign markets are concerned it will continue to serve this useful purpose. The Crown Agents are serving absolutely no purpose in their buying goods for the Government. And the Government has to pay a commission twice, because when they buy goods the Crown Agents get a commission and there is no service. Those services are provided by bona fide manufacturers free of charge.

I think of one particular service, that is the service of viewing. For the sake of argument, where machinery is supplied by the manufacturers of the United Kingdom, the Crown Agents have to provide a certificate stating that this machinery is capable of performing to certain engineering standards and is in fact, manufactured in exactly the same specifications as required by the company or purchaser. That is known as a 'Viewers Certificate' and when this certificate is provided by the Crown Agents you are charged for it. In the case of bona fide manufacturers, specifically in Europe, those certificates are provided on the licences by bona fide manufacturers who are tied down to certain standards laid down by the Board of Trade. Anyone can get an independent viewers' license and it is exactly what the Crown Agents get. When the goods come to this country and anything is wrong, shipment is short for instance, two instead of three articles are supplied or a spare is missing – who makes up for this? Who is given the trouble of protecting the Government to see that it gets what it should?

6.40 p.m.

Not the Crown Agents; they do not send a man here to do it. The manufacturers' resident representative has that trouble because even if the Crown Agents buy or ship, it is the agent here

who has to do whatever is necessary to correct anything that should have been done and was not done.

There was a case about two years ago where the measurement of an important consignment to the Government was completely wrong from the point of view of freight that was to be paid. The Crown Agents paid the freight based on the measurement supplied to them by the steamship agent. Because competition is what really protects all sorts of goods, when the copy of the freight charge was sent to the manufacturers' representative he, being aware that the consumer here – be it Government or otherwise – must be concerned with the final cost of the goods and not the cost of the goods *ex factory*, raised the question that the charge for freight was an impossible one and went into it. The agent here was put on the job and several thousand dollars were refunded to the Government although the amount was passed and paid for by the Crown Agents. Now, what service did the Crown Agents give this Government for the fee they had received when, if there was not a resident agent here, this Government would have lost several thousand dollars on the specific transaction I mentioned?

I could mention several such cases and I would suggest to the Government that it should give this question of commission to the Crown Agents for stores and goods a very careful look and, if necessary, establish a committee to examine the same to find out what services of the Crown Agents could profitably be used and what services could be dropped, because the Government is paying twice for a service and the service given by the Crown Agents is in fact not fully satisfactory. When anything goes wrong the manufacturers' agent ---

The Chairman: I do not wish to stop the hon. Member but he has made his point. He is repeating himself several times. Because of the fact that time is short the hon. Member must stick to the point.

Mr. Sutton: I labour this point because I know that representation to Government has been made for years on this matter and it has been ignored.

The Chairman: It goes on record; it will be heard.

Dr. Jagan: I should like to make a point on what the last speaker said.

Mr. Sutton: There is one general question based on subhead 28 on page 138. In the Budget Speech the hon. Minister of Finance did mention the probable liability which will be involved in 1969 in the promised revision of the wages and salaries of Government employees. During the whole of 1968 this matter was being pushed forward and we know there was a firm undertaking by the Government to its employees that this matter of the revision of wages would be positively dealt with in the Budget for 1969. There was no fund from which to do it in 1968 and though the revenue was seriously looked at toward the middle of 1968 the Government pronounced that the collection of revenue was such that it could not consider the question of revision of wages or even interim relief based on 1968 figures. A firm promise was made, however, that this question would be resolved in 1969. We know that the Collins Commission is sitting on this matter.

The Chairman: Subhead 28 deals with a Fire Claim. You said you were speaking on subhead 28.

Mr. Sutton: A firm statement was made so far as interim relief is concerned. In view of the fact that a firm statement was made that the Government servants would be given interim relief at least, I think it is rather appalling that there is absolutely no provision in the Estimates for the revision of wages.

The Chairman: You should have spoken on that during the general debate on the Motion. The subhead on which you are speaking does not relate in the slightest to anything like that. It deals with Post Office 1945 Fire Claim.

Mr. Sutton: I am speaking on the last item.

The Chairman: There is nothing provided for it.

Mr. Sutton: I am speaking about the lack of provision.

The Chairman: This should have been dealt with during the Budget Debate. I appreciate that the hon. Member wants to make his point, but if I allow this one hon. Member to speak all the time, then at 7 o'clock I shall stop having any other discussion and put the question. When this is decided, we shall finish at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Wilson: I did not know that you had closed questions. May I speak on subhead 26?

Dr. Jagan: I wish to make the point which was being emphasised by the last speaker, the question of purchases. On another occasion in this House, Members referred to the perpetual shortage of drugs, for instance in the hospitals. I know that when the P.P.P. Government was in office an examination was made into this question of making savings by not buying directly from the Crown Agents, that is, by not just simply putting in an order.

The Hospital Secretary, the junior Minister in the Ministry of Finance at that time, Mr. Lawrence Mann, and another person from that Ministry sat in a sub-committee. The Minister will probably find the Report in his files. It was, I think, disclosed that between a quarter million dollars and half a million dollars could be saved if the Government went about buying on a competitive basis in the world market rather than just push orders through the Crown Agents.

We are independent and ought not to be so in name only. We must break away from all the colonial apron strings. We know that there are places like Italy and West Germany, there is Japan – I am talking of Western countries not to mention the socialist countries – in which the Government can buy at much cheaper prices than it gets from the Crown Agents. This must be looked into, because one does not only want to spend money; one wants to see how money can

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6.40 – 6.50 p.m.

be saved so that the people of this country do not have to be taxed the way they are being taxed year after year.

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Reid): Dealing with the first question from the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran in connection with bingo funds, that is, the national radio bingo lottery, we indicated that money has been collected. I am in a position to give to this honourable House the total sums collected over the period.

6.50 p.m.

I trust that this information would help all Guyanese to realize how little we have achieved as far as trying to use this fund to construct a new hospital. The total sum in hand, which is being kept by the Lotteries Committee, is \$536,929.70. I do not know if the hon. Member is satisfied with this answer to his question.

The next question was in connection with subhead 18, Special Visits and Representation at External Conferences. As an independent nation, Guyana has to be represented at certain important conferences held overseas annually or regularly, as well as certain *ad hoc* conferences that come up from time to time where Guyana's interest must be represented. This sum is used in this connection.

The hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran, in his wild statement, went on further to say that when the Prime Minister's wife went on a visit, the cost of that visit was met from this vote. It is well for this House to know that when one is invited to the Prime Ministers' Conference or the Finance Ministers' Conference in London, the cost of maintenance for the person and his wife is borne by the British Government. The expenditure recorded here has nothing to do with the Prime Minister's wife. I trust that, in future, the hon. Member would ensure that he gets his information as correctly as possible, especially when he refers to somebody who is not a Member

of this House. We can take all the licking, the taunting and the teasing, but we should not involve people who are not really associated with this House.

The next question raised was with respect to the Crown Agents. This is not as simple a matter as my friends on the opposite benches would think. When certain territories became independent they thought, as Members on the opposite are now thinking, that that was the time to break away from anything that was British, colonial and imperialist, without really analysing the situation and arriving at a conclusion that would be of benefit to the territory. We have got the experience of several of these newly independent countries. They did exactly what is now being advocated. They set up their own facilities for purchasing goods required for the territories and, lo and behold, after a short while of hard experience, they had to return to the Crown Agents to do business for them. We in Guyana have not got the facilities to do this job that the Crown Agents is doing for us now. This might be possible in the future, but at present it will cost us far more if we exchanged the services of the Crown Agents for our independent establishment.

