

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana
(Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)
Order in Council, 1953)

FRIDAY, 21ST MAY, 1954.

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C., in the Chair.

PRESENT :

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members:—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. G. M. Farnum (Acting).

The Hon. the Financial Secretary, Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council:—

The Hon. Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E. (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member for Labour, Health and Housing)

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works).

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E. (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development),

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Deputy Speaker:—

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials:—

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials:—

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertrude H. Collins.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

Lt. Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. R. King.

Absent:—

Mr. T. Lee.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey—Indisposed,

The Speaker read prayers.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

The Speaker administered the Oath of Allegiance to Mr. G. M. Farnum (Attorney-General acting) and welcomed him as an *ex-officio* Member of the Council *vice* the Hon. F. W. Holder, Q.C., on leave.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 8th of April, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRATITUDE TO HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Speaker: With regard to the Resolution passed at the meeting of the Council on the 1st of April, I wish to inform hon. Members that I transmitted to His Excellency the Governor the text of the Resolution with a covering letter. I will read my letter to His Excellency, dated 6th of April, and His Excellency's reply which is dated the 8th of April:

6th April, 1954.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to enclose herewith for Your Excellency's perusal a copy of the Resolution unanimously approved of by the Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 1st of April last, along with the Hansard report of the speeches made by Members.

I would respectfully wish to direct Your Excellency's attention to the personal references made by Members to the very valuable contribution made by you in the furtherance and promotion of the Colony's interests and welfare as a result of your fruitful and successful mission to the Colonial Office — for which the inhabitants of the Colony should be very grateful,

I am to assure you that the congratulations extended to you by Members during the debate were very sincerely offered, and I would like to be associated in every way with their expressions of opinion.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's obedient
servant,

(Sgd.) EUSTACE G. WOOLFORD.

His Excellency the Governor,
Sir ALFRED SAVAGE, K.C.M.G.

His Excellency's Reply

Government House,
8th April, 1954.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th April forwarding a copy of the Resolution unanimously approved of by the Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 1st of April, and to inform you that I have transmitted the Resolution to the Secretary of State by telegram.

2. I am grateful for the personal references to be made in the debate and for your association with them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ALFRED SAVAGE.

Governor.

The Honourable,
The Speaker.

APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL BANK

I have also taken steps to have transmitted the text of the Resolution passed by this Council dealing with the

Report of the International Bank Mission. His Excellency has received the following letter from Mr. Eugene R. Black:

"INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT

Washington 25, D.C.

Office of the President.

April 22, 1954.

Dear Sir Alfred:

I am grateful for your letter of April 5 in which you say that the Legislative Council has approved in principle an expanded and accelerated development program for 1954 and 1955 based on the recommendations of the International Bank Mission.

We are very pleased to know that the recommendations of the Mission are serving a useful purpose in your Government's development planning. The Bank and the Mission have been impressed both with the opportunities for development in British Guiana and with the importance of moving forward with an effective and well-balanced program. We wish the Government the greatest success in their efforts.

I hope that you will convey to the Legislative Council the appreciation of the Bank for the resolution of March 26 concerning the Mission.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) EUGENE R. BLACK.

His Excellency

Sir ALFRED W. L. SAVAGE, K.C.M.G.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,
Government House,
Georgetown, British Guiana.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION.

I am afraid I must ask the indulgence of hon. Members to direct your attention to something that it has not been possible to deal with before, and that has now become urgent. It is with

reference to the membership of the Colonial Government Legislatures, in what is known as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. I must shorten what I have to say as much as possible, but some Members may not be aware of the constitution of that body to which this Council has subscribed in the past. Last year we paid our annual contribution. The position is this:

There is to be a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association or Members of Legislative bodies, who are affiliated to the association, in Nairobi in August or September this year. An invitation has been extended to this Colony to send a delegate and it is necessary, if we do decide to be represented. It is a matter of urgency, as those who have to travel by air will have to leave London on the 16th July so as to arrive at Mombasa on the 3rd of August. That is the early passage desirable. Quite recently we received a communication from the Secretary of the Association in which he said:

"I shall appreciate a reply by cable from you as soon as possible as to whether you are willing to accept our invitation, which I hope will be the case, and I would be glad to receive the name of your delegate by air mail."

