

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

FRIDAY, 26TH MARCH, 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. F. W. Holder, Q.C.

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.

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. T. Lee.

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.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

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

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. R. King.

Absent :—

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.

Mr. Sugrim Singh—on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 25th

of March, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ORDER OF THE DAY

DEBATE ON DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Council resumed the debate on the following motion by the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines (Sir Frank McDavid):—

“Be it resolved that, with reference to the Report on the Economic Development of British Guiana by the Mission organised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, this Council approves in principle of the expanded and accelerated development programme for the years 1954 and 1955 presented to Council on 11th February, 1954, and of the financial arrangements for its implementation.”

Mr. Luckhoo: If I were asked to summarise what I have to say I think I could very well do it in four words, but as I am not asked to summarise I think I shall be a little longer. The position is that I think most Members of the Council feel, as I do, that we are anxious to get to the budget stage in Finance Committee. I was rather surprised to hear that the Development Budget is being prepared by our Financial Secretary, because one wonders how he is going to find the time and energy to be able to devote his attention to this particular line. I was under the impression that we would have followed the suggestion made in the report of the International Bank Mission at page 37, where it is stated:

“The three principal functions of the Development Secretary and his staff would be to:

1. Prepare, in consultation with the operating departments, an annual development budget to form part of the country's over-all budget for submission to the Council and the House of Assembly.”

In view of the fact that the hon. the Financial Secretary is in this Council day after day it is surprising that he has not cried out. Perhaps we will never hear him cry out, but it does not seem quite fair that he should be taxed with the preparation and presentation of what must be a very intricate budget. The point I wish to make is that it is very necessary that we should see the budget at the earliest opportunity in order to be able to make some useful contributions in respect of the several matters which will be contained therein.

No one can attempt to say that he is against the Development Programme, and I venture to suggest that the poll would be almost unanimous if we asked the opinions of individuals as to whether they favoured the Development Programme or not. So that at all stages during the few minutes I am on the floor, I want it to be remembered that whatever criticisms I may make, I do not make them because I am opposed to the Development Programme. To my mind the approach should not be that we must spend \$44 million in two years but rather that we should set out to tackle the contemplated works with full vigour within our limits. The operative words are “within our limits”. What I am getting at is that anyone can spend a fortune within a very limited time, but we are not concerned so much with the spending of the money but with getting the maximum results and the optimum benefit from the money which is being spent. Many other Members have expressed the same point of view, perhaps, in better words and much better than I am doing. I feel that that point should not be lost sight of.

We must spend the money, I agree, but our primary purpose should not be in the spending of the money but in getting the schemes into operation. The

spending will naturally follow. Let me say this categorically. I do not believe it is possible for us to spend \$44 million in two years, and to spend it and obtain the maximum benefit from the spending of it. I feel that, in order for us to be able to spend this money and get the optimum value from it, it is necessary that the machinery be geared for the spending of it. I wonder whether we are geared in this country at this moment for the spending of \$44 million in two years. Sir, the words I use are, we must spend within our limits, produce the maximum benefits and not go beyond saturation point, so to speak.

I have been looking around in my humble endeavours and studying the report on the economic development of British Guiana. It does take a bit of study and it seems, Sir, that what is advocated there, is the setting up of our Economic Council and also the formulation of a Credit Corporation. The main thing, of course, in the Economic Council is the personality of the Development Secretary, but in addition to that it is necessary to have a staff, and we see the advice therein of having 6 or 7 professionals—Economists, Engineers, Statisticians, etc. I would like to ask the hon. Member for Agriculture as to just how far advanced we are with the Secretariat of this Economic Council, whether the positions have been effectively filled or whether there are proposals for the filling of them, so that we can see the structure that is going to launch this Development Programme. I would be very interested to hear what the plans are in respect of getting this machine which is going to launch the particular programme because, as I have said before, I would be in favour of development and would be in favour of the spending of the money, but it is necessary for us to

get the best value from the spending of this money. It is in that connection that I pledge myself to watch as carefully as I can—and I am sure all hon. Members would do the same—the spending of this money and to see there are certain safeguards, which we would wish to see placed for the spending of this money.

There are three points I would wish to make in that connection. I would wish to see that the bulk or a large proportion of the money does not go in administration and experts. We have heard from time to time that it is very necessary to have experts, and I personally have always been one who agrees with the theory that you must get the best possible opinion before you embark upon any project, but I think the tendency has been to have experts to report on experts. What I am getting at is this: There is the tendency to have too many experts. You must have your technical assistance, but I feel we should watch that question of having too many experts and should see that too large sums are not spent in respect of the administration of these works which are planned.

The second point is, I feel there should be no waste of money and waste of man-hours. That is where one has to depend on those who are placed in charge of the contracts or particular operations. One knows from experience that people are not always willing to give of their full value. But this is not a principle which concerns an individual. It is a matter which concerns the welfare of the Colony. Not because we have the money it must be poured down the gutter literally. It must be dealt with on a business basis, as if we are going into business and investing the money to bring returns. The returns may not be in hard dollars and cents, but returns used in the other

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sense. I feel that those who are placed in the immediate charge, who are responsible, should see to it that not because this is money that is coming it must be spent indiscriminately. In like form I say that one should be vigilant to see that there is no waste of man-hours and that the people who are supposed to be on the job are getting ahead with the job. That would effect those lower down the scale. I also make a comment that we must be careful that the administration cost does not go too high, and the other comment is that the workers themselves must give an honest day's work for the sum of money to be paid them, which one expects to be a reasonable wage.

The third point I make is, there must be such an organisation as to check, control and supervise all of the workings in respect of this Development Programme or Schemes so as to protect and guard against fraud, graft and all other like types of offences. It is no use being pious and sanctimonious. One knows these things happen. Where there are large sums of money spending there are people who will be seeking to see how much they can help themselves, and so it is necessary that at all levels there should be proper checks, and proper audit is necessary so that one might feel that we are being protected in the sense that the money is not being illegally utilized by unscrupulous individuals or groups of individuals. It is a question of justice must not only be done but must appear to be done, and there must be the appearance of everything being proper and aboveboard. Then we will have a better chance of having everything aboveboard, if we have the necessary machinery for the supervision of the expenditure of these very large sums of money.

Arising out of this third point, I would again like to ask the hon. Member for Agriculture as to whether there are proposals for the setting-up of any special audit department or branch. I feel, Sir, that is very necessary. The existing Audit Service was clearly not planned for a development programme of this nature. I repeat that. If they are asked to carry the strain of this programme their efficiency must necessarily be affected. Then one would wish to know as to whether there are proposals and plans—I am conscious that everything cannot be done at once and I hope the hon. Member for Agriculture does not misunderstand me—in process of formulation which would provide the safeguards which, I think, we all wish to see and may even attempt to secure, so that the money which is spent would be properly spent as the necessary supervision has been exercised in the spending of the money.

There are many points I would like to make on the individual heads. Suggestions have been made by hon. Members which, I think, are very worthy of consideration. The hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, for example, made mention of the dredge. I think that is a matter one may well make enquiries into because of the benefits which can flow from such a thing. It is worthy of investigation because the benefits which can come from it would be of such a nature that one would see them in the immediate present and not have to wait for a long period. Things of that nature I intend to go into in a little more detail, but I feel at this stage to confine myself to these few generalized remarks and wait until we sit in Finance Committee when we shall have an analysis in the form of the Budget.

Sir, anyone can spend money. What we are all most anxious about is that

the money spent under this Programme should be utilized to the best possible advantage. I repeat again my fear, because I know that I am right. I do not see how we can spend \$44 million and get the maximum result from it in two years. Perhaps I do not have the requisite documents or technical knowledge to make such a pronouncement—I make it as a layman, but with a liberal experience of human nature and so on. It seems to me that the future of this Colony might be materially affected by our use or misuse of these large sums of money for which we are, however, extremely grateful.

Mr. Kendall: Sir, I would like to join with the previous speakers who complimented the hon. Mover of this motion, Sir Frank McDavid, on presenting the Development Programme which this Council is willing to accept in principle. I must say that Sir Frank has presented the document with his usual skill and tact, and at one time I felt that he was walking on a tight rope in order to satisfy one section of the public that this two-year Programme is a continuation of the Ten-Year Development Plan which was accepted by the Fourth Legislative Council of which I am proud to have been a Member, and also to satisfy the man in the street that this Programme is something worthy of note.

I am still wondering whether in the latter respect, the hon. Mover was able to satisfy the man in the street that the presentation of the Development Programme would have the effect of relieving unemployment as fast as we desire. I hope that in view of what certain speakers have said about getting on with the job, the hon. Mover will be able to tell us in the course of his reply that the necessary machinery for the implementation of this Programme is well on the way and

that we would not have to spend many weeks debating it again in order to see its effect upon this country.

I think it was very nice of the hon. Mover to explain that this is a continuation of the Ten-Year Development Plan which was formulated by local people for the benefit of the Colony as a whole. If I may be forgiven for being somewhat insular in my views, I would like to remind the hon. Mover that in the Ten-Year Development Plan representations were made on behalf of a particular area in this Colony, but because of lack of funds, as was stated by the Committee, these recommendations were not carried out. Now that money is available, I sincerely trust that when the Financial Secretary is making his breakdown and giving details to this Council, he would bear in mind certain items which I would like to bring before it shortly. It must be remembered that the future of British Guiana depends largely upon satisfying that section of the community which is somewhat frustrated due to lack of employment.

Although this Programme appears to be very good on paper, I do not think it will relieve unemployment as much as we envisage. I feel that in order to reduce this frustration in the minds of the middle-class people in this country—people who would not go back to the land—not in this generation. We would have to create minor industries whereby they would be absorbed. If it is not the wish of the mercantile community or of those who have money to spare, to invest in this Colony—establishing minor industries whereby our boys and girls could be gainfully employed, then this Government would have to tackle the problem in a more realistic manner and bring in outside capital. The Report of the Internation-

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al Bank Mission suggests that, internally, this country can find any short-term loan up to \$5 million, for a period of three to five years. I do not know if private insurance companies or firms who have funds at their disposal, would throw in their weight for the establishment of industries and stop the importation of goods that can be manufactured here, thereby improving the economy of the country.