I am particularly pleased to hear the hon. Member Mr. Sutton make mention of the behaviour of agents in this country who are earning without working. We shall take special note of this and then, probably, something can be done about this irregularity. As a matter of fact I remember that last year certain goods were to come into this country and we were told that the agents would have to get a percentage. We promptly intervened to ensure that the goods came in, but no percentage was paid to the agents. I think I have covered the few questions asked.

Head 62, Ministry of Finance – Accountant General – S1, 510,751, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 63 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to speak on subhead 1, items 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11. I should also like to speak generally to deal with one point very briefly.

The Chairman: Does any other hon. Member wish to speak?

Mr. Sutton: I wish to speak on subhead 1, items 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 23, subhead 6.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, it seems to me as if we will not be able to deal with this business as we thought and get away by 7.30 p.m. I suggest that we take the suspension now – we are already half an hour late – and come back at 8.15 p.m.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: This sitting is suspended until 8.15 p.m.

Sitting suspended at 7 p.m.

8.15 p.m.

On resumption --

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Before we resume, I should like to repeat, for the benefit of hon. Members who were not in their seats, that this is the last day of the examination of the Estimates. At half past nine, whatever be the position, I shall cease having any further discussions and put whatever are the remaining heads for determination or otherwise. Please look at the time and let

us get on accordingly. We were dealing with Head 63, Customs and Excise and some hon. Members had given an indication of a desire to speak.

Mr. Sutton: In considering this Head, it is clear that the Customs is one of the most important tax gatherers. This Department and the Income Tax Department must be very careful because their operations are of vital interest to the Government in its efforts to garner taxation. I notice turning to item (4) subhead 1, that the amount of the approved estimates for 1968 was \$29,000 and \$20,724 was actually spent, and the estimates for 1969 amount to \$28,140. That shows that in 1968, although \$29,000 was the amount calculated for, it was not expended. Similarly, the same thing took place on items (6), (8), (9), (11) and (13); then there is item (23), so that my remarks will be addressed to the general principles involved in that state of affairs.

It may mean that there are vacancies under these particular heads which have not been filled, or possibly, suitable officers could not be found, but I am sure that everyone will agree that where the Customs Department is concerned, the very hard work done in the Department, officers should be specifically trained and that takes a long time. I feel that is one Department where everything should be given priority attention because it is such an important one and it would appear that in spite of the importance of this Department sufficient steps, either long term or short term, were not taken and that caused this situation to be present whereby the commercial community is continually complaining about the service it is getting from the Department. There are too few officers to do the job. It is impossible to do the job in the time that is normally required to get through the work.

That is one of the reasons, no doubt, that item (23), Temporary Officers, is shown as a token vote of \$100. But when we look at that item for 1966, \$65,222 was actually spent, in 1967, \$52,602, and the revised estimates for 1968 show a sum of \$20,690. We know that there has been a shortage of trained senior officers in this Department. A few retired officers had to be re-employed and no doubt that is one of the reasons that this Temporary Officers head, although a token allowance of \$100, has had to be used so extensively. It would therefore appear

that there is need for strengthening in other categories to keep this temporary employment at a reasonable figure.

We hope, therefore, that in view of the importance of this Department, the Government will see the desirability of, and appreciate the anxiety of this House to see to the proper staffing of this Department so that the employees there are given a special incentive because they provide a service on which the Government is largely dependent in order to get the best possible revenue from the sources collected by the Customs Department.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to add some measures of support to what the hon. Member said in respect of the shortage of staff in the Customs Department and I observe that all through these Estimates we have seen the legend, “Two new posts,” “Change in holder of post” and comments similar to these. These are a smokescreen behind which the Government is hiding. There is a shortage in every Department and in this particular Department the shortage of staff is massive. In the case of subhead 1, item (8), the number shown under Establishment is 43. I understand that there are about 30 officers serving under his Head. The same applies to the item (9). There 25 instead of 39 officers.

What is the object? What are we trying to do? Are we trying to show a full establishment to retain money under these Heads and to use it for other purposes? There must be something behind it. If the Government cannot recruit persons, it must say so. The hon. Member, Mr. Sutton, said we must look at the facts in the face. The hon. Member, Mr. Joaquin, who ought to have been in the front Bench to assist the Minister, sits at the back heckling. [*Interruption*] There must be some explanation for this and as the hon. Member, Mr. Sutton, pointed out, you must have efficiency in this Department. I know of business places that have submitted their documents and after a week they cannot be returned from the Long Room because there are not enough officers to do the job. Now that the Parliamentary Secretary is busily occupied I hope that something will be done with respect to this.

The shortage of staff causes overwork on some of the officers. It causes frustration and lack of interest and the general public served by these officials are made to suffer.

Talking about frustration, there is a European attached to the Customs Department – I have not seen anything in the *Gazette* – enjoying all the facilities of an air-conditioned office, etc. Surely, some men in Guyana will feel they are entitled to an air-conditioned office and it does not make for good relationships when officers serving in the Department see an expatriate being given these extra facilities and they are left out.

8.25 p.m.

Page 8 of the Estimates, Head I, Subhead 2, Warehouse Rent and Charges shows a reduction in the 1969 estimates of revenue of \$40,000, that is, from \$180,000 in 1968 to \$140,000 in 1969. I wonder if the reduction is due to the frustration, the lack of staff and all the other things of which we are complaining.

Another item to mention in the Customs Department – you may go in there Mr. Chairman when you are not too busy – is this: there are usually two persons to a desk. Now, this does not even happen in a '*salt goods*' shop these days –

The Chairman: '*Salt goods*' shops do not have desks.

Mr. Ram Karran: This shows the lack of interest on the part of the Government, especially of the hon. Minister of Finance Dr. Reid, V.S. and all titles which go behind his name. If he visited Avon House he would see the conditions which people have to work under. These are the people who have to raise money for the Government to squander; they deserve better treatment.

Finally, I would like to mention the *Official Gazette* which records these tax measures carry alongside items such as radios and radiograms the figures 60 per cent. If a person makes an entry and takes it to the Customs Department along with that 60 per cent, that person will not be able to collect his goods. 10 per cent must be bracketed to that 60 per cent. Looking at the *Official Gazette*, one gets the impression that they would have to pay 60 per cent –

The Chairman: I think that we should leave that alone as it will come up under the Customs Ordinance.

Mr. Ram Karran: I thought that we were going to make the Bill non-controversial with a view to getting all sides of the House voting for it.

The Chairman: Well, if that is a promise, you can go on.

Mr. Ram Karran: No, that is not a promise. Those are all the criticisms I wish to make. I hope that the hon. Minister and his Government will pay all attention to give satisfaction to these hard-working civil servants who may not expect promotion outside of that Department in order that the business of the Government can continue.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister Dr. Reid.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, some say we have too many employees, others say we do not have enough. However, with regard to what the hon. Mr. Sutton said in connection with temporary officers, it is good for the House to know that, since this is a very important appointment and that since we work this Department with a force that is fully occupied, whenever anyone is absent on leave or for any circumstances which would keep him away for a long time then a temporary officer must be appointed. We cannot afford to run this Department without enough employees.