These are some very important conferences to be held by the various parliamentary delegates, but it is my humble opinion that the whole idea of these conferences was to meet the wishes of all parliamentary bodies in case those bodies were elected or in which there were elected members. There are no Elected Members of this Legislature. All the Members are nominated. In the ordinary course of things the Members are only nominated *ad hoc*. Whether my view is correct or not, I only express my personal view in the matter. Up to the present I have not been able to convene a meeting for the appointment of an Executive Committee and office-bearers. I was hoping to be able to do

[Mr. Speaker]

so, but I could not find the constituent of the branch members, nor had I an opportunity of putting it to hon. Members, before this particular moment. I am the only person, and Sir Frank Mc David, as President of the State Council, who are members of the local branch of the Association, and it has not yet been decided who should be members of the branch. We must and should decide whether the Interim Government is competent to form a branch at all.

I would be glad if hon. Members would review the situation. I could of course, see His Excellency on the matter. The aims and intentions of the Association are to meet Elected Members of legislative bodies, those who represent constituencies in their own Colony. Strictly speaking, that is the position, and this Colony has not, owing to the unfortunate and unhappy position we are in, an elected legislative body. I would like hon. Members to think of that. The time may come when this Colony will have two legislatures. We must know as early as possible and decide first of all to have a meeting of the branch. Should hon. Members decide who are to be Members of the branch, we would have a short conference at the end of some meeting of the Council on the matter.

Mr. Ramphal: We want to be very helpful and to give this matter our earnest consideration. I would be very glad, Sir, if you can circulate to Members a copy of the Rules of that body. Taking my cue from you, I do not think we are members or can be members at all. We should be glad to have the Rules.

Mr. Speaker : I am informed by the Clerk that the constitution, etc.—the preamble and historical background—has already been circulated as recently as 27th of March this year. I do not know if the hon. Member has got it.

This is the text of the letter signed by Mr. Crum Ewing which was circulated:

“The documents attached, setting out the aims and objects of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of which the Legislative Council of this Colony is a Branch, are circulated for your information.

His Hon. the Speaker proposes to convene a meeting of the Branch at an early date for the purpose of electing the office-bearers and discussing other matters connected with the Association.”

Mr. Ramphal: I beg to withdraw my suggestion.

Mr. Speaker: I simply mention it following upon the urgency of the matter.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS.

The following reports and documents were laid on the table:—

The Trading and Profit and Loss Accounts and the Balance Sheet of the Lethem Trade Store for the year ended 31st December, 1952, together with the Director of Audit's certificate and report thereon.

—(The Chief Secretary).

Proclamation No. 5 of 1954 made by His Excellency the Governor under Section 126 (1) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Ordinance, Chapter 13, with effect from the 9th of April, 1954, and Gazetted on the 9th of April, 1954.

Proclamation No. 6 of 1954 made by His Excellency the Governor under Section 126 (1) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Ordinance, Chapter 13, with effect from the 13th of April, 1954, and gazetted on the 13th of April, 1954.

—(The Attorney-General)

The Development Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1954.

Supplementary Estimates for the months January/February, 1954.

Minutes of the Finance Committee meetings, held on 4th March, 9th, 12th,

13th, 14th, 20th and 26th April, and 6th, 10th and 12th May, 1954.

Report of the Director General of Colonial Audit on the Accounts of the British Guiana Transport and Harbours Department for the year ended the 31st December, 1951, together with the Governor's comments thereon.—(The Financial Secretary).

The Trading and Profit and Loss Account and the Balance Sheet of the Government Produce Department for the year ended 31st December, 1952, together with the Director of Audit's certificate and report thereon.

Report on the Economic Production of Sugar Cane by Individual Farmers by Frank A. Brown.—(Sir Frank McDavid, Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).

Annual Reports of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the years 1951 and 1952.—(Mr. Cummings, Member for Labour, Health and Housing).

Statement of Accounts of the Drainage and Irrigation Board for the year 1952 together with the Director of Audit's certificate and report thereon.—(Mr. Kendall, Member for Communications and Works).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES.