I am very mindful of the fact that some people would say that they are not keen on doing that because they have no guarantee that the Government of the country would continue to be a stable one and that their investments would be protected. But, I think these people should show some more faith in this country and should realize that no country that is striving for self-sufficiency could ever hope to achieve it without establishing minor industries whereby the people who live in the country could find gainful employment.

I must thank the hon. Mover for presenting the motion in the manner he did, because he has given me an opportunity of saying what I have to say for the constituency that is nearest and dearest to my heart. In 1946, as a member of the New Amsterdam Town Council, I was sent down to the City as a member of a Special Committee to present certain schemes to Government for the benefit of that town. New Amsterdam is regarded as a dying town, and that phrase has become so popular that it has become a fact to some people. In 1946 when we made representations on behalf of the New Amsterdam Town Council, the delegation was told that because of the inability of the Town Council to meet its obligations, the schemes we suggested would not be worth while. Sev-

eral years have passed, Sir, and today the town is showing its worth with the result that Government has increased its borrowing powers and we have been able to collect over 90 per cent of the taxes payable each year.

I want to suggest to the Financial Secretary who is to prepare a detailed statement in connection with the Development Programme, that we should consider the granting of a pure water supply scheme to New Amsterdam within the next two years. I think that up to now Government has not replied to the letter from the Town Council, but I would like it to be favourably considered. I have here the report of the Town Planning and Urban Housing Sub-Committee, and I notice that it was signed by Messrs. C. V. Wight, Chairman; J. Gonsalves, M. J. Rattray, E. A. Chapman, F. St. M. Gerard, G. H. Smellie and myself. I also notice that certain things in the report relating to housing in the town of New Amsterdam have not been done, and I hope that the Member for Labour, Health and Housing will take a note of what I have said.

Paragraph 34 of the report states:—

"34. Housing in the town of New Amsterdam will have to be dealt with later, but action to be taken will depend on the results of a survey of living conditions such as was carried out in the city of Georgetown. Having regard to its size, a sum not exceeding \$400,000 should cover all its requirements over the next ten years exclusive of the cost of the survey."

Then, paragraph 36 states:—

"36. The purpose for which the funds are required is provision of sewerage and potable water supply schemes. It was made clear that amounts due by ratepayers of New Amsterdam for arrears of rates would have to be paid up either immediately or by some scheme whereby

they may be funded over a few years as an indication of the willingness of the New Amsterdam Town Council to meet the increased commitments which will fall due should the schemes be executed. There can be no doubt that both schemes are a necessity for the town and once the necessary guarantees are obtained this sub-committee recommends that first priority be given to their execution even before the commencement of housing schemes in New Amsterdam."

That was in 1946, and in 1948 the Legislative Council accepted the Ten-Year Development Plan. The years went by and it was found necessary to give the Georgetown Town Council priority as regards a pure water supply, as it was in the City. I am glad that this was done, and now that money is available the Town Council of New Amsterdam has come forward again with a fresh application. I agree with that because the scheme is a necessity. I trust, however, that the members of this interim Government will see to it that the distribution of this \$44 million is equitable and that every section of the country that warrants consideration be allowed to partake of the benefits. In the past that was not done and that is the reason why there was so much discontent and dissatisfaction in the minds of the people. I sincerely trust that we who are Members of this Interim Government will not fall into the same category and centralise amenities and facilities in one area, while other areas are left to see only the reflection of them.

The hon. Member Mr. Jailal in his observations says that New Amsterdam is a dying town, and he feels that if a suction dredge is acquired, it may help to save the town from this slow death. I agree with him, and I say it is not a new suggestion. Some years

back I moved a motion for the dredging of New Amsterdam's harbour because I felt that any town without an industry should have a good port. It is well that Members are thinking of developing the riverain areas, but this will serve no useful purpose if there is no proper arrangement for distribution of the produce, and I sincerely trust that the Financial Secretary will consider the purchase of this type, or any other type of dredge suitable for dredging the harbour, so that this great Guiana that we envisage will be a Guiana that can feed not only its people, but can be a great source of food supply for other parts of the world.

There is a division of opinion as regards agricultural expansion and continued increase in the production of rice at the present moment. I am moved to agree to some extent with the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever. When I was in Trinidad I understood that the island was spending over \$600,000 for research purposes with the hope of planting rice. It is true they cannot produce rice as cheaply as British Guiana, but we must bear in mind that every pound of rice sold in Trinidad is subsidised by the Trinidad Government and the only way British Guiana rice can stand competition in the future is by enabling the industry, to sell it cheaper. It is becoming alarming to find so much rice in bonds in New Amsterdam and Georgetown—I do not know if it is lack of bond space, lack of shipping or inability to find markets. I hope the mover will be able to explain whether increased production of rice as is suggested can be effected without taking into consideration the large amount we now have and which we cannot export. If the mover can give this Council the guarantee that there are new markets to sell this product—

Sir Frank Mc David: I cannot give any guarantee at the present moment.

Mr. Kendall: It is unfortunate, because the hon. Member has been in the rice industry for a long time. If the hon. Member cannot guarantee he can find new markets, then there is no need to increase the production of rice. That is something I should like considered by the hon. the Member for Agriculture during the time he holds that portfolio and even after, because he is bound up in rice and knows more about rice than any other person in this Council. That is why I am asking for his advice in this matter.

It has been said that this Programme cannot be carried out as fast as we can, due to the fact that we have not got the technical staff, which cannot be got from the United Kingdom. That fear should be eliminated from our minds now that the United States Government is willing to give us all aid in this direction, and I am asking for an assurance.

Sir Frank Mc David: The hon. Member is asking for replies to many things. I would not be able to answer that. I would not like to say that the United States Government has promised to supply all of these people; please.

Mr. Kendall: If this country needs technical aid and is willing to accept it from any organisation during the time we are waiting for aid from the United Kingdom, I am satisfied we can do it, and I hope nothing will be done to prevent such help from coming to this country to speed up the Development Programme. It is unfortunate we have to consider the programme and spend so many weeks on

it and then consider the budget and spend so many months on it. It might be a good thing if we keep this in mind and have the organisations that are to put the schemes into operation go ahead. I would like to make an observation: this Interim Government comes after a crisis, and it is well that all Members of it should know about this development programme, so that when pertinent questions are asked of them, they will be able to give better explanations to the public. It is well that certain Members should say, "We must go and propagandise this programme to the people", but the people have reached a stage where words do not mean anything—they need action, and action is the 'prayer' that will be answered in this programme.

The quicker we can get action, the better. I sincerely trust that the Chairman of the Economic Development Corporation will realise the importance of action, and will see to it that the various forms of legislation which are to be put into operation are prepared as speedily as possible; and I am sorry today to be unable to see the draft legislation of the Credit Corporation which is to give the small man an opportunity of putting his land into cultivation, so he can remain in the country and produce more rather than coming to town to look for employment which he cannot get. I would like the mover—because in his opening remarks he only said this legislation is to be presented before the Legislative Council—to tell us how soon it will be put before us. Speaking for myself, every time I return to New Amsterdam I am asked, "How soon we will be able to get this money?"

Sir Frank Mc David: The hon. Member is a Member of the Executive Council, and he should make enquiries from the Executive Council.

Mr. Kendall: I know I am a Member of the Executive Council, but I want to say that if there were no Economic Council I might have been able to pursue this matter with a greater amount of power. I do not think I have more to say, but again I want to compliment the mover. I have listened to him for many years presenting Budget Statements, but the one he delivered and which we are now debating has been one of his greatest statements, taking into consideration the way how it was presented, its impact and how the mover 'walked a tight rope' with dexterity. I sincerely hope he will continue to be skilful in his presentation of all documents and schemes of the same magnitude.

Mr. Ramphal: I rise to support the motion. I would prefer to remain silent but for the fact that there are some subterranean rumblings to which I want to refer this afternoon. Before I do so, however, I want to say that the hon. mover with his sure method and at odd moments, emotional presentation of this budget did say that the Governor had obtained the magnificent loan from the British Government on the guarantee that this was the pattern which our development was going to follow. I want to reiterate what other Members have said in making it abundantly clear that the assurance which the Governor gave Her Majesty's Government that the Programme as presented by the World Bank experts who came here is the programme which we are today endorsing.

The Financial Secretary in presenting his recurrent budget gave us the promise that at some time he was going to present to this Council a motion of thanks to His Excellency the Governor for what he has done. I do not see this motion among the others thanking the World Bank Mission and

The Secretary of State for the Colonies. I wish the substantive Financial Secretary will redeem his promise to us, or we shall be compelled at a later stage to move an amendment for the inclusion of a word of thanks and gratitude to His Excellency the Governor. The Report of the International Bank Mission is, in my opinion, a charter not only for this generation but for many generations to come, and we are indeed very grateful to them for the change of emphasis which they have advocated. As the hon. mover has pointed out, they pay great tribute to the previous Councils for the considerable progress which this country has made during the post-war period, but they make it clear in their critical analysis that there are certain changes to be made if we are to get the maximum results from the expenditure which they recommend. On page 19 of the Report it is stated :

"In 1953, expenditures for social welfare, and police and justice, are estimated to be about 50% of free revenues, after assigning to each of the departments its appropriate share of the government cost of living allowance. Expenditures for the economic departments and for development are about 30% of free revenues. Direct development expenditures, however, are only 10% of such revenues."

A little lower down in the same page there is a definite change of emphasis where it says :

"In preparing a recommended programme for the future, the mission has given greater weight to the directly productive sectors of the economy, which did not, in its judgment, receive an adequate share of past investment allocations."