We have taken notice of the importance of this Department a long time ago and, during the last couple of years, systematic training has gone on for officers in this Department; the Department is reorganised in such a way that there is a valuation branch for investigation so that we can get better results. We recognise the overcrowding but this is not peculiar to the Customs Department. There is a shortage of offices and we trust that, in time, this will be relieved. There must be an increase in posts as the Department expands. We make no apology for this. We must have more employees to work as efficiently as possible.

From what has been asked here, I think that these are the important points; about the other matter I am not worried.

Head 63, Ministry of Finance – Customs & Excise - \$1,641,004, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 64 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

INLAND REVENUE

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. M.F. Singh: I would like to make general remarks.

Mr. Ram Karran: I would like to make general remarks.

The Chairman: The general remarks may outrun the particular time. Mr. Feilden Singh has not been heard for the day so he will now begin.

Mr. M.F. Singh: I do not think that any hon. Member will dispute the fact that this is a very important Department. It is of vital importance in the economy of this country for the

reason that it collects money to run the other Ministries and to finance the Development Programme. It should be adequately staffed so that it can serve not only the Government but also the public; it must function efficiently.

I am perturbed because it appears that there are vacancies in this Department and, if we look at subhead 1, item 5, we note that for the posts of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Taxes the sum of \$80,470 was approved in the 1968 Estimates but the revised estimates reflect only \$54,390, a difference of \$26,080. What vacancies exist in this Department and what are the reasons for the resignations therein? What arrangements are being made to deal with the situation and to provide proper training for officers to fill the vacancies? Dealing with the matter of adequate staffing I do know that there are new posts reflected in the Estimates, but these new posts seem to be created in the lower echelon rather than the high echelon where there is need for strengthening in view of the tax proposals before the House.

Under item 5 we see in the legend that “Five posts of ‘Trainee Inspectors’ substituted for three posts of ‘Accountants’ on salary Scale A 4.” Clearly speaking, there is only one Trainee Inspector now. That is good, very commendable but when one looks at item 7, Chief Accountant, although this is commendable and when one looks at items 16 – the legend reads:

“Eleven posts of ‘Class II Clerks’ and nine of ‘Clerical Assistants’ – one sees that they are at a very low echelon. We are expanding but are only creating posts low down instead of high up.”

8.35 p.m.

I notice also under item 20 that the post of Revenue Investigators carry a salary of only \$112.50 per month, and under item 21, five new posts of Office Assistants have been created carrying a salary of only \$100 per month. I feel that the accent should have been placed more on increasing the higher grade of officer rather than increasing the lower grade. There is no doubt that officers are needed in the higher echelon to deal with the increased burdens put on this

Department, to collect, as the hon. Minister said in his Budget Speech, additional company tax, P.A.Y.E., amounting to approximately \$6 million. There is need for properly trained staff – and this is very important – to deal with the collection of the \$200 licence for professional men. I have spoken about this already. I have registered the objection of the professionals to this dog licence.

But if one were to look at the overall amount of money being expended on this Head, if one were to take away the total on page 141 of the Approved Estimates, \$1,380,793, from the 1969 Estimates, \$1,465,567, it will be observed that there is an increase of \$84,774 in respect of additional staff, or in respect of the increase of the amount of money being asked for.

This Department has been called upon to deal with the \$6 million company P.A.Y.E. additional tax of \$200 for professionals. This is very important: The hon. Minister said that before the licence is given to the professional, he has first got to satisfy the Department that he has sent in all his returns. For something like this, you need officers who will be able to deal with these matters expeditiously so that these individuals are not kept waiting a long time before they can get their licences. If a professional is kept waiting you are precluding him from practising. We should like to know if the Commissioner of Inland Revenue is satisfied with the staff. He may well not be satisfied with his staff in view of the additional duties which his Department will be called upon to perform. I should like to advocate also that the hon. Minister take a new and more realistic view to staffing of this Department. We all know that this particular Department needs qualified and experienced people and unless you revise the salaries and the whole organisation and re-orient your thinking, you are not going to get qualified men to stay in the Department. These individuals will eventually go into commerce. This is a stated fact; this has been going on all over the world. We must not be penny wise and pound foolish. One realises that a staff in a Department like this should have proper qualified accountants and people who are well versed in income tax matters and they will be helping the Government to gather this tax which is important to the development of this country. The additional money, in my opinion, to be paid to these officers will justify the additional revenue which will be

collected. This Department should be regarded as a specialist Department in a particular category. You have got to have experts to deal with experts. The Inland Revenue Department must have experts to counter with the experts of those companies.

For example, subhead 6: Maintenance and Rental of Data Processing Machine. Here again, we see that to operate machines, you need skilled or specialist officers. If the Government does not pay officers well, what will happen? The Inland Revenue Department will really be a private training ground for these officers and, as soon as they are trained, they will be swallowed up by commerce. We have heard the point made that we must appeal to the nationalistic spirit of the individual and tell him that he is working for his country and he should remain in the Department and work, even though he could obtain a higher salary outside. But we are dealing with a materialistic world and facing hard facts which involve dollars and cents. If you are competing you will necessarily have to pay the price if you want to get service.

If I may make one point: These officers are placed in a position of trust and confidence and if they are satisfied, they are in a position where they can deal enthusiastically with a matter and their work will be done efficiently; they will probably collect thousands of dollars more for the Government. But if they are not interested in the job and are frustrated they would not bother to go into the details of an assessment by a company and accept whatever the companies send in. What happens? The Government loses money or revenue. The point I am making – and it could be emphasised – is that the Government must pay officers well in order to get returns from them and this Department could function properly not only for the benefit of the Government but also for the benefit of the individual outside who would like to have efficient service.

Recently, an income tax adviser by the name of Mr. Dobson had come down here. He submitted a report and the Government has not seen it fit to publish this report. I hope it is dealing with it. I also hope that the Government is taking careful note of the criticisms made by the adviser in his report. The recommendations should have been implemented so as to

streamline the Department. We can stop this brain drain and serve both the Government and the people of this country in view of the vital role of this Department in the future of this country.

Mr. Ram Karran: I rise to speak under this Head not only with the hope that I will be able to persuade all sections of this House, including the hon. Minister of Finance, but also to express regret at the fact that this Department and the Head of this Department have been used by the political Government to stop Guyanese from leaving this country under the pretext that their tax exit certificates were out of order.

Mr. Chairman, you will recall that you were a member of this House when this measure was introduced, and every assurance was given that the tax exit certificate would be obtained within hours. I can recall – and I am sure that hon. Members also will recall – that the tax exit certificate used to be one of the things that could be obtained from the Department of Inland Revenue within a few hours. Today one has to spend weeks – in fact by the time one gets the certificate it has probably expired due to the rate at which the Government operates.

I do not blame the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. I know that he probably detests the functions that the Government has thrown upon him. These are not statutory functions but

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political manipulations to satisfy the Government and to prevent people from leaving the country. I hope that all sections of this House will express their disgust at this sort of thing. For weeks I was calling the Minister of Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister on the telephone. The answer was, “The hon. Minister is busy. Will you leave your number?” Day after day I left my number with some pretty young lady and there was no reply. *[Interruption]*

We are grown up; we are now independent and we ought to behave ourselves. The Government has introduced legislation for this sort of thing and I hope it will stop now. The

Government should not use a professional officer, the Head of a very important Department, a man who has a tremendous amount of duties to perform, in this way and should not have him stoop to such tactics.