The Financial Secretary: I give notice of the following motions:

That this Council approves of the Development Estimates of Expenditure for 1954 which have been laid on the table and of the projects therein being financed in the manner proposed on page six of the Estimates.

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for January and February, 1954, which have been laid on the table.

I also give notice of my intention to move the suspension of the Standing Orders of this Council in order to enable me to move the motion on the Development Estimates this afternoon. I

should like to mention that I have His Excellency's permission to move the suspension of the Standing Orders.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills:

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the inspection of certain premises in the City of Georgetown, the town of New Amsterdam, Kitty and Alexander-ville Village District and certain other areas in the Colony; to provide for the elimination of fire hazards in connection with such buildings; and for purposes with the matters aforesaid".

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to confer on the Commissioner of Local Government certain functions in respect of convicts' licences and the removal of prisoners presently exercisable by the Chief Secretary."

The Attorney-General gave notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled—

"An Ordinance further to amend the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Ordinance".

B.G. CREDIT CORPORATION BILL

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled—

"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment, constitution, powers, duties and functions of the British Guiana Credit Corporation and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid."

If there is time, Sir, I shall move the suspension of the Standing Orders so as to enable me to introduce and have the Bill read the first time today.

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

PROBLEM OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Miss Collins gave notice of the following motion:

"Whereas it is reported that Juvenile Delinquency is on the increase and it is

[Miss Collins]

therefore desirable that every effort should be made to curb such increase;

"And Whereas many social workers in the Colony are of the view that the introduction of the United Kingdom system for the adoption of children sponsored by Social Welfare Organisations would materially help:

"Be it Resolved:

"That this Council recommends to Government the appointment of a Committee to consider the United Kingdom Adoption of Children Act, 1926, as amended from time to time, with particular reference to those sections dealing with the adoption of children sponsored by Social Welfare Organisations, and to recommend whether similar legislation should be enacted in this Colony".

PROTEST AGAINST MR. BUSTAMANTE'S ATTACK ON B.G.

Mr. Raatgever: Sir, before we proceed with the Order of the Day, I crave your indulgence to refer to a matter which is of vital importance to the people of this Colony. Since we last met, Mr. Bustamante, Chief Minister of Jamaica, is supposed to have said in an interview with the Press in the United Kingdom, on the 13th of this month, that the people of this Colony were anti-British. Sir, I challenge that statement and take very strong exception to it. It is not only untrue, but unjust. The majority of the people of this Colony are second to none in their loyalty to the British Crown, and this was amply shown during the Coronation celebrations held in this Colony last year, when tens of thousands of our people all over the Colony rejoiced at the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen.

People who live in houses with glass windows should not throw stones. It is well known that the most rabid Communists in this part of the world are Jamaicans by birth. There is no question about that, but I do not think anyone in this Colony would refer to the people of Jamaica as being anti-

British. I, personally, have many friends in Jamaica, and I know that their loyalty to the Throne is unquestionable.

I feel, Sir, that a telegram should be sent to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies taking strong exception to the statement made by the Chief Minister of Jamaica and calling on him to withdraw it, since it is totally untrue and is a libel on the people of this Colony. As I have said before, they are second to none in their loyalty to the Throne.

Mr. Speaker: May I ask whether it is not possible that there was some inaccuracy in the telegram, as regards what was actually said by Mr. Bustamante? I do know Mr. Bustamante personally—we all know of him—and while these were supposed to be his own comments, I do not think he said that. I know that his attitude towards this Colony has always been of a pleasant nature, and I think there is some mistake arising from the source of the telegram.

Mr. Raatgever: I know Mr. Bustamante very well. I have been to about eight conferences with him and I am absolutely certain that he made the statement. He is capable of making it, and I take exception to it on behalf of the people of this Colony. I know the gentleman very well, and I am sure my colleagues will agree that a telegram should be sent refuting the statement at once.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think there is any great necessity to reply to the statement, if it was made. If hon. Members will agree, I will try to convey the feeling of the Council to the Secretary of State by cable, and request him to try and get in touch with Mr. Bustamante and ascertain whether he did make the statement. Will the hon. Member (Mr. Raatgever) tell me the date

on which the statement appeared in the Press?

Mr. Raatgever: It appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* on Friday, May 14, and it also appeared in the other daily newspapers on that day.