That, Sir, is a change of emphasis from welfare to production. The country needs production, and hon. Members have referred to the fact that people are looking forward to the money. We want it to go out from this Council that money is not going to be shaken from a tree—that there must be production at every level and in

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every department, and that production will only come from sweat and more sweat. We want to make it very plain that we are approving this Report in principle. There are minor points of detail and minor points of policy which will have to be considered by this Council. Already, from nearly every Member who has spoken, there has been some indication that they desire some deviation from some point of detail, or some minor policy laid down in this Report, which itself anticipates that such should be the case. On page 25 it says :

"The programme, as recommended, should be regarded as flexible both in its investment targets and its methods of financing. It should be reviewed carefully each year in the light of current fiscal, trade and economic conditions, and the degree of progress achieved in carrying out the major investment projects."

That is the basis on which this Council will demand an opportunity to express itself on any deviation, either in detail or in minor policy. The programme, as we have seen it in that summary, in itself has made some deviation. To be particular, let us take the case of the dry dock at H.M. Penal Settlement. The Report is against that dry dock being under Government control, and suggests that Messrs. Sprostons should be given an opportunity to be the one ship-building and ship-repairing firm in this country. From the information given us by the hon. mover it appears that the dry dock will be abandoned. On a matter of that sort I am sure this Council will want to express its opinion. We do not want to vary any matter of major policy, but already Members have spoken about Government entering into business. I refer particularly to what has been said about Government entering into the stone-quarrying business.

May I be permitted to refer to three matters. First of all the hon. Member,

Mr. Raatgever, suggested that in embarking on this programme we should make haste slowly. I think we should go forward cautiously. We have had the experience of past years. We need hardly recall that great and good Governor who wanted to get on with the job, and how much money was thrown away at Torani, and how much money was squandered by hastening a little too quickly on the Boerasirie Scheme. We need to go a little more cautiously, particularly because this is not only our money but is largely the gift of the people of Great Britain who are hard up themselves, and in many cases have to accept charity from others. We do not want one penny of this money to be mis-spent.

It is true there is an air of expectancy; people are expecting that things will be done quickly, but I suggest that that air of expectancy is being used by our detractors as an opportunity to foster discontent and disappointment. We as a Council must not allow ourselves to be driven into hasty action. We must take time, and if we do we will find the people behind us. They want to know that we really mean business, but we must proceed with circumspection and caution, even if it involves this Council being in continuous session. I know your feeling, Sir, on that particular matter, but if that is the only way to get our business done I am prepared—and I think most hon. Members will be prepared—to make the sacrifice. If the Economic Council has to be in continuous session I think the members should be prepared to do so, because the country is looking to them. The ordinary man wants to know that we mean business and are going forward with a will.

Other Members have spoken about the necessity for checks. I want the Members of the Government bench (I borrow the term from the hon. Member, Mr. Gajraj. I did not know that we had

two benches) to know that it is the fear of people outside (they are saying it every day and it has been heard by some Members) that part of this money will be spent on experts and the other part will go down the drain, and that when the two years or five years are up we will have nothing to show but waste and desolation. I want Members to know that. I wish to say on behalf of the Civil Service and people who work for the Government, that I do not think Members meant to suggest that they would defraud Government of the \$44 million which we are about to spend. All they intended to suggest was that we must be careful with the money, and I would ask the hon. the Financial Secretary, and the Deputy Chairman of the Economic Council, to devise some means whereby a proper check can be applied. If they cannot find the time to do so I would suggest that the Director of Audit be invited either to come to this Council and tell us what checks he would advise, or prepare a memorandum on the subject. I support very strongly the remarks made by the hon. Member, Mr. Luckhoo, on this particular matter. He has asked the hon. mover to reply on the point, and I hope he will be able to remove the fear which exists in the minds of the people.

I think that in the execution of this programme we must take the people with us. They must feel that they belong to the programme, and I would suggest one simple way to do that. Hon. Members have referred to the Ten-Year Development Programme, and said that we should not blame the people for not knowing about it, because Members of the Council did not go and tell them about it. That may be true, and I want to suggest that we of this Council should not make a similar error. This book (the Report of the International Bank Mission) costs over \$10, which is beyond the means of the ordinary man. I therefore suggest

that copies should be printed in a cheap form and sold to the public at nominal cost, so that every member of the public would have an opportunity of knowing what is in the book. I remember during the war—and, I think, other Members would remember—how handy it was to have the map of the world to see how the Forces progressed forward and backward as the case may be, and so as we progress onwards we want the people in a similar way to know exactly how we are progressing. It would keep their interest sustained, and it would make us keep to our job all the time. I therefore suggest to the hon. Member in charge of the motion to give this suggestion some little consideration.

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if your goodwill is not strained too far to allow me to deviate for one moment to something else. We are now in a new era in our country when we feel it is our country. Not too long ago we felt the industries of the country had nothing to do with one another and with the country. Whether sugar went up or down, whether rice went down or up the ordinary man in the street showed no great interest. But the hon. Mr. Macnie can tell you, Sir, that not so long ago, since they began to chalk up on the estates the amount of production per week, the people have begun to take an interest and want to know what the other estates are doing. It was a stimulus to interest in the sugar industry as a whole. I use that only as the ground on which I am going to suggest this: Just a few days hence a delegation will be leaving these shores for Trinidad on a mission to finalize or bind a contract for rice. The Chairman has already preceded the delegation. I want to feel that they are going forward with the full confidence of the entire people of this country, because the rice industry is as much an integral part of the life and interests of the people of

[Mr. Ramphal]
this country as any other industry, speaking relatively. I want with your permission, Sir, on behalf of this Council to ask the hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, who is here present and is a member of the delegation, to take with him the good wishes of this Council. We are sending them forward to Trinidad to get as good a bargain and as fair a bargain as is possible. When we could have got our ounce of flesh from Trinidad we did not, and the hon. Mover of this motion is one of those to whom credit must go for having assisted Trinidad in gaining their point at our price, and today the hon. Mover is paying a very heavy price because he took such a stand. Lots of people felt he was an enemy of the rice industry because he did not increase the export price then. Today, I hope, Trinidad would remember that we were their friends in their dark days. While we are not asking them to befriend us, yet we are asking them to be fair. We play cricket with them in the field and, I hope they will play cricket with us in the field of rice.

May I be permitted to clear one point which, I know, the hon. Member on my left (Mr. Raatgever) would desire to be cleared. He has told me, and he has been misunderstood. That is, when he spoke of the expansion of rice what he really meant was that we should not expand our rice industry to a point where it would become uneconomical.

Sir Frank McDavid: He did not say so.

Mr. Ramphal: That is what he meant to say, and I wish on his behalf to state that for him. I said I was asking your kind permission, Sir, to refer to one or two points. During this debate there was a happy sign the revival of visitors to the gallery of this

Chamber. There are not as many as there were yesterday or the day before, but it is a happy sign despite the propaganda and the ramblings I have referred to before. Our people are coming back here because this is their Legislative Council to hear what is taking place in their parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Are you referring to the people in the gallery?

Mr. Ramphal: Those all around the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker: I notice in the gallery some familiar old faces. They are old friends of ours.

Mr. Ramphal: There are many more whose faces are not familiar. I want to refer to the plea made by the hon. Mr. Tello on behalf of the pork-knockers, and so did the hon. Mr. Bobb. Having been a pork-knocker myself they struck a note in my heart and I wish those who are promoting the industry would remember these pioneers. I do not think pioneering days are over. I think the men are still there in the village who want to go into the diamond and gold fields to win for us precious stones and minerals. I wish to ask the framers of our policy, the appointed Members of the Government, to keep this point in view. I cannot recommend any programme, but the President of the Association of Miners has advised them to put up a programme and, I am sure if they do, the Economic Council would give it due consideration.

In conclusion I want to repeat my support of the motion. I want to express my conviction that the people generally endorse this Development Programme which has been so very lucidly introduced into this Council. But there are some people—they must be few—who for their private interests invoke opposition to the Programme. 1

want to sound a warning and ask those people to beware, that our country is on the forward march to economic development, and our country is not going to brook any opposition, for the life and happiness of every man, woman and child today are bound up with the success of this Development Programme.

In this development it becomes our duty, each one of us, to keep in step and to co-operate. Non-co-operation is the sabotaging of the public interest. The non-co-operators are the enemies of the people. Those who are not with us are against us. For those people there is a siren calling for their destruction. I want to make my position exceedingly clear. I call upon all my people to beware of the foreign philosophy that is being taught,—a philosophy alien to religion and culture, a philosophy based on hatred and misunderstanding, and ending in destruction, disorder and despotism, to which some people longingly look forward. In this hour of need I wish from this place to send forth a call to our people to join the Governor in this march forward. We call them to this high effort and, God willing, we shall see the sun rise once again.

Mr. Cummings : Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion now before the Council which has been so ably moved by my distinguished colleague, the hon. Sir Frank McDavid. I propose to divide my remarks into two parts. I propose to make certain general comments, and then I shall speak specifically on those subjects which fall within the ambit of my portfolio. I should like to begin by congratulating those who had the vision to formulate our Ten-Year Plan, and those who had the zeal, ability and industry to have implemented some of the proposals during the first five years. In my

view — and this view has been expressed by previous speakers — the pattern of the recommendations of the World Bank Mission follows very closely and differs but little, if at all, from the proposals in the Ten-year Development Plan. Consequently, while recording our gratitude to those experts for their obviously sound and far-reaching proposals—proposals which we can adopt without diffidence because of the calibre and objectivity of the experts—I nevertheless feel a sense of pride in the realization that our local legislators and planners came to similar conclusions, and that most of their proposals can now be considered to have been sound. With them the difficulty was money and sufficient consideration was not given to the needs of the small man.