May I turn to the next page? I refer specifically to subhead 8, Refunds of Revenue. I observe that in 1966 the amount expended under this subhead was \$1,796,057, and during the years 1967 and 1968 the amount was reduced. Perhaps the hon. Minister will give an explanation. A Motion was tabled in the last Parliament but was not introduced by the Government. Perhaps this Government will blame its ex-partner, the United Force, for not bringing that measure before the House. The Motion was to the effect that the Ministry of Finance had been making forced loans from employees who can ill afford it, particularly workers on the sugar estates where some sort of arrangement seems to have been made.

I had the Chief Labour Officer explain the position to the sugar estates particularly in respect of people who work seasonally and from whom deductions were made as if they had worked for the whole year. As a result, large sums were taken out of their pay packets and it is in the devil's job – forgive the term – for them to recover their money from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. Often they are told that no funds are available. In many cases the poor people working on the sugar estates are illiterate and have to pay money to people to make out their returns so that they can get the refunds due to them.

We have asked the Government to make a list of the names of all persons due for refunds because many of the people, in particular the casual workers whose pay packets are interfered with – perhaps that is the better way to describe it – do not know.

If the Government is not to be accused of obtaining forced loans, it is in its interest and in the interest of the public for the Government to publish seasonally – maybe monthly or half-yearly – a list of the names of all persons who have money in the till at the Inland Revenue Department of the Ministry of Finance, so that they can claim it.

As I pointed out, the system operated by the large employer in particular is such that there is hardly anyone who does not have to go to the Department of Inland Revenue to claim refunds of income tax and that should not be so. There are casual labourers from whom, by law, deductions must be made. They work here today, at Sproston tomorrow, at Ogle the next day and at New Amsterdam the following day. It is dishonest for the Government to hold on to these people's money without returning it to them. I hope the Government will do something about this. If the hon. Minister wishes we can introduce another Motion with the hope that it does not share the fate of the one previously tabled. I ask him to increase this amount of \$900,000 to ensure that all the people to whom the Commissioner of Inland Revenue owes money can get it next year and to make the procedure simpler.

The population of this country, particularly sugar workers and agricultural workers in general, are not people who have reached the G.C.E. standard. It is very difficult to make out the complicated form issued by the Inland Revenue Department. Some time ago in the Post Office Department there were people who assisted the public when they wanted to deposit money or withdraw it. Perhaps the Ministry might be able to find such a person to assist people when they go to the Inland Revenue Department.

I am sure that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue shares my view that the Department is scattered all over the place in the Post Office Building. Even people who live in Georgetown and know the city and the Post Office Building find difficulty in getting from one part of the Inland Revenue Department to the other. Something ought to be done as has been done at the Customs Department, a revenue-earning Department. The hon. Minister should see that proper accommodation is made for the public and some assistance given to those who have money to recover.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Chairman, we have listened to Mr. Fielden Singh's general points. He emphasized that unless more money is paid to those who work at the Inland Revenue Department people will continue to leave the Department. This is not a position peculiar to this

Department. This happens in all Departments in this country and not only here but in other countries where, because of higher pay and better facilities, people move from one Department to another and from one country to another. Over the past few years we have been in the fortunate position that the Inland Revenue Department which was very thinly staffed now has very few vacancies. Moreover, the people who are now working there, the executive officers, are highly qualified people. The Commissioner of Inland Revenue as well as his assistant is highly qualified.

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There has been a systematic programme of training. The hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh has mentioned that there is a training officer from the United Kingdom. This is so because it was recognized some time ago that there is need to train the personnel in this Department. Since this training programme has started, we have been able to fill many of the vacancies. This Department is now working much better than previously. I know for sure that this Department is very irritating to men like the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh. It was this Department that caused some of the trouble in the past because it had deteriorated. Now that the Ministry has changed hands, every effort has been made to bring this Department up to standard and today we are in a position where there are several branches in this Department and we are seeing evidence of efficiency.

One big gentleman in this country, the owner of large estates, whose income tax was not paid for many years, was carefully identified and the necessary steps taken. This is only one case that was made public but the Inland Revenue Department has got several cases of this type; some of them were settled very quietly and out of court. As far as the Minister of Finance is concerned, the Inland Revenue Department is doing a good job. We recognize that for many years we have been suffering because of lack of space in this Department but now we can report that there is enough space – and to spare – in the Inland Revenue Department, so that the public can be properly facilitated and the officers can be better accommodated to do their work. There

is improvement going on and there will still be more improvement.

The hon. Member tells us that we are only concerned with the lower staff and not with the senior staff. We are looking at both, but the work in the Inland Revenue Department calls for junior staff and we are ensuring that the bodies are there to do the work. Some of the work is mechanical, and we are making sure that there are enough bodies to do this type of work.

The hon. Member talks of experts. I am satisfied that our Commissioner of Inland Revenue can represent his Department in or out of this country. He is highly qualified and he can talk on equal terms with any expert who might come here to do work for the Government. There are some areas which need specialized training and these areas are being taken care of.

The hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran talks of the tax exit certificate. Whenever you fill up an application for tax exit certificate, you need to tell the Commissioner of Inland Revenue the truth and nothing but the truth as you know it. If you read the fine print in this document you will observe that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue can take very strong action if you give him a false statement.

I will advise my hon. Friend Mr. Ram Karran that, in future, when he sends people to obtain tax exit certificates, he must advise them to give nothing but a true report, and if they left school in first standard and are going to a university, they must put down that they left school in first standard. They must not state that they have the G.C.E., they must state the truth. It is within the discretion of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to use the authority he has when the truth is not stated. I hope that they will take heed of this warning and that, in future, they will record the truth on the document submitted to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue. *[Interruption]* I know that this is irritating.

It is good for people to know that, notwithstanding the fact that we exercise the P.A.Y.E. system; persons are obligated to submit income tax returns. The Commissioner of Inland

Revenue has given the time to do this – between January and April – and each person must submit an income tax return. Do not appear for a refund if you do not do this. In many cases, people appear for a refund without performing this simple task. As more people come into the system of P.A.Y.E., there will be less refunds.

We know that funds are always available. This Government is not bankrupt. This Government has funds to meet all its demands and we are satisfied that if your papers are properly made up, money will be found in the Treasury to pay all refunds. I do not think any other important point has been made.

Head 64, Ministry of Finance – Inland Revenue - \$1,465,567, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 65 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Sutton: I want to make a few general remarks.

The Chairman: Any other hon. Member would like to speak? [*After a pause.*] The hon. Member Mr. Sutton may proceed.

Mr. Sutton: In view of the comments of the hon. Minister of Finance on the Head we have just discussed, that he is satisfied that all is well with the Department then discussed, and that the Government is having a very close look at all the Departments concerned, and in view of the situation that obtains in the Post Office Department for some time – spectacular thefts, complaints about mails being broached, complaints about time spent in sorting mails, etc. – I

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hope that the hon. Minister would give this House the assurance that, in the light of the situation I have described, the Government is giving this Department a very close look indeed with a view to eliminating the causes for complaint which have been so prevalent in recent times.