Mr. Speaker: Did they all agree (as regards the text of the statement)?

Mr. Raatgever: Yes, Sir. As I have said, I know Mr. Bustamante very well, and I have not the slightest doubt that he made such a statement. I think he wanted to blackmail Her Majesty's Government into doing something for the Jamaica Government, and he used us as pawns in the game.

Mr. Ramphal: I saw the same report in a Jamaica newspaper, Sir.

DEVELOPMENT ESTIMATES

STATEMENT BY FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Financial Secretary : I now beg to move the motion for the suspension of the Standing Orders of which I have already given notice. I should like to take this opportunity of laying over the statement which I propose to make in presenting the Development Estimates of Expenditure. I propose to read the statement as it comes under the Budget debate.

Mr. Cummings: (Member for Labour, Health and Housing) seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Standing Orders suspended.

The Financial Secretary: So much has already been said about Development, and Members of Council are so seized of all aspects of it, that in moving the Resolution for the approv-

al of the estimates of expenditure to implement the Development Programme I have no wish to indulge in repetitious statements of what has gone before. A few brief introductory remarks of a more or less factual nature would seem all that are called for.

Council adjourned on 8th April, 1954, in order to permit Finance Committee to consider the Development Estimates. After a lapse of a little more than six weeks, which may be regarded as the period of gestation, it is possible for me to come into Council today with the Estimates and to seek formal approval of the expenditure therein passed by Finance Committee during the adjournment.

The volume of the Estimates laid on the table today, besides containing details of expenditure arranged departmentally, also contains the Development Programme approved in principle on the 26th March, 1954, by Resolution No. IV of this Council, and a table showing the sources of funds for financing the programme.

THE PROGRAMME

Historically, the Programme stems from the five-year Investment Programme of \$66 million recommended by the Mission of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development which visited the Colony early in 1952. The Mission's Programme for the first two years was accelerated and extended into a two-year programme, and received the approval in principle of the Secretary of State in January this year. The two-year programme provides for the expenditure of a sum of \$44 million, of which it is aimed to spend nearly \$19 million in 1954 and \$25 million in 1955.

Speaking generally, I may say that the programme is sufficiently big

[The Financial Secretary]

ard ambitious to give the hope of a real advance. Its objectives aim so entirely at increasing national income, the level of employment and raising standards of living, that it has been generally acclaimed and accepted. It is possible that some variation in it may have to be made from time to time in regard to allocations approved under the various listed projects, and as between sources of funds.

FINANCE

As regards Finance, the table which is printed immediately after the Development Programme in the volume of the Estimates sets out in detail the sources of funds from which the programme will be financed. Thanks in the main to the generosity of the United Kingdom taxpayer in one way or the other; funds for carrying out the programme happily constitute no problem, and we are under no necessity to ask ourselves where the money is to come from. As the table shows, of the total expenditure envisaged, \$21 million is to be met from grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act in respect of schemes already in being and new schemes authorised, \$20.3 million from Loan, and the remainder, \$2.7 million, from the Colony's accumulated surplus revenue balance. On the subject of funds it seems necessary to make only two comments. In regard to grants I have already mentioned to Finance Committee, but it will bear repetition here, that it is a prescription of the Colonial Development and Welfare Act of the United Kingdom, that no expenditure incurred in respect of any project or scheme, in advance of its specific approval by Her Majesty's Treasury, qualifies for subsequent reimbursement. I am afraid that in regard to some projects under the

programme there has been an infraction of this principle. In the circumstance, therefore, it will be necessary for me to seek this Council's approval, at some later date, to such adjustments as may be necessary.

The other point is in regard to funds provided under Loan. In this respect, I would remind Members that of the total sum to be provided under Loan a sum of \$12 million lacks statutory authorisation, and that as a consequence I shall have, on some subsequent occasion, to introduce a Bill seeking the Council's specific approval to the raising of this sum, and to its being secured on the assets and revenues of the Colony. In the interim, and pending such time as the London Market becomes favourable for the raising of a Colony Loan, the Secretary of State has undertaken to make advances of such sums as may be required from time to time at the rate of 3% per annum. This, indeed, is most satisfactory. As regards the appropriation from revenue, I shall have later to provide the amount in a Schedule of Additional Provision. When these matters have been given effect to, financial provision under the programme will have been fixed and arranged.