Next, Sir, I wish to congratulate all those who assisted in the framing of the Development Programme and, in particular, my able colleague, the hon. Sir Frank McDavid, for his lucid presentation of the Budget motion. Planning is one step, but the implementation of plans calls for money and people capable of executing the plans. Consequently, last but by no means least, I wish to congratulate His Excellency the Governor on his successful mission to the United Kingdom. If this sum of money is properly applied we can go a far way towards giving effect to these proposals. For the first time in the history of the Colony we have a plan and also the money to execute this plan.

Everyone desires action—more deeds and less words with respect to this Development Plan. Nevertheless, this is perhaps the most momentous document in the economic history of the Colony. Consequently, everyone in this Council who has the interest of the community at heart—and I know we all have it—will endeavour to make some contribution, no matter how humble, to this debate. Having the plan and the money

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to implement it are two good things, as I said before, but we must also have people who can execute the plan.

Here I wish to say a word as a result of my experience. I have heard much criticism and I have myself, on occasions, criticised the employment of a number of experts in certain fields when such employment appeared to me to be unnecessary. There is much that we can do to help ourselves. There is, however, much that needs to be done that we cannot do in the requisite time and with the desired effect, unless we get the advice of experts — people who have studied these particular subjects and people who have given service in these respects. This is particularly so in the technical field. Let us therefore consider ourselves fortunate to get at such little expense to ourselves, some of the matured minds that will come here to advise us. We should not blindly adopt everything that has been and will be submitted to us, but should give the opinions of these gentlemen the careful consideration they will undoubtedly deserve.

Now, Sir, we ought to begin our work with an appreciation of our duties. As I see it, the business of a Government is the welfare of the people in the community. We serve the community. I am therefore happy to identify myself with the policy of the Government, as expressed by the hon. Member, Sir Frank McDavid. The accent is to be on the individual. One wonders why it was not so all the time. I shall not attempt to criticize past Administrations, but shall just make the comments I feel justified in making. I take these words — “the accent on the individual” — to mean that we regard ourselves as trustees of the rights, the welfare and the privileges of all members of the community, regardless

of race, colour, creed, or nationality. I regard these words as meaning that we pledge ourselves to help wherever help is most needed. I regard this as meaning a bright future—a bright future for the small man, a home, employment, and reasonable amenities for a happy atmosphere.

Before I move from the general to the specific subjects which fall within the ambit of my portfolio, I should like to make one other general comment. It appears to me, after the sort of consideration that a layman can give to technical reports, that we have reasonable grounds for saying that we have potentialities. A study of our geological reports makes one hopeful of the prospects of bauxite, columbite, iron, manganese, and so on, while a study of agricultural reports leads one to the conclusion that our rice industry could be relied upon as a means of livelihood through which the standard of living can be raised for sometime to come, despite the hon. Mr. Raatgever's pessimism on the subject. I am not claiming to be an expert on rice. One finds it easier to be an expert when one is some distance from one's country. Having regard to all that I have been able to read—and I think I have understood it—and apart from what I have heard outside of this Colony — there will be world markets and the situation abroad will not deteriorate seriously, so that the hon. Member need not be as pessimistic as he seems to be. The point is that these fields—mining as well as agricultural—have good prospects. I am only referring to available world markets—and it seems to me that this Colony is on the brink of a period of economic development.

At this moment, however—perhaps the most momentous in our history we find people talking about non-co-operation. To my mind, non-co-operation is nonsense. This is the result of con-

fused thinking. There are some people who feel that the attitude of this Government is to baulk political independence. This is wrong. Speaking for myself, self-government with Dominion Status within the Commonwealth of Nations must be our aim. In present world conditions it is, to me, the only logical goal. Not to aim at self-government is to stultify ourselves, but considerations of loyalty apart—and to me these are important—have we the necessary defence and protection to stand alone in this atomic age? Political advancement can only be permanently achieved if based upon a sound economic policy. Let us therefore co-operate and achieve economic stability, thereby ensuring a more speedy political advancement along the lines I have indicated.

Assuming for the purpose of argument—but not admitting — that those responsible for Colonial policy in the past were devils, surely in present circumstances of world tension, “better the devil we know than the one we don’t.” This Government should make it abundantly clear—and I think I am speaking for the whole Council—that we are aiming at self-government, and it is right and prudent that we should aim at self-government within the Commonwealth of Nations. Our people should face up to that fact and realize that we have an opportunity to achieve something stable. We shall want to protect our people who were lost only because they were, to some extent, in an unequal and unfamiliar atmosphere, and it was easy for them to become converted to the views of others and to succumb to false ideas. Our people need a “break”, as one hon. Member has said, before we find our level. I do not criticize the past Government, I criticize people like myself. We have been too concerned with our own problems. I feel that the reasons for the situation which developed in this

Colony were, firstly, the inexperience on the part of a group of young men who thought they had a magic wand; and, secondly, the atmosphere in which they sought to wave that wand.

I am convinced that if we get this Programme over to the public we shall succeed eventually in achieving an economic stability which would justify our early advancement in the political field. Co-operation does not prevent anyone from voting the way he wishes at the next elections, but it would certainly contribute to early economic stability and, consequently, to the achievement of our ultimate goal. Members can expect to hear from me as early as possible, something concerning the subjects which fall within the ambit of my portfolio.

I know hon. Members are anxious to know something about that part of the Development Programme with which my Ministry is concerned. First, something about Housing: \$10 million has been allocated to housing, in the two-year period as hon. Members know. A plan was submitted by the Town Planner for my consideration. A number of facts had however, to be considered—whether sufficient lumber would be available during the next two years for the building programme envisaged in the Development Budget; whether local labour in the building industry would be affected adversely if prefabrication were introduced, whether prefabrication in timber was immediately practicable, and to what extent should metal houses be introduced in the plan. I convened a meeting with Heads of Government Departments concerned and we did arrive at some conclusions, with details of which I do not wish to tire the Council. Let it suffice that we felt that on the whole local labour would be able to do the job. Prefabrication was possible with standardisation of doors and

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windows, and it was felt that there would be sufficient timber for executing a programme.

It was at this point that it was agreed that as far as possible, local lumber would be used to give a fillip to local employment rather than resort to importation of prefabricated buildings. It was also at this point that the housing experts from the United Kingdom arrived. I think hon. Members would think me imprudent—in fact, foolish—to make a statement of policy before Government has had an opportunity to consider the recommendations and advice of the experts. My short meetings with the experts have left me considerably impressed. In a short space of time they have done a large amount of fact-finding, which must precede policy-making. I hope that in another two or three months I shall be in a position to make a statement with regard to the housing programme; and I also hope, that we shall be able within the next two years to spend profitably, in the interest of the lower income group particularly, the \$10 million allocated for housing.

Again, I do not wish to tire hon. Members but they ought to know what has been going on over the past nine years. For the present I shall refer to schemes without going into details. There is the Essequibo Rural Housing Scheme; the Vergenoegen, *cum annexis* Land Settlement Scheme which is administered by the Commissioner of Local Government; the Cane Grove-La Bonne Mere Land Settlement Scheme and the Anna Regina Land Settlement Scheme. Those are rural schemes. There is the Wortmanville Housing Scheme, started by the Georgetown Municipality and taken over later by the Central Housing and Planning Authority. A grant from Colonial De-

velopment and Welfare Funds of \$125,040 was obtained to provide housing accommodation for primary school Head Teachers in rural areas. The grant was expended between 1949 and 1952. In 1953 the sum of \$25,000 was provided under the head, "Education" of the annual estimates, for the construction of teachers houses. To date 27 houses have been constructed and five have been purchased.

There is the Public Officers Housing Loan Scheme. Hon. Members are no doubt fully aware of how this scheme is being administered and of the advantage being taken of it. I am pleased to say—as Members heard in His Excellency's speech, that \$2 million has been included in the Development Programme for housing loans to Public Officers, and I emphasize that this amount will be made available to a wider range of officers in the Service.

Although I have heard arguments about the threat of non-co-operation I have been flooded out by applications from public officers in the rural areas enquiring about the schemes. I have to arrange to make a statement for publication, but at the moment I cannot make a statement with any degree of finality.

Now, we come to Slum Clearance—a matter on which the hon. Member, Miss Collins, spoke. I do not propose to dilate upon this question as I think Members visited the Scheme at La Penitence and had an opportunity to see the number of houses completed. I hope it will not be long before people can remove back from the Laing Avenue Flats into new houses. I know there is a lot of room for criticism.

It can also readily be said that there is room for executive reorganisation, increase of technical staff and

correlation of the various schemes. There are a number of schemes being run, and there is need for co-ordination of these schemes in order to achieve speedier implementation. I will not refer to the Sugar Workers Housing Scheme because the hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, has already referred to it, but I think he, too, must agree with me that the time has come when we must correlate these schemes to achieve the greatest good for the greatest number.

I want to say a word about the health services. Hon. Members are aware that at present another momentous step in the history of the Colony is being taken, to eradicate the scourge of Tuberculosis, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation of the United Nations. We have with us Dr. Lampart who is carrying out a B.C.G. campaign. He had told me the meaning of B.C.G. but all I can remember is that the first letter stands for Bacillus and the last two letters signify the names of the people who discovered it. After I talked with Dr. Lampart and the Director of Medical Services I became impressed by the work done in Jamaica and other Colonies, and the speed with which it had been done. Dr. Lampart assured me that the operation is a very simple—I know “operation” is a frightening word—medical exercise; merely two pricks and there is little or no reaction.

I hope Members will assist by marching up to be vaccinated, and by speaking wherever they go with regard to the campaign's value to the Community, seeing that the incidence of tuberculosis is very high and we have only a small hospital. It is a dangerous disease and is no respecter of persons: you or I could be affected. I visited the World Health Organisation through the courtesy of the British Consul-General when I was in New York, and I was

introduced to Mr. Giddings, a British delegate to the United Nations. Heads of the World Health Organisation were interested in British Guiana—as most people in New York are — from all angles, particularly in what W.H.O. can do for this country at the present time. I interviewed doctors—everything had to be informal for I had no official mandate—with a view to finding out whether they could assist us in the re-organisation of our medical services, but no commitments could be made since their head officer was in Washington. But everything led me to believe that if we take the necessary steps we might get further assistance from this organisation in this field.