Dr. Reid: I am certain that every Member is satisfied that the hon. Member Mr. Sutton has not done his homework. If he should take another look, a close look now, he would find that he was talking of something probably as far away from Guyana as England is. We are dealing with the Post Office Savings Bank and not the Post Office. The Post Office Savings Bank does not deal with mails and the theft of articles and I do not think that there is any question for me to answer.

Head 65, Ministry of Finance – Post Office Savings Bank - \$76,294, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

9.05 p.m.

HEAD 66 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to speak on subhead 9, Gratuities to Non-pensionable Officers. This is a hardy annual.

Mr. Wilson: Subheads, 3, 7 and 17. Police Pensions, Gratuities and lump sum payments. It has come to my notice –

Dr. Reid: On a point of order. The subhead which the hon. Member, Mr. Wilson has selected is the wrong subhead. He cannot speak on that subhead.

The Chairman: I know. It has been brought to my attention before and I have, in many of these Heads, explained that there are statutory and non-statutory portions. Whilst no one can imagine there is anything to prevent a Member bringing before the House something which he might find worthy of consideration, he cannot move the deletion.

Mr. Wilson: When these officers retire, they have to hustle around to find a job. This means that in relation to police officers, and in anticipation of a Motion about some special provision for the dependents of policemen and security men, who have lost their lives in the course of duty, something should be done to improve the situation.

As regards subhead 7, Police Reward Funds, Pensions, I was looking at the Ordinance in relation to good work in apprehending criminals and all that police officers receive is the large sum of twenty dollars for risking their lives against armed criminals. I think the Government should look into this matter so that police officers who risk their lives can be better compensated.

Cost-of-Living Allowances. I should like to know what are the cost of living allowances to be paid, and to what categories of officers these cost of living allowances are being paid.

Mr. Ram Karran: This is a hardy annual. The hon. Minister's predecessor in office had given the assurance to this House that those employees of the Drainage and Irrigation Board attached to the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics would have been considered some time ago for treatment in the same way as employees working with the Sea Defence Board. Up to today, nothing seems to have been done. All that is required is for the Accountant General to classify these people as being eligible for superannuation benefits.

They do not receive the same scale as those on the Fixed Establishment but I can assure my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance, which the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics had started to make representation for these people to be brought into line with other employees. The Ministry had taken the view that since the Drainage and Irrigation Board was a statutory board and the employees were not strictly Government employees, that they could not benefit from the provisions to which I referred. It was the Leader of the United Force, who, after action had started in the Ministry, raised the question from the Opposition Benches when further action was initiated to speed it up, and it was he who promised action on it as Minister of Finance. Perhaps he has started action and it did not go through but his successor in office, who knows about drainage and irrigation and agriculture, will no doubt see to it that those people are treated in the same way as people who come under the Sea Defence Board.

Those who have given years of service, and many of them have given years of service, and those who have resigned, ought to have their service recorded for pensions and gratuities under this Head. I am sure the Minister will answer.

Mrs. DaSilva: May I crave the House's indulgence to make a brief comment. Under subhead 7, Police Reward Funds, Pensions, I do not know if this is the place, but it ought to be the appropriate time to praise the very gallant effort and job done by the two policemen last week in apprehending the bandits at Plaisance. When the police do not do their work, we criticize, but when praise is due to them, we of the United Force will not be the last to give it. That is all the comment I wish to make.

Dr. Reid: I have noted what the hon. Member, Mr. Wilson has said.

In connection with the point raised by the hon. Member, Mr. Ram Karran, we will certainly check this. As a matter of fact, this will be for the Public Service Ministry and we will check there to find out at what stage this is. Some of the pensioners mentioned here also

received what is regarded as cost of living allowances payable to public officers and teachers. The situation is not as awful as the hon. Member wishes to make out.

Head 66, Ministry of Finance – Pensions and Gratuities - \$730,854, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

HEAD 67 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

PUBLIC DEBT

Question proposed that this Head stand part of the Estimates.

Head 67, Ministry of Finance – Public Debt - \$350,154, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION XXI – MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question proposed that this Division stand part of the Estimates.

9.15 p.m.

Mr. Ram Karran: It is very difficult to follow the legend; it is clear and it is short but I am sure that no hon. Member will know exactly what is meant here. I wonder if the hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. Reid) or the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Jordan) can give us an idea what this means: “To provide for payment to a Private Investment Fund partly financed with U.S.A.I.D. Loan Funds.”

When I dealt with the item dealing with the use of offal at Lethem, it was pointed out that the U.S.A.I.D. advisers to the Government will never advise this Government correctly.

[Interruptions]

The Chairman: Order! Order!

Mr. Ram Karran: -- with respect to these matters and I am doubtful as to what the U.S.A.I.D. means by this.

The Chairman: Possibly the hon. Minister of Finance can answer this.

Mr. Ram Karran: While I am on my feet I wish to say that the Rice Rehabilitation Programme which has a huge sum of \$5,740,000 has a title which covers a lot of sins. I wonder if, before the Opposition is given a chance to criticise, the hon. Minister could say exactly what these heads means.

The Chairman: Clothes also a lot of bodily imperfections.

Dr. Reid: It is necessary to delete the word "anticipated" in the legend at subhead 10 and insert the words "to be lent to the Rice Development Company."

Mr. Ram Karran: You mean that you wish to change it to subhead 11.

Dr. Reid: Only the legend.

Mr. Ram Karran: There is another Head Loans to Guyana Telecommunications Corporation.

Dr. Reid: Subhead 5 deals with the private investment fund; Guyana subscribes part of this fund and the United States Agency for International Development subscribes the other part. This fund is used for private persons to get loans for work of a development nature. We are now in the interesting process of having rice mill owners make use of this facility so that they can rehabilitate the mills. Small industries, too, use this facility in order to expand or to establish new industry.

The large sum for the Rice Rehabilitation Programme quota is no mistake. Work has already started on rehabilitation for the rice industry in six different areas; foundation work is now being laid for the construction of rice mills so that rice will be properly stored and will not be destroyed by insects and other pests.

Division XXI, Ministry of Finance - \$7,510,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, this brings us to the end of our examination of the different heads of expenditure as proposed for 1969 and it is my duty, no less than my pleasure, to thank hon. Members from all sections of the House for their very kind co-operation in seeing to it that they were in a position to conclude the examination of the heads in the time fixed. We have not saved much time but all hon. Members have had an opportunity to question all matters before us.

I feel good that I did not have to put questions to the Committee without giving everyone a chance to speak on it. We shall now revert into Assembly.

Dr. Reid: Shall we do the amendments now?

The Chairman: No. When you report to the Assembly, you will make the necessary amendments.

Mr. Bissember: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get your ruling. Is it that the amendments to the Schedule will have to be amended in Committee and then reported to the Assembly?

The Chairman: No. Every single head in the Estimates that was dealt with in Committee of Supply has a certain figure; the only thing necessary is a report to the Assembly as to what the Committee of Supply did.

Mr. Ram Karran: Before we get down to that I would like to place on record our appreciation; for the first time since the P.N.C. is in office we have had suitable, appropriate and adequate answers from the hon. Ministers.

The Chairman: It is nice to hear the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran paying homage to the Government. It does seem to me, as I sit here in an impartial position, that there is a good rapport between the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Bissember) and the hon. Mr. Ram Karran on behalf of the Government and the Opposition, respectively. This is a good augury and I hope that it will continue for the five-year term which we all will enjoy in this House.

Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, I did not catch your eye before. I would like to associate myself and my party with the remarks made by the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran and to say briefly that a new standard is set by the Government and I hope that it will be maintained.

Mr. Bissember: May I also, on behalf of the hon. Members of the Government, since it is my special responsibility to deal with this, offer thanks and gratification to all hon. Members for the kind co-operation given in dealing with the 1969 Budget. I hope that this will continue; I shall be available at all times to discuss any points of view raised by the members of the Opposition as regards times of sitting or matters dealing with Parliamentary Affairs. It may be that this is an indication of a successful year in Parliament. *[Applause]*

The Chairman: When this session began, perhaps because of the newness of certain hon. Members of the House, at times I was given the impression that there was some tenseness but it seems that I was wrong for we have been able to associate with all hon. Members of the National Assembly; we know each other well enough so that after the deliberations and fights in the House we can go out and act like Guyanese brothers and sisters. [*Applause*] We shall now revert to Assembly.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. Reid).

Dr. Reid: I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has considered the Estimates, head by head, and have approved them with certain amendments.

Mr. Speaker: Please mention them.

Dr. Reid: The total of \$2,015,461 under Head 12, Ministry of External Affairs, has been amended to \$2,250,031. The total of \$355,535 on page 43, Head 14, Ministry of Economic Development, Interior Development, has been amended to \$355,135.

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The total of \$732,238 under Head 25, Ministry of Local Government, has been amended to read \$723,838. The total of the Current Expenditure listed in the Schedules has accordingly been amended, \$84,712,355 to \$84,938,125. The total of the whole Schedule of \$146,698,155 has been amended to read \$146,923,925.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, you have heard the report of the Committee of Supply. I now put the question that this National Assembly agree with the recommendations of the Committee of Supply.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

**CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT)
(NO. 2) ORDER**

Dr. Reid: I beg to move the Motion standing in my name:

“Be it resolved that this National Assembly, in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm Customs Duties (Amendment)(No. 2) Order, 1969 (No. 3), which was made on the 27th of February, 1969, and published in the *Gazette* on the 28th of February, 1969.”

This is a very simple Motion already discussed in this House. This is a proposal that has been mentioned in the Budget Speech and went through with some amount of agreement. It imposes some additional taxation on certain luxury and semi-luxury items. The amount will be very modest. I am certain that the persons who will be subjected to this taxation will be happy to assist by paying. We have taken particular care to ensure that this measure of taxation should fall on people who can pay. It will be regrettable, however, if those who really cannot afford to do so should proceed to buy or purchase these items which they can very well do without.

We have classified these items as luxury and semi-luxury and during the Budget Debate we took particular care, especially the Minister of Trade, to explain these items and to make known to the public that these are high-priced luxury items and those who claim to be part of the poorer masses ought not to buy them.

We have classified these items as luxury and semi-luxury and during the Budget Debate we took particular care, especially the Minister of Trade, to explain these items and to make known to the public that these are high-priced luxury items and those who claim to be part of the poorer masses ought not to buy them. To re-emphasise this, I shall mention just a few items: for example, pickles and vegetables preserved in vinegar. We have heard a lot this afternoon during the discussion on Education about domestic science and home economics. Establishments are now all over the country and our young women and men should be able to put some of their products to use.

I am certain that all of us will support this Motion which is endeavouring to raise money from those who can pay. Those who cannot pay and are poor will endeavour to grow some of these things and so prevent the cost of living from going up.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion has been moved. Is there any comment?

Mr. Ram Karran: I must say that the hon. Minister of Finance is like Marie Antoinette, if the workers cannot get bread they must eat cake.

Truly speaking, the things that the hon. Minister described as luxury are not luxuries. Since when have sardines become a luxury? We will have to try with our *bangamary*. I met a man the other day who is in a position to have fish on his table every day. We were discussing the hon. Minister of Trade's declaration on the control of salt-fish and he told me that salt-fish is a thing he likes. The Government cannot dictate what the people must eat. How can the hon. Minister tell us that the poor masses ought not to indulge in these things?

I have heard hon. Members on the other side referring to the fact that their policy is a socialist policy. We are moving to the stage where we want to eliminate the poor masses but according to the hon. Minister they will be with us always. The philosophy of the Government, therefore, is to retain the poor masses and side by side with the poor masses will be those who

will be able to build mansions. I hope that the Government, will, during this period, particularly now that it has got an excuse to build, begin to think of really introducing measures that will eliminate the poor masses.

Mr. M.F. Singh: I merely wish to speak briefly on the question dealing with item No. 656-09 made up articles of textile materials.

9.35 p.m.

We cannot really say that cotton made up as household articles are luxuries, yet the rate of import duty has been increased. These have been referred to as luxury items. My submission is that they are not luxury items. The housewife goes into a store and buys cotton made up into an article. To say that such an article is a luxury is a terminological inexactitude.

Dr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I wondered what my hon. Friend Mr. Ram Karran was talking about because in this Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order which I have brought before this House there is nothing to do with salt fish and sardines. I do not know how he came to be talking about salt fish and sardines. It takes but little care to understand this thing, but the hon. Member will not exercise that little care. These commodities are numbered and we have put the number 032-02 against an item referred as "fish product." These are the expensive ones. As a matter of fact I myself have never eaten what is mentioned here and I have travelled somewhat. These are molluscs and crustacean. When we want to eat molluscs and crustacean we can catch them right here.

What my hon. Friend Mr. Feilden Singh was endeavouring to point out was that poor people should go into the stores and buy garments. Even if they do that, the time has come when many of them should be able to make their own garments or give an opportunity to our local seamstresses to make these garments so that more and more people may be employed. These commodities are what rich people should buy, the people who go and buy dresses that are

already made up. These commodities are already made up and so they are expensive. Our young women go to the School of Home Economics and Carnegie and they should be able to buy the cloth and make garments to sell at even cheaper prices. We insist that these items are for the wealthy and are luxury and semi-luxury commodities.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members I shall now put the question but before putting it I shall again read the Motion to you so that you will be under no doubt. The Motion reads:

“Be it resolved that this National Assembly, in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirm Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order, 1969 (No. 3), which was made on the 27th of February, 1969, and published in the Gazette on the 28th of February, 1969.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

BILLS – SECOND READING

TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled “An Act to amend the Tax Ordinance” – [**The Minister of Finance**]

Dr. Reid: I understand that, according to an agreement, item No. 3, a Bill to amend the Tax Ordinance will not be dealt with tonight. This is to accommodate out hon. Friend Mr. Ram Karran.

Mr. Speaker: That was my understanding also.

Mr. Ram Karran: I understand that it has to do with interior shops and I want to get some assistance from my colleagues.

BILL OF ENTRY (IN AID OF DEFENCE) LEVY BILL

Dr. Reid: I should like to move the Second Reading of the Bill intituled –

“An Act to make provision for the imposition of a levy in aid of the defence of Guyana on Customs Bills of Entry with reference to the value of goods imported into Guyana.”

In the Budget Speech we indicated that a defence levy will be one of the proposals for the year 1969. I made a point then to mention the reasons for this Defence Levy Bill. We know that certain things happened in this country very recently and we have been exposed to great danger at our borders. I am certain that all people in Guyana will welcome the opportunity to assist in defending the integrity of our territory. Altogether this is a small contribution to such a worthy cause.

