

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1955

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. F. D. Jakeway, O.B.E. (acting).

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Mr. F. W. Holder, C.M.G., 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. W. O. R. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works).

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

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Deputy Speaker:—

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

Nominated Officials:—

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

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials:—

Mr. 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. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertie H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

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

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (acting).

Absent:—

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

Mr. E. F. Correia.—on leave.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb —on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday, 20th December, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO THE CLERK

ATTORNEY GENERAL CONGRATULATED

Mr. Speaker: I desire, on behalf of hon. Members, to congratulate the hon. the Attorney General, in view of the announcement that it has been Her Majesty's gracious pleasure to confer upon him the honour of being made a Companion of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. I think myself that a decoration in his favour was very long expected and very long delayed, and I hope that this decoration does not necessarily mean his transfer to another Colony. We know him well in this Chamber and it would certainly be a distinct loss to us if that took place. I wish him a long term of office in this Colony, and I am sure hon. Members will join with me in wishing him happiness and prosperity in future. It is my desire to extend those wishes also to his gracious consort.

The Attorney General: I thank you most sincerely, Mr. Speaker, for your very generous references to myself. As you have said, Sir, I have been in this Chamber for some time and have always tried to do the best I could to contribute to the consideration of the various matters which have come before the Council. I thank you most sincerely for your kind remarks.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL'S BIRTHDAY

Mr. Speaker: I have received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, on behalf of Sir Winston Churchill, a reply to the congratulations sent by the Members of this Council and myself on the occasion of his 80th birthday. The reply reads:

"Please thank the Members of the Legislative Council of British Guiana for their very kind message of congratulation on my birthday. — Winston Churchill."

I have also to announce that I have granted leave to the Clerk of the Council who is a member of the Government's survey party which has gone to Karamang, Mazaruni District, to see whether it could locate camping sites for certain local organisations. I have been informed that he will return to duty on the 27th of this month.

I have also to state that the Rev. Mr. Bobb is unable to be present here today and has therefore been granted leave to be absent.

I desire also to welcome Mr. Smellie back to the Council following his recent leave of absence.

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS
ON THE TABLE

The Chief Secretary laid on the table the following document.

Decision of the Governor in Council on the petition tabled on 28th May, 1954, by Rev. D. C. J. Bobb on behalf of Mr. W. H. Pilgrim concerning his past services as a Primary School Teacher.

The Financial Secretary laid on the table the following documents:

The Report of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on its examination of the 1955 Draft Estimates.

Minutes of meetings of Finance Committee held on the 1st and 20th of December, 1954.

Minutes of meetings of Finance Committee held on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 10th January, 1955, considering the 1955 Draft Estimates of Expenditure.

The Report of the Treasurer for the year 1953.

Statement of Supplementary Expenditure which has occurred during 1953 and which has not been included in any previous schedule.

Schedules of Supplementary Estimates for the months of October, November and December, 1954.

Schedules of Supplementary Provision (Development) for the months of October, November and December, 1954.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines) laid on the table the following document :

Report of the Lands and Mines Department for the year 1953.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The **Financial Secretary** gave notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled :

"An Ordinance to amend the British Guiana Credit Corporation Ordinance, 1954."

The **Attorney General**, on behalf of the Member for Labour, Health and Housing (**Mr. Cummings**) gave notice of the introduction and first reading of Bills intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1934."

"An Ordinance to amend the Antibiotics Ordinance, 1951, to make provision for the sale of antibiotics to Captains of ocean-going vessels."

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development) gave notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to make provision for the adoption of children."

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY EXPENDITURE, 1953.

The **Financial Secretary** gave notice of the following motions :

That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure total-

ling \$515,505.32 which has occurred during the year 1953 and has not been included in any previous schedule, and is to be admitted as a charge to Public Funds under Colonial Regulation 223 (2) (c) and which has been laid on the table.

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the months of October, November and December, 1954, totalling \$2,696,494.38, which have been laid on the table.

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Development Estimates for the months of October, November and December, 1954, totalling \$319,085.60 which have been laid on the table.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GEORGETOWN TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Farnum: I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled :

"An Ordinance further to amend the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance by making provision for Town Constables to be appointed to bear the titles of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, sergeant and corporal."

Mr. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works) seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

BRITISH GUIANA RICE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines) : I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to amend the British Guiana Rice Producers Association (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1953, with respect to the terms of office of members of Com-

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mittees of District Associations and of the Council of the British Guiana Rice Producers Association, and for purposes connected therewith."