I know there is room for criticism as regards the medical services of this Colony, not only in connection with the hospitals but the entire services. It was with a degree of trepidation that I broached the subject to the Director of Medical Services when I first took office, but I am gratified with his reaction because he seems to be thinking along similar lines. He left me with the impression—and I think it is the correct point of view — that he came here and found an adult, and it is very difficult to change the ways of an adult. It takes patience, zeal, co-operation and, last but not least, it takes money. I am satisfied that the Director is utilizing his energies in an endeavour to achieve better medical services in this Colony. I feel that he might have had a little more co-operation, not only from some of his colleagues, but from this Council, on the question of voting money. Nevertheless, I feel that, justified though some criticisms levelled against the Department might be, there are grounds for saying that every effort is being made to ameliorate the present conditions. I have already said that a Committee will shortly be appointed to investigate con-

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ditions in the medical services of the Colony, and it is hoped that its reports will make for better services and improvement in the medical institutions of the Colony.

I think it is incumbent on me to make reference to the hon. Mr. Kendall's statement with regard to a pure water supply for New Amsterdam. I do not know if he referred to sewerage, but I think both things are paramount needs in New Amsterdam. I know that you, Mr. Speaker, who represented New Amsterdam for several years in the Legislature, have always been deeply concerned, and from my conversations with you I know you are still deeply concerned about those things. My answer to the hon. Mr. Kendall reminds me of Sir Walter Scott's lines:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead...."

Mr. Speaker : Why not finish the quotation?

Mr. Cummings : I do not wish to finish the quotation. That omission is for emphasis. I was born in New Amsterdam, and I can assure the hon. Member that I too have the matter under consideration. Everything that can be done with the funds at our disposal will be done. In fact I feel that when we sit in Finance Committee we should make every effort to persuade our colleagues by logical argument, that we should divert funds from somewhere to satisfy those paramount needs in the Ancient City of New Amsterdam.

I feel that I should say a word about labour. Much of what has been said in this Council today, and throughout this debate, has been devoted to money and to materials, and to ways and means of carrying out the Devel-

opment Programme which is calculated to improve the standards of living of the people of this country by raising the national income. The Programme has been carefully weighted—the welfare aspect *vis-a-vis* the development aspect. Both things must go side by side. We must not lose sight of the fact that industrial peace and harmony are essential if we are to succeed in our endeavour to get full value for the money spent, and to improve our position in the shortest possible time.

In the field of labour this Government is striving to play its part in creating the proper atmosphere. I take no credit for this, but nevertheless I count myself particularly fortunate that at the very outset of my Ministerial career (I use the term for want of a better description) we were able to avert what might very well have developed into a very serious situation in the sugar industry. Credit must go to people like the hon. Mr. Tello and his colleagues, and to the hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, and his colleagues who sat around the table and were able to give and take and so arrive at a satisfactory solution. Both sides made concessions, and it was to me a very happy augury. I can only hope that the spirit of compromise shown on that occasion will be repeated in future, not only in the sugar industry but in other industries as well, and that we shall be as free as possible of industrial strife in the days just ahead. As a means to that end we are working to close existing gaps in our industrial machinery. I am now considering amendments to the Labour Ordinance, our basic labour legislation. The Executive Council has not yet been consulted as to the details, therefore it would be improper for me to say more than that arbitration and the regulation of wages are important aspects receiving attention.

Workmen's compensation and safety measures in the building trades are among the matters under consideration. An Advisory Committee on the Building Trades, for which I must give credit to the past Government, is making useful progress. I have been informed that the Committee hopes to report very shortly. The assistance of the I.L.O. is being sought, among other things, on the question of unemployment statistics.

There are a number of other outstanding matters in the labour field which need to be put right. We are doing our utmost, and we are being materially assisted by the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies in the education of trade unionists. It is very important that we should train men to realise that negotiation with employers needs some background; it needs understanding of the problems and an appreciation that if there is a goose laying golden eggs there is a point beyond which it cannot go. That, coupled with a reasonable approach by the employer, might well lead us to the goal we are seeking to achieve.

I have mentioned to His Excellency and to other Members of the Government, a proposal to appoint a Labour Advisory Board. I have had indications from those with whom I have discussed it, that it will have their support. In principle His Excellency is in agreement, and on that Board which I propose to appoint with the approval of His Excellency, there will be representatives of capital and labour, and of most interests in this country. I am hoping that we shall have on that Board men and women capable of advising the Ministry on current and proposed

labour legislation, and other matters pertaining to the welfare of the working class people, and generally I am keeping my ears close to the problem.

I have had a conversation with Mr. Matthews, of the International Labour Office, a Guianese who was recently in the Colony, and he drew my attention to Chapter IX of the publication of that institution in which I found that there is provision for technical assistance in the setting up of Statistical Departments for the compilation of statistics. Experts are being brought here in other fields, and there may be some overlapping. Therefore, in order to deal with our employment problem we need to be able to differentiate between unemployment and under-employment, and to appreciate the industries and categories in which they exist. For that reason we need far more statistics than we have, and the International Labour Office has a team of experts who have given service in other fields and would be prepared to come here and set up machinery to train local personnel along those lines. I have not yet submitted any proposal to Government, and I cannot make any positive announcement, but I think it is reasonable to assume that any assistance, especially where it is free, would be welcome by this Government, and we may look forward to some assistance in this field from the International Labour Office.

In conclusion I wish to say that this Government seeks to lay a foundation which must result in the emergence of that most desirable structure—a better, a more reasonable, a really human standard of living for all the people of this country. We shall make mistakes; we shall be criticised. We must appreciate criticism. We must make corrections. Let us welcome

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opposition. Let us throw down the gauntlet.

For myself I feel that we are on the right track, and I am prepared to give the utmost support to this Programme. In our efforts to perform the heavy tasks that lie ahead I commend to this Council the following passage from an essay by Professor Bertrand Russell:

"Let us not weigh in grudging scales their merits and demerits, but let us think only of their need—of the sorrows, the difficulties, perhaps the blindnesses, that make the misery of their lives; let us remember that they are fellow sufferers in the same darkness, actors in the same tragedy with ourselves. And so, when their day is over, when their good and their evil have become eternal by the immortality of the past, be it ours to feel that, where they suffered, where they failed, no deed of ours was the cause; but wherever a spark of the divine fire kindled in their hearts, we were ready with encouragement, with sympathy, with brave words in which high courage glowed."

Dr. Fraser: I rise to support the motion by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, and to congratulate him on the very clear and precise manner in which he has presented the first part of the Government's Ten-Year Development Programme. It shows, however, that although very meritorious achievement was made there were some very colossal blunders, and waste of time and money. I join with my fellow Councilors in urging that every precaution be taken that this \$44 million be spent properly and that the country benefit for the large part by it. We do want to get a move on with this Programme, for the people of this country are most desirous of seeing the plan

for this Programme put into execution. I did not intend to speak on this motion, as I had intended to wait until the details of this Two-Year Development programme are placed before us, but as the hon. Mover of the motion has invited some criticism I have taken the opportunity briefly to draw to his attention a few points.

Whatever previous Governments did in their Development Plans that is to be continued in this World Bank Mission Development Plan the accent must be on increase in production of food. Production should be increased to the utmost and as early as possible. It is desirable that rice production be increased, as it is a crop that suits the environmental conditions of this Colony and the people are inherently suited to its cultivation and production, and it is a crop that gives returns in a very short period and, with those advantages, I think, its extension should be as rapid as possible and the new lands under the programme should be brought into production as early as possible.

It seems to me, though, that the trend for the future in peasant agriculture tends to a greater dependence on rice. The threat of increased production in the West Indian Islands and a competing market for Burma rice in the West Indies should not be disregarded. These dangers could be cushioned by diversification with livestock to restore balance to agriculture, to maintain soil fertility and, most of all, to provide gainful employment in and out of crop season for the people in the rural areas. I think that those points should be carefully considered in any agricultural expansion, particularly with our rising population.

In the case of cattle on open pastures in competition with rice, cattle may lose on the more settled areas because in our Colony's more developed areas high drainage rates and a lower return on a higher capital outlay on cattle make competition with rice extremely difficult. Therefore as far as cattle production on open pastures is concerned, there should be a change over in the policy to a more intensified system of dairy farming, and we should then push cattle on to the more inaccessible areas of poor drainage and on to the intermediate and interior savannahs of the interior.

I notice, Sir, that under this Two-Year Development Plan there is an amount for a Milk Pasteurization Plant—Item 7—to be put down at an early date in the city of Georgetown. As a matter of fact the machinery has been already ordered. I would like the hon. Member for Agriculture to explain the reason for this $\$1\frac{1}{4}$ million expenditure for a Milk Pasteurization Plant. If one totals up the records of importation of milk into this Colony, one would be amazed at the immense amount of milk brought into this country. In 1932 there was brought into this country 642,600 lbs. of condensed milk at a cost of $\$72,000$, and in 1952, 4,000,000 lbs. at a cost of $\$1\frac{1}{2}$ million. We have a rising population that demands more and more milk, and it seems to me that if something is not done to improve our livestock—which I do not see in this Programme of Development—in the next ten years we would be importing not 4 million but 10 million pounds of milk. The point is, this money is going out of the Colony to benefit the farmers of other countries for a product, which we can produce in this Colony and keep our people employed and make them happy and keep them in the rural districts.