EXPENDITURE

The detailed estimates show expenditure departmentally under the sub-divisions of Grants, Loans and Revenue. The funds earmarked for expenditure in 1954 in the Development Programme are \$18.8 million. Approval, however, is being sought now for a sum of only \$15.8 million which covers those items already approved by Finance Committee. The balance of roughly \$3 million will be submitted to Finance Committee as soon as possible, and brought forward to this Council by way of Schedules of Additional Provision.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

If the projects now before Council are examined it will be seen that expenditure provided places the accent on economic development. In the Agricultural sector, which in future years will include drainage, irrigation and land settlement, the provision made amounts to \$1,061,802, while under Forestry a sum of \$384,890 is provided, and under Public Works, Communications and Surveys a sum of \$7,350,484 — a total provision under Economic Development of \$12,547,176 inclusive of the Credit Corporation.

The Estimates under Economic Development admittedly exclude many projects that could be, and, indeed, are desired by Members. The point, however, is that the projects contained in the programme concentrate on those things which are felt to have the highest priority, and which are regarded as practicable and attainable, and within the measure of our available resources. As regards Social Services, provision has also been made in the estimates for housing, schools, hospitals and dispensaries to a total of \$3,293,501. This too, may not satisfy the aspiration of all, but it is the case that where there is so much to be done and so little with which to do it, it is wise that first things should be placed first, for in any analysis it must be conceded that it is on the foundation of increased production and real wealth that improved social and public services must be built up and maintained.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

There is one other matter I should like to touch on. Our development programme must necessarily of itself generate additional expenditure in respect of salaries, wages and the maintenance of assets. It is not yet possible to say what the

total commitment will be, but new borrowings alone under the programme are calculated to result in a contingent liability of the order of well over \$½ million for service charges. While it is the case that the injection of large sums of money in our economy will add to the bouyancy of revenue, it would nevertheless seem prudent to adopt an attitude of caution in accepting on the budget new items of a recurrent nature.

CREDIT CORPORATION

I must not close without some brief reference to the Credit Corporation which it is proposed to establish under the programme. As will be seen, provision to the order of \$3,500,000 is made for funds for the Corporation to re-lend for agriculture, housing, industry and technical assistance to industry, where applications in respect of such are accepted by the Corporations as loan-worthy. A sum of \$200,000 is also provided for organisational and operational expenses. The Corporation is to replace existing credit banks, taking over medium and long-term credit, but will continue to operate short-term credit through the co-operative credit societies. Thus, for the first time, short-term credit and longer-term credit will be operated in their own respective fields, by separate bodies without rival competing claims. The Corporation is not a new idea. It is indeed quite old. It is without doubt one of the features of the Programme most eloquent of development. It is the fruition of all that the industrious and hard-working could wish for, and its horizon in this respect is limited only by the imagination, the energy and the enterprise of those who would invoke its assistance. The need, especially in rural areas, for greater and less restrictive credit

[The Financial Secretary]

facilities has been long foreseen, but financing it has, until now, been the impediment.

A Bill for setting up the Corporation will shortly be introduced in Council. When, therefore, legislation is passed, the Corporation will be in a position to commence functioning immediately.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to record my gratitude to Members of Finance Committee for their hard work and for their concessions in the acceptance of the Development Estimates at short notice. I feel that if spending departments co-operate in the carrying out of projects approved, with equal care, the development programme will mark a new era in the upward and onward advancement of the Colony.

Accordingly, Sir, I beg to move that the motion standing in my name be approved this afternoon:-

"That this Council approves of the Development Estimates of Expenditure for 1954 which have been laid on the table and of the projects therein being financed in the manner proposed on page 6 of the Estimates."

Sir Frank McDavid seconded.

Mr. Speaker : Does any Member wish to speak on this resolution? If there is no other speaker and the resolution is carried, then the Estimates will be approved *en bloc*. I take it that Members appreciate that.