The Bill was published on the 4th of December last year and this Council gave it the first reading on the 17th of December. It is unfortunate that an interval had to take place before proceeding further with this Bill, because its enactment is indeed an urgent matter.

Before I deal with the Bill itself I think it would be well if I briefly recount something of the constitution of the Rice Producers Association. Some Members will recall that the Association is a statutory body created under the provisions of an Ordinance, No. 7 of 1946. It consists of one central organisation which in turn is subdivided into a number of District Associations—one District Association for each of a number of districts into which the Colony has been divided—and those District Associations are managed by Committees of Management which are elected by the members of each District Association. Here I pause to say that every rice producer has the right to be a member of a District Association. These elections of Committees of Management take place annually. The central governing body is the Council of the Association, and the Council is in turn elected by persons appointed by the District Committees, those persons being termed electors.

The election of the Council takes place once every two years; not once a year as in the case of the Committees. The electors nominated by the District Associations through their Committees of Management, meet in Georgetown and elect the 24 members who form that Council. I would also like to

remind Members that the constitution of the Council is strictly governed by the Ordinance as to its composition, and of the 24 members not less than nine are to be rice farmers, not less than five are to be manufacturers, and not less than four are to be landlords.

That, then, is the structure of this Rice Producers Association. As it happened, an election of District Committees was to have taken place by law in November, 1953, and as it also happened in that year, an election of the Council should also have taken place. The two-year period of the Council had expired, so that the election of the Committees should have taken place in November, 1953, and the election of the Council in December, 1953. Members will recall that conditions in the Colony at the end of 1953 did not justify the holding of elections in that period, consequently no elections were held, and the Governor enacted an Ordinance in December, 1953, which is styled the British Guiana Rice Producers Association (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1953. That Ordinance was enacted by the Governor on the 29th of December, 1953, and he did so, of course, under the special powers accorded to him by virtue of the provisions of Part III of the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953.

That special Ordinance, enacted by the Governor, provided that the persons who were then members of those Committees should continue to hold office until the 15th of November, 1954. It also provided that the persons who were elected as members of the Council should continue to hold office until a date not later than the 15th of December, 1954. That is to say, the Ordinance enacted by the Governor allowed a year to expire before new elections could be held, and before a new Council could be appointed. That Or-

dinance, of course, also validated any acts done by the Council during the course of that period. So that the law as it now stands provides that an election of District Committees should have been held on the 15th of November, 1954, and a new Council should have been appointed by the 15th of December, 1954.

No action has been taken in accordance with those provisions. The reason was that it was by no means clear whether it was proper or convenient to hold those elections at that time, and what is more, it was inconvenient to the rice producers to hold elections at that particular period. Indeed, November and December seem to me to be about the worst months that could have been selected for such a purpose, and 1954 was particularly bad because of the weather conditions prevailing at the time. Be that as it may, no elections were held, and what this Bill seeks to do is to amend the existing Special Provisions Bill in order to validate the acts done during the interval, and to authorise the holding, firstly, of elections of District Committees by the 15th of February, 1955, and the holding of an election to appoint members of the Council by the 15th of March 1955.

If Members look at the Bill they will see that it is rather cryptic and almost incomprehensible without reference to the Ordinance which it seeks to amend. But having given the history of the matter I think it is not so difficult for Members to follow what these clauses in the Bill seek to do. Clause 2 substitutes for the words "November, nineteen hundred and fifty-four under the provisions of Regulation four" in paragraph (a) the words "February, nineteen hundred and fifty-five under the provisions." Therefore that

amendment will provide the authority for the holding of elections in February, 1955. I have been speaking about the holding of elections, but in point of fact the governing section does not use the phrase "holding elections"; it says that an annual general meeting of each District Association shall be held, but Regulations have been enacted and procedure established by which a general meeting is summoned for that purpose, and nomination takes place of members of the Committees of Management. The meeting is thereafter adjourned and an election is held by ballot in the ordinary way. All that procedure is provided for by Regulation. What actually takes place is the holding of an annual general meeting of each District Association.

Clause 3 of the Bill does the same thing in respect of the holding of an election of members of the Council of the Association. It substitutes for the words "December, nineteen hundred and fifty-four under the provisions of section four of this Ordinance" the words "March, nineteen hundred and fifty-five under the provisions of the British Guiana Rice Producers Association Regulations, 1948, or any Regulations amending or replacing the same." Those are the two important clauses in this Bill.