I think that no longer can this Government escape its responsibility

for developing our livestock by simply permitting importation of beef and milk into the Colony which ought to be supplied by our farms. We need a more virile livestock policy if we are going to get anywhere. We are putting all our eggs into practically one basket, and a fear has been expressed that the price of rice may drop sooner or later. It is bound to drop sooner or later, and we should at an early time begin to make plans to cushion the effects by diversification with livestock and other crops. I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, when he said that as regards rice we do need to reduce the cost of production by improving the variety and by better use of fertilisers, etc.

Another item is "Abattoir and Refrigeration Plant, Lethem— $\$91,000$." I am not surprised at Government's policy of marketing beef and animal. In the next few years we would have no cattle to market either in the Rupununi or in Georgetown. The marketing policy for beef and milk conflicts. Our beef and milk supplies are chiefly obtained from ordinary creole cattle which is barely able to supply milk for its calf. Any small amount of milk taken from this animal interferes with the growth of the calf which ultimately dies; the calf is our future beef supply. It is the practice in this country to produce fresh milk for the city of Georgetown in that manner. A glance at the World Bank Mission's Report tells you that the production of cattle, the birth rate, is extremely low, and the explanation for that is the manner in which milk is produced because of the high mortality rate. If these things are to continue in this manner of rearing livestock, we would have no beef and no milk. Yet an expenditure of $\$1\frac{1}{4}$ million on a Pasteurization Plant is under the Development Plan. I hope the hon. Member for Agriculture will carefully read the memorandum submitted for the removal of

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all these controls by the Cattle Producers' Association, wherein are summarized the principal causes as well as the Government marketing policy which tends definitely to create and keep on this shortage of both beef and milk which is getting greater and greater every year.

There is one other item in this Development Programme — Item 19 — "Livestock Station, Ebini—\$106,000." This year \$89,000 is to be spent. The hon. Member, Mr. Smellie, made some reference to it, and I take this opportunity, perhaps, to throw a little more light on it, because I think I am better able to do so than the hon. Member for Agriculture. Many years ago when I was Government Veterinary Officer, I put up a plan to Government for the establishment of these stations on the intermediate savannahs of the interior. For a long number of years many cattle companies and individuals had been trying to raise cattle on these intermediate savannahs which comprise 2,000 square-miles. After a year the animals usually die, and they had to abandon their scheme. It was during the carrying out of a scheme that I as Veterinary Officer decided that it was a matter for Government to investigate, and suggested that this station should be placed on the savannah to find out why cattle could not live for longer than a year there.

I was fortunate in that my plans were approved, and at that time Sir Frank Stockdale made his first visit to the country and I took him up there and he gave the final approval. The first part of the programme was to find out what was causing the death of the animals. The Government bought 100 head of cattle from the Rupununi to stock the station. We found out within a period of five years, after having very nearly lost the whole lot, that it was a

mineral deficiency, and at the end of five years we had the problem tackled and the cattle reproducing quite normally.

I left the Government Service about six years ago and another half of the programme was to be carried out to find out the economic conditions—whether it was possible to rear cattle as a commercial proposition. I take it, Sir, that that half of the programme will be implemented under this part of the Development Programme, and that the hon. Member for Agriculture, Mines and Forests will be able to explain that. I do not think that the reason for establishing this station has ever been explained to the public. It was to find out why cattle could not live on the Rupununi savannahs which comprise some 2,000 square miles. That has been done, and I think there are some 500 head of cattle doing exceedingly well there now. There was often a shortage of cattle on the coastlands, and there was an endeavour to find some other place to rear cattle when the station came into being.

The Financial Secretary: I have sat in this Council, Sir, and listened to my name being taken in vain on several occasions, but I do not intend at this stage of the debate to be drawn into any discussion in the Development Programme. I know that hon. Members are waiting for me to come in with the detailed estimates of the Programme. While I know that I have not got time on my side, I feel that this is a case in which I must hasten slowly. I can assure this Council that the Finance Department is going all out to obtain the details of the schemes in the Development Programme. I think these schemes number 79 in all, and the Programme involves an expenditure of \$44 million. I can assure hon. Members that it is not easy to come by these details, but as soon as I am able to do so I shall bring the detailed estimates into this Council.

When considering the estimates in Finance Committee, I shall have the heads of the Departments concerned and, if necessary, their accountants with them, as I have been asked to do. I too, should like to pay my tribute to Sir Frank for the very able manner in which he presented this Development Programme. I have no doubt that the very able speech he made will serve to enrich the records of this Council.

Sir Frank McDavid: I think everyone has spoken, and I now propose to wind up this debate formally. In doing so I think I shall be voicing the opinion of all the Members of this Council in saying that this debate and this discussion has been most interesting and valuable. I do not think we should grudge the time we have spent on it. It has created an opportunity for Members to state their opinions frankly and freely. I, for one, would like to say that what I have heard has been of great assistance to me, personally, and I am sure it will be to Government also. I, naturally, cannot take the responsibility—nor would hon. Members wish me to do so—to answer in detail all the things—questions, requests for assurances and so on—that have been poured around my head these last five days. If I were to do so, it would probably occupy as much time as the debate has lasted. What I shall try to do is to answer, generally, the major points which have arisen in the speeches that have been made, and if there is any time to reply to any of the important points which have arisen in the course of individual speeches, I shall do so. My first pleasant duty is, of course, to express my humble gratitude to Members for their generous—very generous—remarks about the way in which I have presented this Programme.

I am exceedingly grateful to my hon. Friend and colleague, Mr. Macnie, who went out of his way to pay me a tribute which, in ordinary circum-

stances, I confess, would have embarrassed me considerably. That afternoon I was feeling depressed, and I confess that his words did give me, in the words of the American slang, a "lift". I am exceedingly grateful for that. He put me among those individuals to whom I was endeavouring to pay a tribute as having helped this Colony along. I know that in mentioning names I might have been invidious, and indeed I was. I did not intend at all to imply that the few names I called were the only ones who had done great things for British Guiana. One Member whose name I omitted to mention was a great colleague of mine—and of ours—Sir Frederick Seaford—and I would never omit him if I were compiling a list. I mentioned no name in connection with the sewerage scheme, although I would have liked to connect that scheme with its originators, but I confess that my memory failed me. It was only afterwards that I realised that I had committed a very serious fault. I should also have included in that list another person, and that is you, Sir, who, as Mayor at the time, along with the City Engineer, went to England and formulated the plan for the completion of the sewerage scheme.

I hope it would not be thought that I have been very guilty of mentioning certain names in preference to others. My remarks in connection with that particular matter caused Mr. Jailal to criticize me—I do not think he meant it unkindly—for not having remembered certain other people to whom much of our progress in this Colony is due. I do not think that is correct, because what I was endeavouring to do was to rouse the morale of the people of British Guiana. In past years in this Council, I have been at pains to speak of the part played by the people. I remember that as far back as 1944, I had the honour to be one of the representatives of this Colony at the first West Indian Conference in Barbados. I am not quite sure whether you were there, Sir,

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I was there.

Sir Frank McDavid: I endeavoured to speak of our industries, and I spoke also of the workers who would blaze the trail for development. I spoke of the high morale of the people in the country, and that is the thing I was trying to emphasize in my speech here. I hope, therefore, that Mr. Jailal would appreciate my point. It is to the people themselves to whom our progress has been due. I am also grateful to hon. Members for their acceptance of the structure in my presentation of this Development Programme. I can assure you, Sir, that I gave very great thought as to how I should introduce it. With some hesitation I came to the conclusion that one of the things I had to do was to destroy this idea that had become so prevalent that, as I have said, this Development Programme was a new project—a crisis production, so to speak—and I was determined that that particular idea should be removed. It was, as I have said, a logical development of what we have been doing over the last five or six years. I think hon. Members would accept the Programme, because in certain respects they referred to it and adopted it as their own theory.

In the course of my remarks I made use, twice, of words which seemed to have caught the imagination of hon. Members because several Members referred to them at some time or the other. I said that "time is not on our side," and that is not an original phrase. Those words, if hon. Members will remember, came from the last War. But, on the contrary, people were then saying "time is on our side". That was a sort of verbal excuse for an attitude of mind which was quite common during the last War among those people who were inclined to inaction and an attitude of *laissez faire* which seemed to mean "let time take care of winning the war". I think that the phrase "time is not on our side", is

quite applicable to the position in which we find ourselves today. One hon. Member—I think it was Mr. Raatgever—made use of words "Let us make haste slowly". Of course, Mr. Speaker, we know where that comes from. It is the old *festina lente* but, in spite of its classical origin, I think it is a very inapt phrase in the present circumstances. Of course there are lots of other silly phrases which have now fallen into common use, like "The race is not always to the swift." This is not true, but people believe it. That is quite as silly as the fable of the hare and the tortoise. As regards the phrase "Make haste slowly" I find in a modern glossary an extraordinary thing—the writer connects it with the vibrant modern American slang, "go-slow." In other words this is the meaning now attributed to *festina lente*. True, we must take care in the expenditure of this money and observe what the Governor himself has said—"Every dollar counts." We must be careful and cautious about these things. But when I used the words, "Time is not on our side", I was deeply serious.

Hon. Members will remember that I was talking about the cause of our problems. I had tried to show that the main cause was our success in correcting certain deficiencies in this country, more particularly in achieving a tremendous increase in population. What was going through my mind was something what was stated in Giglioli's last Report. It is terrifically serious, and will you, Mr. Speaker permit me to read from it? At page 6, Dr. Giglioli said:

"As the first inflated generations of children born since 1946, reach maturity, about 1965, there will be a sudden, nearly vertical rise in the number of new family units requiring accommodation, thereafter the annual number of births each year can also be expected to register a sudden increase which for a number of years at least, will not be balanced by a proportionate increase in the number of deaths."

He was then writing about housing, and he went on:

"The removal of extra-nuclear population should therefore be completed before 1960; i.e. before the post-DDT generation reaches maturity."