I also indicated then that imposition is for all consumers in this country. This was interpreted to mean that it would be passed on only to the poor. I have so often heard the expression “soaking the poor and easing the rich.” At the time I took the opportunity to explain that once a person in this country is a consumer, rich or poor, he will be contributing to this Defence Levy Bill because all people must consume goods and since this imposition is on imported goods, then the richer people are the more they will contribute to this as it is expected they will use more imported goods. Even though we have said this has to be borne by all the people of Guyana I am certain that the richer people will contribute more to this tax than the poor.

As I move the Second Reading of this Bill we have to take into account that to defend Guyana we do not depend only on arms and ammunition; we do not depend only on soldiers and

police. We will have to use other means to defend our borders because it will be almost impossible for us to have enough funds to police our borders or to put armies at different points at our borders.

Therefore, we think of using this fund not only for the Police Force and the Defence Force, but also for our diplomatic services. At the time of our Budget Debate I said our diplomatic corps will also take on the task of being a defence corps. We have created two new heads of Mission. We have seen a substantial increase in our overseas representation because at the diplomatic level Guyana has been doing a worthy job and Guyana will continue to do this job once we take care of the people who represent us so ably.

In addition to this, we must possess the interior. We said this in the Throne Speech and we re-emphasized it in the Budget Speech. To possess the interior will cost money because we hope that before long more people will be settled in the interior, especially in some of the troubled areas along the borders.

As people settle in these areas we will need to give them roads; we will need to give them schools; we will need to give them hospitals and other necessary services to make them, if not wholly, at least reasonably, comfortable. If we have these people living and working in these areas, then we will be in a better position to know what is happening in these border areas. We will know when to take action. In certain instances we have the type of force, the Guyana Defence Force that can take this type of swift action when necessary as has already been demonstrated in the abortive uprising in the Rupununi when the Defence Force moved in and put the rebellion down swiftly and efficiently without the shooting of anyone. With these remarks, I beg to move the Second Reading of this Bill.

For the record, in accordance with article 80 (2) of the Constitution of Guyana, I signify that the Cabinet has recommended the following Bill for the consideration of the National Assembly:

A Bill intituled:

“An Act to make provision for the imposition of a Levy in Aid of the Defence of Guyana on Customs Bill of entry with reference to the value of goods imported into Guyana.”

Mr. Speaker: The question is before the House.

Mr. Ram Karran: We are having today a repetition of what occurred a year or two ago. The hon. Minister of Finance tells us about the threat to territorial integrity, and we are undoubtedly worried about such threats. Not long ago, the hon. Prime Minister in hushed tones told us about the massing of troops on our Eastern border. You will recall that the Prime Minister of Surinam had been encroaching on the sacred triangle of Guyana when a famous slogan came about, ‘Eat less, sleep less, and work more.’ We had interpreted that slogan to mean not that Mr. Pengel or his Government was really going to do anything but that it was merely giving the Government the opportunity to set up a police state, which it is bent on doing. There was no doubt that the Prime Minister of Surinam and the Prime Minister of Guyana, both big men – in size that is – were friendly and that that was only an excuse.

It is our confirmed view that the masquerade performed by the Venezuelan authorities, by Mr. Leoni, and which will perhaps be repeated by his successor, is only part of the act to give our Government an opportunity to mount a police state. We have given warning of this long before 1964. We continued all through the years, from 1964 to the present time, to warn the Guyanese people in all seriousness, that this set of men who have usurped the position of responsibility, who have rigged elections to control the destiny of our country, will never be satisfied until all

opposition is eliminated. They tolerate some limited opposition for the moment because they want to create the feeling to their friends outside that they accept the democratic rule of law and democratic truth but, in truth and in fact, the Government's attitude, throughout the years, except perhaps during the debate on these Estimates, was one of bulldozing.

I warn tonight – and my colleagues on this side, the members of the party to which I have the honour to belong, have long pointed out – that what is taking place in Venezuela and what has happened in the Rupununi is not because of a threat, but is something mounted as a result of the manipulations of our bigger bosses in the United States. The ex-President of the United States, Mr. Lyndon Johnson, and the whole American Government are supposed to be our friends. Aren't they, sir? Yes; our Prime Minister goes to the ranch. Our Prime Minister wines and dines with the ex-President of the United States. They are on "uncle" terms – "Uncle Forbes" and "Uncle Lyndon."

How is it that the Venezuelans have encroached upon our territory in Ankoko and the Americans have not uttered a single word? When our Prime Minister was shouting hoarse, where were the Americans? When, according to the Government, Guyanese policemen were slaughtered as a result of alleged Venezuelan interference, where were our American friends? Where were they? Those people who slaughtered innocent children in Vietnam, who talk about democracy, have failed so far to send one gunboat or one plane to rid the people of Rhodesia of Smith the dictator. Those people are our friends.

I do not think the Americans will turn; their conscience will not be pricked at all. In fact, it suits their purpose to have the Guyanese and the Venezuelans fighting it out because it would give them an opportunity to manufacture and supply arms to both sides. I think the Americans would be quite happy to do so.

It is time that the members of this Government learn the lesson that we have been pointing out so long and understand that, police state or no police state, it cannot forever

suppress the rights of the Guyanese people. Their own supporters are getting fed up. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, since the P.N.C. has been in office, it has been imposing more taxation year after year. The Government hopes to get \$58 million by way of taxation, and when you bear in mind that the population is three-quarter million, and that half of the population is under 14 or thereabout, you will see that the taxes fall more heavily upon a very small section of the community because a large section of the population, as is admitted by the Government, cannot find employment. Who pays the tax? All the people in this country are not Members of this House, Ministers, civil servants, policemen or soldiers. Many people are unemployed.

The Government can beat its breast and talk about policemen shooting down criminals, but this Government has been creating the criminals. Innocent people, presumably brought up in decent homes, are forced to turn to crime because of the lack of opportunities in this country. While some people might be glad about what took place the other night at Plaisance when a policeman, allegedly in defending himself, shot an armed criminal, this is an indication that our society is very sick. A prisoner who was handcuffed lost his life because he was fighting back. I am not, at this stage, prepared to go into the right and wrong of that particular case but it is a symptom of the illness in our society.

The Minister has admitted in his Budget Speech that the tax that he has imposed here is regressive, and that means, in very clear language, that the poor will have to pay. If the Government continues to put the squeeze on the poor people particularly – regardless of what the Minister says about soaking the rich – there is going to be unhappiness. Even the rich whom this Government is prepared to make richer are themselves going to find unhappiness because they cannot be happy as long as they are living in an island of crime, as long as they are living with three-quarters of the population ready to go at them, not because God has made man evil, according to their philosophy, but because of their inability to get something to do.

This measure is passed, by merely counting the heads over there.

We may anticipate there is going to be another excuse next year because we pointed out that the entertainment alone runs to \$347,000. The manner in which they spend the money is an indication that there is no end to their spending but even though it might appear to them that the Guyanese pockets are bottomless, the time is coming when they will have to adopt other measures, when they will have to bring about real freedom and relief from the remorseless pressure.

I understand that the Prime Minister has been telling his colleagues to read Marx. It is time that they begin to read Marx and Lenin because this philosophy is going to give them an opportunity to see this picture in a different light in Guyana and one will find voices on the back Bench of the Government putting pressure on the Government not to continue in this hopeless manner.