Clause 4 of the Bill repeals section 4 of the 1953 Ordinance. There is a curious reason for that. It is that section 4 of the Principal Ordinance provided that this election of the Council shall take place before the 15th of December, 1954, but that section was necessary in the 1953 Ordinance because that was not the year in which the election had to be held. It was not the second of a two-year period. It happens that under the governing Ordinance of 1946 an election must be held in 1955 in any case. Consequently it is not

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necessary to have section 4 of the Principal Ordinance remain in the legislation.

Clause 5 of the Bill merely adds the words "or during the year nineteen hundred and fifty-four" to paragraph (b) of Section 5 of the 1953 Ordinance, and the reason for that is obvious. That is the saving or validating clause, which saves legal action for the year 1953, and that saving must be carried on in the year 1954. These are the provisions of this Bill. I have tried to explain why it was necessary and why it should be enacted. I would like to add that the General Secretary of the Association has made all necessary arrangements for the holding of the election in February, 1955, and when this Bill is passed today, as I hope it will be, it would be enacted by the Governor as quickly as possible and, I hope, published in the Gazette on Saturday. That would allow the General Secretary sufficient time to put the machinery, he has already prepared, into action. In that way the election can properly be held in February. I think hon. Members know that this election is expected by the Rice Producers generally and, therefore, they would also be expecting this legislation to be enacted. I do commend this Bill to the Council.

The Attorney General seconded.

Mr. Lee: I do not know whether it is wise for the Government to permit elections to be carried on at this time. If, however, Government thinks it can be done, I have no objection. I fear there may be trouble. Although Government calls for the elections, yet I feel that there should not be any election at all until later in the year when conditions are more settled.

Mr. Ramphal: I wish to congratulate Government on its boldness in bringing forward this Bill at this particular time. I think it is an expression of the confidence of the Government and its faith in the people, that after a period of repentance they can now be given an opportunity once more to come into the stream of economic democracy. That is the way I view it, and I feel very happy indeed. I, however, share some of the fears of the hon. Member who has just spoken, but I want to feel that the Government has looked into this matter very carefully. I hope that the people, who are going to exercise the franchise in the rice industry would justify the faith and the confidence which the Government is placing in their hands.

Perhaps, this is the best opportunity I can have to remind the hon. Member who has moved these amendments to the Ordinance of a promise which he gave in this Council Chamber some little while ago. I wish to remind him, Sir, of a promise he made on the second reading of the Bill for the establishment of the Rice Marketing Board. I will read from column 2094 of the *Hansard* of the 31st January, 1946, what he said on that occasion. The Colonial Treasurer (as the hon. Sir Frank McDavid was then) said as follows:

"The Rice Marketing Bill, the second reading of which I am now about to move, is a most important measure—important to the Colony's second major agricultural industry and important also to all those who are engaged in it, the padi growers, the rice millers and the proprietors of rice lands. It is also important to the consumers of rice, that staple article of daily food used in this Colony, and important also to the community as a whole and to the Government of the Colony who is of course very much concerned about the well being of all those whom this Bill affects in any way."

I have read that portion because the rest that follows hinges itself on that. He then goes on to say:

"Hon. Members will perhaps recall that at a meeting of the Council on the 10th November 1943, the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, moved a motion with respect to certain financial aspects of the transactions of the present Rice Marketing Board established as a war measure under Defence Regulations. In replying to Mr. Edun's speech I made a statement to the Council in which I gave a brief outline of the history of the establishment of the present Board as a marketing organization having comprehensive control over the marketing of rice. I also endeavoured to explain the achievements and the objectives of that Board."

Here follows Sir Frank's promise:

"I concluded my remarks to the Council by stating that I give an undertaking that as soon as the war is over I would do my best to have the present Board converted into a co-operative organisation of a democratic character, in the management and control of which those engaged in the rice industry would take an important share."

I use this opportunity merely to remind the hon. Member of the undertaking which he gave this honourable Council some little time ago, and to say that although he did that in his position as Colonial Treasurer and a Member of the Government, I think, he is in an equally strong position or, perhaps, stronger position now to honour that undertaking to this Council. It may be that he has to honour that undertaking by setting up a committee to examine whether the time has now arrived or whether it is too early to implement that undertaking which the hon. Member has given. I believe that the time has come when we should take stock. Quite a lot has been said about the Rice Marketing Board, both favourable and unfavourable, but generally speaking it has done an admirable job for the rice industry. I think we should march along to that economic