Now, this is quite clear; children now growing up will very shortly become mothers and fathers and thus our problem grows graver. We have but five years; and I make no excuse for again repeating that in so far as it is desirable and essential for us to provide more schools, more houses, more cultivable lands and equipment to meet this rising population—so far as these things are concerned, "time is not on our side." So I will ask hon. Members not to use any slang in connection with this programme which has the word "slow" in it. Sir, I cannot finish my reply by five o'clock. I have notes of Members' remarks, and I would like to go on.

Mr. Speaker: Is it possible for you to feel restrained if you do so? Otherwise you can continue your reply on Tuesday.

Sir Frank McDavid: I would prefer to sit until 5.30.

Mr. Speaker: With the consent of Council. Would hon. Members like to go on until 5 or until 5.30?

Sir Frank McDavid: It is no use going on until 5, and I would ask hon. Members to go on until 5.30 to finish this matter.

Council assented.

Sir Frank McDavid: Then there are the phrases, "continental destiny", "magnificent province" and "Eldorado" which occurred again in the course of the debate. If I had the time, I would have been equally humorous about it. I myself hope that those three phrases

will disappear from our legislative vocabulary.

One of the most important points which came out in the course of the debate was the emphatic statement from Mr. Raatgever about rice. I am very glad it has been answered by a few Members and has to some extent been explained—if explanation was possible—by the Member. It reads in the *Hansard* like this:

"I am not an expert, but I know something of rice. Within recent years the Government of this Colony has been encouraging the growth of the rice industry. That is quite all right because of the shortage of rice, but the time has come when we must stop expanding."

I am sorry to say that, taken like this, it is quite an irresponsible statement and should not have been made. Mr. Raatgever was making this statement on his assessment of the world rice situation. If that statement were to be accepted by rice producers in British Guiana it would be a tremendous discouragement with a fatal result for that body of people in this Colony. Those who have to do with rice do follow the trend of world markets and it is true to say that during this year there has been some change in the situation: there is no doubt about it. I must again ask your indulgence to quote from another document which I have been studying—the Food and Agriculture Organisation "Commodity Reports" for December, 1953—a summary which is so important that I must read it for the information of hon. Members:

"At the close of 1951, a gathering of representatives from 68 governments agreed that the continued shortage of rice was a matter of grave concern. This shortage lasted throughout 1952 and was reflected in further rises of prices. In the meantime, however, farmers in most areas suitable for rice growing areas increased their efforts to make larger supplies available. Aided by various forms of government assistance and favoured by weather conditions, the farmers

in many countries succeeded in harvesting decidedly larger rice crops towards the end of 1952 and the beginning of 1953. As a consequence, the rice position began to ease in 1953. At the same time other cereals began to be offered more freely. Some of the leading rice importing countries considered that the changed situation should find a reflection in a marked reduction of prices, a view which was not shared by some of the main exporting countries. International trade was, therefore, on a lower level during most of 1953 and stocks began to accumulate in some countries. These stocks are, however, small when viewed against the total world consumption, but if the present trends continue, they may by July 1954 exceed half of the recent annual world trade in rice. The level of rice prices in the near future depends mainly on the size of the rice crops to be harvested at the end of this year and in the beginning of 1954, on the price movements of other cereals and on certain government policies concerning consumption. It is clear, however, that the global amounts of rice available for export in 1954 will be considerably greater than the quantities taken by importers in 1953."

That represents a general summary, but let us at the same time consider the outlook for 1954:

"The present rice position is thus one of somewhat increased supplies, which have, until very recently, been held at prices prevailing under former scarcity conditions. International trade is reduced, and some stocks have accumulated. Consumption has in many places been held down and probably capable of considerable expansion, particularly if consumers, who turned to alternative foods when rice was very scarce, should revert to their reputedly favourite food. In recent years, and in contrast to pre-war days, between 6 and 8 million tons of other cereals have been imported into Asian districts, in many of which rice is the consumer's first choice."

I will not trouble you any more with quotations, but the general view is this: if the world is allowed to get all the rice it wants, if Government controls were to be removed even with all the expansion going on—the world will not be producing as much

rice per head in these years as before the war. The population is rising faster than additional rice is being produced. The rice-eating population is continually increasing—increasing faster than the rice is being produced. But, apart from that, British Guiana is a rice-producing country, indeed one of the most favourable countries in the world for producing rice. Our people know how to grow rice. Why, then, should we, because we have heard of those marketing conditions, stop expanding our rice industry? It is our duty to go on expanding. If we must compete, let us compete.

The hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, read extensively from the *Jamaica Advocate* as to what is going on in that island, and some other Members have told us of what is going on in Trinidad. I was appalled myself. I think it is most deplorable that public funds, and in some cases public funds of the United Kingdom, should be spent in this region in the uneconomical growing of rice in those islands, merely with the object of making them self-sufficient in a commodity for the production of which they are not as suitably placed as British Guiana, and I cannot help saying that the Regional Economic Committee has, in this particular instance, omitted to bring the Government concerned to a realisation of the correct position. Indeed, I think that in that particular respect the Regional Economic Committee was, in its outlook, neither regional nor economic.

Mr. Raatgever: It is only an advisory body. We did advise the Governments concerned not to embark on the production of rice, but they refused to listen.

Sir Frank McDavid: I am glad to hear that the Committee made an attempt, but projects are going ahead in Jamaica and Trinidad for the cultivation of rice which is being sold at 22 cents per lb in Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker: Let me remind the hon. Member that in 1944 there was a speech by one of the Trinidad representatives about the growing of rice in that island, but they have not succeeded yet.

Sir Frank McDavid: I will conclude that part of my remarks by saying that I am glad that this Council is not prepared to accept the suggestion that we should stop the expansion of our rice industry. Indeed, I think we should go right ahead as fast as we can with the expansion of rice.

Perhaps I had better deal with a few individual points made by hon. Members in their speeches. The first note I have here concerns the remarks of the hon. Member, Mr. Phang, in connection with the North-West District, in which he suggested that if the Government of British Guiana did not intend to develop that district it should hand it over to a chartered company, and facetiously I would say that the company should be called the Phang (North-West) Development Co., Ltd. It is not as easy as all that. It is a very difficult part of the country. It is regarded as very unfertile in some respects, and it is very difficult indeed to envisage governmental action which would force development of the North-West. All we can do is to try to improve conditions there for the people. I know that the hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, is thinking of transferring 200 farmers to the North-West, but I think he would have to be very careful before he proceeds with a project of that sort, and weigh all the economics of it before he encouraged people to leave the settled parts of the country and go to the North-West District. My sympathies are all the greater for the people in that district, for the reason that I am ashamed to have to confess that it is the only part of British Guiana I have never seen, but I hope to repair that omission as early as possible.

The hon. Mr. Jailal spoke on a most important point in connection with the river estuaries and the harbour, and he was supported by Mr. Lord with regard to the use of suction dredges. I entirely agree, but I do feel that it is quite useless for us to expect that equipment of that nature is going to produce a first-class harbour in Georgetown, and even a fifth-class harbour in New Amsterdam. I feel that harbour improvements to the extent which people envisage in British Guiana involve a tremendous undertaking. The Secretariat pigeon-holes are littered with reports about our harbours which tell us of the immense expenditure which is necessary to make them the kind of harbours we ought to have. There is even a scheme of continuing the wall from the Fort groyne on both sides of the river for eight miles out, but all those schemes have been put down either because of technical doubts or financial impossibilities. I do hope that in the course of time the industries of British Guiana will expand to such an extent as to enforce an improvement of both harbours. If we find oil in British Guiana I am quite sure the dream of Mr. Kendall that New Amsterdam would become the major port on the South American coast will come true.

Perhaps the most important point made by an individual Member was the suggestion by the hon. Mr. Lee about land utilisation. Hon. Members will remember that he was not very precise in what he was trying to say but his meaning was quite clear — that we in British Guiana have to tackle the problem of land settlement and land tenure, and the beneficial occupation of land. It is a tremendous problem, and he was quite right in saying that we must get down to it here and now while these land reclamation schemes are going on, and before they are completed.

[Sir Frank McDavid]

There is one thing I would like to inform members of — that in the Brown Report there is a proposal that there should be a Land Settlement Board. Quite recently this matter was considered in the Economic Council, and it has been agreed that we should set up a Land Settlement Department, and that we should do that at once. Consequently I have been charged by His Excellency, in collaboration with the Chief Secretary, who is the authority on staff matters, to work out the structure of a new Land Settlement Department for British Guiana which will work in collaboration with an Advisory Board. I may say that the Governor has already appointed a Committee to study and make recommendations in regard to the Brown Report. I agree with the hon. Mr. Lee that the question of the utilisation of land is one of the most important. It is formidable, I know, but we are to have a Department with a Head charged directly with that responsibility, and I do hope it will be possible to bring the matter before the Council before the end of this year, so that we can get a Land Settlement Department started to tackle that particular problem.

In the order in which Members spoke I am trying to take out their main points. I have some points which I am going to omit on account of time. The hon. Mr. Tello and, I think, the hon. Mr. Ramphal spoke about the pork-knocker. I have referred to some comments made publicly about the work of the pioneers in the interior—the pork-knockers. I am quite certain myself that if these pork-knockers want financial assistance to enable them to continue their activities they would get it. I remember taking part myself some years ago in a scheme

giving financial assistance to pork-knockers to go back into the interior and continue their work. There is no reason why, I feel, if financial assistance and technical assistance and administrative assistance are needed in the formation of co-operative unions, they should not be helped. So I am rather glad hon. Members have heard the hon. Mr. Tello and the hon. Mr. Ramphal and what I have just said. I do feel that we should avoid trying to expect that the Government itself should start new industries. If small industries are economical in British Guiana, I have no doubt whatever that people would start them. The whole object of this Plan is to stimulate activity and production in British Guiana. I do not think it is possible for Government to start industries merely to provide employment for that particular type of women referred to by the hon. Miss Collins.