We have a lot of problems in this country. All day today the two young Members, the Minister of Education and her shadow, were dealing with education. It is necessary and it is important in this country where such a large portion of our population needs basic education. We cannot find the kind of money to get the type of education we need. We have heard the hon. Minister of Health (Dr. Talbot) telling us about the inadequacies of the provision for health.

Even though this measure is going to be passed, this Government will try to play down this concoction made in Geneva and in Washington. The Guyanese people will move forward. Venezuela is no threat. Our greatest threat is the United States of America. We are all Guyanese and our greatest enemy is not Venezuela. I am not saying they do not have ulterior motives but the greatest threat is the United States that keeps up Venezuela so if we were to introduce a progressive Government, whether P.P.P. or P.N.C., it would mean that the Americans are going to act as in the case of Santo Domingo and in the case of Cuba, where the people have learnt their lesson and are prepared to move forward. This Government must learn to make a stand or tomorrow may be too late.

25.3.69

National Assembly

9.55 – 10.05 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: We would like to consider this as being the view of the P.P.P. and I merely ask if the United Force would like to say something. It is only for the record that we are speaking.

Mr. M.F. Singh: No, Your Honour.

Mr. Jagan: I should like to refer to two items in the Bill and ask for an explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Can we do that in Committee?

Mr. Ram Karran: May we go on for half an hour?

Mr. Wilson: I should like to demolish the point made by the Minister that the rich and the poor alike will bear it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Assembly in Committee.

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause .

Mr. Jagan: I am not too sure what the proviso to clause 5 (2) deals with. Clause 5 (1) deals with goods that were not caught under this defence levy and under clause 5 (2) the Minister may exempt certain goods by order. But when one comes to the proviso:

“Provided that the person who enters any goods the bill of entry relating to which is exempt from the defence levy by order made under this subsection shall deposit with the Comptroller of Customs and Excise or any officer of the Department of Customs and Excise acting under his directions the defence levy which would, but for that order, be payable.”

It would seem – I am not too sure what it means there – that although there may be goods which are exempted, a person is required to deposit with the Comptroller of Customs and Excise or any officer of the Department of Customs and Excise, a defence levy which would but for that order be payable. Although it is not payable because it is exempted under clause 5 (2), it would seem that the person is required to deposit the defence levy with the Comptroller.

Mr. Wilson: Under clause 5 (2), the Minister may order exemption on bills of entry for certain goods. I suppose the intention is to remove from that levy, goods which may have to be used mostly by poor people. We would like to point out to the Minister that when a rich man spends \$5 he does not feel it – if he feels it at all – as much as a poor man when he spends 50 cents. That is the law of diminishing returns.

10.05 p.m.

Dr. Reid: We have taken particular care to do nothing without coming to the House. When the Minister gives the exemption this has to be confirmed by this House and that is why a deposit is made.

Mr. Jagan: I do not agree with my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. If it is the intention of the Government that the House must approve of the Order before it becomes effective then subsection 3 should be deleted because subsection 3, as it is enacted, states that an order would be made by the Minister under subsection 2; the order would then be laid in the House under subsection 3; but, until a Resolution is passed by this House which amends, confirms or revokes that Order, the Order is in being and if notice of a Motion, let us say to revoke the Order, is moved by the House and is not debated the Order will stand.

The Chairman: As I understand it, the hon. Member, Mr. Jagan, is pointing out what he considers a flaw in the procedure proposed in this clause. He is referring to such class or classes of goods on which the Ministry may agree to grant exemption from the Defence Levy. This is to be done by an Order, and such Order must be laid in the National Assembly. But the order must be assented to or rejected. It is being claimed that what is needed is an injunction for a Motion approving of the Order to be moved, somewhat like the Orders made under the Customs Ordinance. In short, the Government states its intention by making an Order.

10.10 p.m.

If that intention is not to die and the Bill states that it is the intention of the Government that the National Assembly must have this right, it seems to me as a layman – I am not a lawyer – that there should be incorporated in the Section the obligation on the part of the Government to bring such a Resolution upon the laying in the House of the Order and not leave it to the House. We shall postpone consideration until tomorrow in order to give Government an opportunity to look into it fully.

Mr. Bissember: I submit that it is not necessary for this Bill to be deferred. The Government does not intend that this Order must be approved affirmatively. Let us put it that way.

The Chairman: I am not entering in the argument. I merely want to understand. If it is the intention the Order is merely to be laid in the House, the Government should take the initiative for the Assembly to affirm the Order. Then of what value is the Order because I think what the hon. Member said is right? The Order having been made it would be in effect, by law, unless it is rescinded. So where are we? Perhaps we could have the comments of the hon. Member Mr. Feilden Singh with his professional knowledge.

Mr. M.F. Singh: Mr. Chairman, I agree with the points raised by the hon. Member Mr. Derek Jagan.

10.15 p.m.

The Chairman: In the Explanatory Memorandum which the Clerk has just shown me, it says that “any order so made is subject to the approval of the National Assembly,” which means that you must lay down in the law the mechanics whereby it comes before the House.

Mr. Jagan: The subsection does not say so.

The Chairman: I agree there. The Minister gives the assurance that the Assembly will be asked to agree to the Order. Will the hon. Minister of Finance consider sub clause 3, the third line:

“... the National Assembly may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke...”

And propose “shall” instead of “may?” This would make it obligatory to come to Parliament. [Pause] If you have to speak to your law officer –

Dr. Reid: Mr Chairman, the intention of the Government is to have it laid before the House; there may have to be a Resolution if there is difficulty in accepting the rewording.

The Chairman: That was what I was suggesting. At this point we will defer the matter in Committee so that the matter could be straightened out. As that is the last Clause, I shall put the question that the Committee rest its deliberations for this evening with the request to report later.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Chairman: We shall now move back into Assembly.

Assembly resumed.

The Chairman: The hon. Minister of Finance should report that the Committee has partially considered the Bill.

Dr. Reid: I wish to report that the Committee has partially considered the Bill and seek leave to defer it to another time.

The Chairman: I think that hon. Members will agree to that.

Question put, and agreed to.

TRAVEL TAX REGULATIONS

Dr. Reid: The last Motion deals with the Travel Tax Regulations. In the Budget Speech we decided that there should be a raise in the fee called the exit tax from \$2 to \$3 for persons leaving the country. We had indicated then that, with this new airport and the large sum of money expended to make it a good airport with improved accommodation, it was imperative to raise some more money; this was one proposal which came up in the Budget with a view to acquiring additional revenue and so be in a position to defray as quickly as possible the cost of this airport. The National Assembly is now requested to approve this Motion so that the Government can implement the proposals made in the Budget. Hon. Members are asked to affirm the Travel Tax Regulations which were made on 28th March, 1969.

Question put, and agreed to.

25.3.69

National Assembly

10.15 – 10.20 p.m.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. Bissember: Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment until Thursday 27th March, 1969, I wish to refer to the Appropriation Bill for 1969 and to say that it will be dealt with on that day along with items 3 and 4 on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: There will be no debate on that Bill. Before we adjourn I would like to take this opportunity to offer sincere thanks to all those hon. Members who contributed to the enrichment of the Blood Bank this afternoon. I understand that 30 pints of blood were collected from hon. Members of this Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved “That this Assembly do now adjourn until Thursday, 27th March, 1969, at 2 p.m.” [Mr. Bissember]

Adjourned accordingly at 10.22 p.m.