Mr. Macnie : I was going to ask about this, but you have clarified it, Sir. However, in order that we might be accurate, I would like to draw attention to something that the hon. the Financial Secretary perhaps has not

seen. On page 20 of the Estimates, Item 9, sub-item (7), "New Works, W.C., Demerara appears, and there is an explanatory note on the opposite page which states that the amount allocated is a revote, and that the wall entails the construction of a new sea dam and the erection of two new sluices at Bush Lot and Lovely Lass. It is a small point, but I am sure it is the West Coast, Berbice, that is meant.

Mr. Raatgever : I think we should place on record our appreciation of the hon. the Financial Secretary's tact and consideration as Chairman of the Finance Committee, which contributed largely to Members' acceptance of the Development Programme. I think I would be wanting in my duty if I did not make that request. I may add that Members asked that it be recorded in the Minutes of Finance Committee, and I am asking that it should also be recorded in the Minutes of this Council, that in the employment of personnel for carrying out the various development undertakings local people should be appointed wherever possible. That is to say that all things being equal our own people should be given preference. That, Sir, was the feeling of Members in Finance Committee which I was asked to express, and I am repeating it now.

Mr. Speaker : I propose to put the motion "That this Council approves of the Development Estimates of Expenditure for 1954...."

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Speaker : I think this is unprecedented. I have never known a volume dealing with expenditure of this nature having gone through the Finance Committee stage and a motion for its approval being so readily accepted by the Council. I think that is

what Col. Haywood hoped for, and it shows the value of reference of such matters to Finance Committee. I think everybody is to be congratulated; it is certainly a record.

BRITISH GUIANA CREDIT
CORPORATION BILL

Sir Frank McDavid: I move the suspension of the relevant Standing Order to enable me to introduce and have read a first time the Bill, of which I gave notice a while ago, to establish a British Guiana Credit Corporation. I am sure that Members have been keenly looking forward to the time when this Bill would come before the Council. I have myself, and I hope they will agree to the Standing Order being suspended to enable the first reading of the Bill to be taken today so that the second reading may be taken next week.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Standing Order suspended.

Sir Frank McDavid: I move that a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to provide for the establishment, constitution, powers, duties and functions of the British Guiana Credit Corporation and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid"

be read a first time.

Mr. Cummings seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Sir Frank McDavid: I hope that the Council will be able to give this Bill priority at its next meeting, when I hope to move its second reading.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL

The Chief Secretary: As regards the Friendly Societies (Amendment) Bill which I think Your Honour is suggesting I might proceed with, there are a number of amendments to the Bill as printed which I propose to move when we are in Committee on the Bill. Those amendments have been circulated today and I think Members will require at least a week to study them. I hope they will understand them within a week, and perhaps I could proceed with the Bill next week.

Mr. Speaker: Consideration of the Bill is therefore deferred.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Item 2 on the Order Paper was the second reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, to provide for the minimum number of persons capable of registration and for the compulsory sale of produce through a registered society in certain cases."

The Chief Secretary: I should explain that this Bill has been entirely re-drafted, and it is proposed to re-introduce it in its new form. I will, at the same time, ask permission to withdraw the Bill on the Order Paper.

Bill withdrawn.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS
(AMENDMENT) BILL

Item 3 on the Order Paper was the second reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance."

Mr. Cummings: After the publication of this Bill a petition was received

[Mr. Cummings]

from certain persons who would be affected by the Bill. On the advice of the hon. the Attorney-General it will be necessary to add another clause (3) to the Bill. I had hoped to be able to go ahead with the Bill today, but I have only just got the file back and I notice that the proposed amendment is rather long. I think hon. Members would like to study it, so that I do not think I am in a position to deal with the Bill today.

Mr. Speaker: When does the hon. Member propose to proceed with the Bill?

Mr. Cummings: I think at the next meeting.

Mr. Speaker: I hope that Members will give their attention to the matter of the Parliamentary Association's invitation in the interval, as I propose to adjourn the Council until Thursday next week, when I hope we will be able to proceed with the Credit Corporation Bill and other matters of importance. In the meanwhile, I would like to be able to send a reply to the invitation, and I think we might meet to discuss the matter informally here. I think the Chief Secretary might see His Excellency about the matter and perhaps get some direction from him. As there is no other business this afternoon, I adjourn the Council until Thursday next, the 27th of May.