The hon. Mr. Carter referred to something that the hon. Mr. Ramphal took up — the necessity for checks in connection with the expenditure of funds. I should have risen at the time when he made use of words like "graft" and "corruption" which, I feel sure, he did not intend to imply as a criticism of the Public Service. The hon. Mr. Ramphal answered him in very polite language, but I would like to be a little more direct. It is most unfair for the hon. Member to imply that the implementation of the Development Programme would provide the opportunity for graft and corruption in the Public Service. I have been in the Public Service for many years and I am very glad to say, while there have been a few cases of dishonesty the Public Service of British Guiana has been singularly free of graft and corruption of

the nature which we have heard is common in other countries.

The hon. Member, Mr. Lord, referred to the shortage of surveyors, and at this point I am going to take up a general question which I should have spoken on when I first started to speak. Members have expressed the idea of caution and lack of haste in proceeding with this Plan. I feel that whatever we do we shall have set-backs in starting because of the shortage of staff with which we are faced. I am alarmed at the present situation. I do not want to go into details. Yesterday I was thinking in my mind as to what the position is in regard to individual staff. I know that my colleague, the hon. the Chief Secretary, is due for leave soon, the hon. the Attorney-General is due to go on leave next month, the Development Secretary is due for leave this year and probably will be going soon. There is no Director of Agriculture yet and the Deputy Director is on the retirement list; the Conservator of Forests will be leaving almost immediately and there is no Deputy Conservator of Forests, and the Department is extremely short-staffed. The Geological Department is completely short-staffed. That is as regards the ordinary Administration.

One Member referred to the additional staff recommended by the Mission in regard to the Development Secretariat. I agree with him. We simply have not got the staff which is required to carry out this Plan in the way it should. I say that with a due sense of my responsibility. I intimated in my speech that a section of this Development Programme has been inserted to provide a special staff for the Development Plan. I do hope that when the Budget itself is finally settled

provision would be included for a large number of special staff, because I greatly fear that the machine, as it stands now, is quite inadequate and in itself would mean some brake on the speed with which we can get on with this job. Then, of course, there is the staff to be put up for the Credit Corporation. We can absorb some of the staff of the existing Loan Bank Department, but nevertheless additional staff will be necessary. I personally am extremely alarmed at the present administrative situation. We need more staff, more good men.

One hon. Member referred—I think it is my colleague the hon. Mr. Cummings—to statistics. We should have started a Statistical Department in this Colony last year or the year before, but we have not done it because we have not the staff. I think that to a certain extent the speed with which things can be done is completely dependent on our getting more staff. I think the situation is very serious.

That brings me to the Credit Corporation. The hon. Mr. Gajraj asked for an assurance about this and later on the hon. Mr. Kendall did the same thing as regards the composition of the Credit Corporation. As I said at a Press Conference which I held some time ago, I myself prepared the preliminary draft of the legislation for the Credit Corporation. That draft Bill is now with the hon. the Attorney-General. I do not mean to imply, however, that there is any delay on his part, but at the same time the position is this: Government has secured the services of an eminent individual in the person of Dr. Duthie, who has been here looking over the whole field and making himself completely familiar with what is required. The Credit Cor-

[Sir Frank McDavid]

poration cannot start to function until the enabling powers have been created in the law. I do hope that very soon we will provide them and that the organisation required will be set up and the Corporation be in a position to start functioning.

That is an aspect of this Development Programme which has caught the public's imagination, and it is very desirable that there should be great speed in getting along with it. I am trying to be selective in the comments I am making. I was tremendously impressed by the speech of the hon. and revd. gentleman, Mr. Bobb. One particular point he made was the lack of sufficient publicity as regards the putting over of the original Programme. He implied that very few of the general public knew of what was going on, and he attributed that, I believe, to the fault of the publicity agency of the Government itself; that is, the official Public Information Service, in not keeping people more informed about what is going on. I feel rather differently about that, however, and place some blame on legislators.

I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, who said that the Members of the Third and Fourth Legislative Councils, collectively, did a very fine job, but it has always been a strange thing to me to see how little credit they, individually and collectively, took for the work they did. For some extraordinary reason, Members preferred to adopt the practice of publishing opposition to the Government on certain aspects of public policy, rather than join hands with the Government and take credit for what was being done. I will illustrate what I mean by reference to one of our Members who, unfortunately, is not here. He is Mr. Lee. I was amazed during the Budget

debate, recently, to hear him defending himself against allegations that he was a "stooge." That is an extraordinary thing. Mr. Lee is an old Member of this Council who has taken part in many things for the good of British Guiana, and he should not be ashamed of them.

I can see no reason why he — or any other Member for that matter — should not be able to get up and claim credit for what they have done, but instead, they are always on the defensive. That is a curious attitude of mind. I think there is an idea that the Government comprises the Governor and the Government officers who are Members of this Council. The Government is a partnership rather than anything else, but Members do not seem to understand that we are part of the Government machine and that we should take credit too, just as we take blame on behalf of Government. It is indeed for the Government's publicity Department, to publish such information as would enable the public to appreciate the efforts being made to get things done. But members themselves should also do their part in this respect.

Mr. Bobb: To a point of information. The last point made is exactly what I had in mind. I was not blaming Government Information Service; I was blaming Members themselves for not going out to assist in guiding and informing the public.

Sir Frank McDavid: I thank the hon. Member. I hope Members would not be chary about going out and claiming credit for what they have done. I have spoken to many Members about the Programme in relation to the Development projects and the action to be taken. This is not a "Development Budget" and I do hope we will not continue to call it so. Nor is this a "\$44 million Budget," as it has been correctly termed. I myself have expressed doubt that we shall attain this rate of spend-

ing. This is a Programme which calls for certain operations, the financial arrangements essential to carrying it out having been fixed.

My colleague, Mr. Fraser, intends to present to the Finance Committee from time to time, certainly as quickly as he can, detailed estimates of the schemes which appear in the Development Programme for the approval of the Finance Committee and, subsequently, of this Council in the ordinary way. I had hoped that it would have been possible simultaneously to present the Development Budget for 1954 in proper form; that is to say, a statement of estimates with each scheme properly shown — properly sub-divided and tabulated, and with a summary showing how the money is to be obtained. That, Sir, I am afraid, is not possible in the circumstances. What I feel the Financial Secretary would do, is to come as quickly as he can to Finance Committee with such schemes as are ready, and secure approval of those schemes. Later on, he would probably summarize them in a Budget. When we are in Finance Committee, I have no doubt that there will be opportunity for every Member to speak not only on a particular item, but on any item relating to the Programme, and to recommend changes if necessary.

A point which, of course, I cannot omit, is the question of our checking. I myself have stated that I am not happy about the idea of an Accounts Committee. Similarly, I am not happy over the idea that we, as hon. Members of this Council, should undertake the checking of public Departments in relation to their expenditure. I do agree that with the extension of expenditure involved we should require a certain amount of expansion in our internal audit, and I have reason to believe that the Director of Audit will,

very shortly, come forward and make out a case for an increase in staff with respect to some of these schemes particularly. I refer to the extra-mural ones like the Credit Corporation or the activities of some functionaries we might set up. When we set up the Commodity Control, the Rice Marketing Board and so on, we got Chartered Accountants to audit the accounts, and Members can readily see that we must be extremely careful as regards this question of a Public Accounts Committee.

I had intended to speak at much greater length, but my time has run out. I do not think it is desirable that I should prolong the debate on this motion. It is very important indeed that this motion should be put and passed. The reason, I have tried to explain, is that in passing this motion, this Council endorses and confirms the Development Plan for two years, and it is on the basis of that Development Programme that we have now made the necessary financial arrangement for carrying out the projects. The assurances given by Her Majesty's Government in this respect are satisfactory, and there will be a further allocation from C.D. & W. funds. Her Majesty's Government has also assured us as regards loans and funds to be raised in England.

This Plan, in summarised form, will have to be communicated to the Crown Agents, in connection with the Public Loan Ordinance 1951. I emphasise that the reason for introducing this motion is not to secure the sanction of this Council of expenditure: it is to secure approval of a plan in principle and of the financial arrangements to implement it. Without that approval it would be difficult, if not impossible to secure the funds which His Excellency was able to get for us during his last visit to the United Kingdom.

[Sir Frank McDavid]

This debate has been extremely valuable, and I do not think that time has been wasted.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to say just this: This is the first occasion in our history that its Council has debated measures which are of such immediate importance and interest to the entire Colony, and I have been immensely impressed with the able contributions that have been made to this very difficult subject by hon. Members, some of whom have had little or no experience in public life. There are many of you who are far better equipped so far as I can see, than others with whom I have had previous dealings in this chamber. You have shown a fine appreciation of your public duty, though very few people realise it. Opinions have been expressed and I have often been asked about the quality of the speeches made here. I am pleased to be able to say that I have found Members, particularly on this occasion, displaying much keenness of mind and contributing to the debate at a very high level, for the benefit of the Colony as a whole.

**APPRECIATION OF INTERNATIONAL
BANK MISSION'S REPORT**

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to move:

"That, with reference to the report on the Economic Development of British

Guiana by the Mission organised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, this Council places on record, and requests His Excellency the Governor to convey to the Directors of the Bank and through them to the Chief and the Members of the Mission, an expression of its appreciation and gratitude for the valuable report and recommendations presented by the Mission."

I do not propose to speak at length on the motion. I have had the privilege of meeting all those gentlemen who comprised the Mission and I can hardly think that anybody could have had a greater desire to help British Guiana than each member of the Mission. They have produced a valuable report which will be the basis of our two-year and later five-year development plan and for which we hope to get financial assistance on the strength of the report.

The Financial Secretary: I have very great pleasure in seconding the motion. Like my honourable friend on my right, I had a great deal to do with the mission as Financial Secretary. I have no doubt that the Report submitted by the Mission is capable of solving most of the economic difficulties of this country and I have great pleasure in seconding the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

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Motion carried unanimously. Council adjourned to Thursday 1st April, 1954 at 2 p.m.