democracy which was promised when the Board was established. I want to commend to the hon. Mover that he should implement that undertaking which he gave some 12 years ago.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I rise also to support this Bill and to endorse the remarks made by the hon. Member, Mr. Ramphal, with one exception—the word "repentance". Sir, for good reasons rather than creating or setting the stage for an awkward position affecting perhaps a very big industry or some big corporation this Council has not sanctioned the elections in certain places being held. I speak subject to correction. I think His Excellency has also expressed that view. I am very happy this afternoon, as I was always dreaming of a turning-point. We must some day make a beginning and I look upon this Bill—I hope I am on sure foundation—as the turning-point, to let the people of this country know that it is not the desire of Government or of this Council to keep them away from exercising the constitutional right of public speaking. I hope that the "broomstick" philosophy—I use that phrase advisedly—has gone forever and will never be revived, because if certain forces still can say that they can put up a broomstick and everybody will vote for it, then I think we would be making a great mistake in allowing this important industry to fall into the hands of people who have other objectives than the welfare of this industry.

I speak subject to correction. The Rice Producers Association has eight members on the Rice Marketing Board. I do hope that the rice producers, the rice millers and the people who own rice lands would rise to the occasion and see that they put this industry on the road to progress rather than allow it to fall

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into the hands of persons, who—I must repeat—do not have the welfare of the industry at heart but will use it to test their political strength. It is a challenge to the people of this country, and I hope they will rise to the occasion. If they do, it would be a precedent which can favourably be used in the exercise of their other rights in this country.

Mr. Jailal: I rise to support the Bill, but in doing so, I want to say that although it is democratic and that things have taken this turn, yet I would wish to warn that irrespective of what may have motivated arguments in favour of not holding the elections, the feeling of rice producers throughout the country was that some very good reason was behind the view of Government that the elections should not yet come off. They are, however, very anxious that there should be elections—a method by which they themselves would be able to give effect to changes which they want to have.

While it is true that elections of this nature do not embrace all the people in the country, yet they take within their sphere a large number of people. We have today within our circle of rice producers people from the Pomeroun, nay, further, from the North West right on to the shores of the Corentyne. They are people with various political ideals, they are people of various types, but with one cry. No matter who they are, provided they are planting rice, my particular experience is that their one cry is for the welfare of rice. They are all insistent that if anything can be done to promote the welfare of the industry, they are willing to vote it to a finality. Therefore, while some few months ago I held an adverse view toward the introduction of this Bill, I now have changed my

opinion and my views. I have also modified them to some extent and I am quite willing to support this measure in its entirety. I want to say we have every good reason to hope that these elections would be successful, for should they be successful, then we will know whether our political climate is still wet.

Mr. Tello : I am happy to associate myself with this Government that has been courageous enough to put this Bill before us today. Those of us who still have some slight doubt about Government's great regard and respect for democracy should now erase it from their minds. This is sufficient evidence that democracy has always been our watchword, almost our guide, and we shall always be champions for what it stands for. I am satisfied that when this decision was taken, a great deal of thought was given to bringing forward this measure, and I am exceedingly pleased to hear the hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, who in his capacity as Secretary of the B. G. Rice Producers' Association did not spare himself in going out to educate the people.

We are not going to change our people simply by restrictive measures. I am confident that the hard work he has put in to bring to the eyes of the people concerned the gravity and importance of the decision they must make will be rewarded, and we can now approach this question of elections with open minds and some degree of confidence. It is quite true that this Bill affects a very high percentage of the population, and indeed brings about an opportunity to test the political climate—as my friend (Mr. Jailal) says—and the degree of 'wetness' that exists today.

Indeed, my friend on my left, the hon. Member, Mr. Lee dwells a great deal among the rice producers and we

must have some regard for his experience. He must have some reason for expressing his opinion publicly here but even to such an experienced politician, and even to one so closely associated with rice producers, I would say it would be a grave mistake when the rice producers are clamouring for their right to return to their council and to their various committees the people whom they have faith in, for us to extend any measure that would deprive them of that right. I am satisfied that this is a bold but correct step, and I am pleased with the support that it has received today. I hope that not only will it give us courage to bring even more progressive measures forward, but to advocate in this Council and outside of it the confidence and support we justly deserve.

Mr. Rahaman: I rise to support this Bill because rice producers from all over the country have been enquiring why there have been no elections of the Rice Producers' Association. It was felt in some quarters that the wrong people would be elected to hold important positions in the rice industry, but I hope the elections will prove a test and we will see who is who. Again, I support the motion.

Sir Frank McDavid : I am indeed happy at the comments which this Bill evoked from Members who have spoken, and at their attitude towards it. I am also glad that my colleague, the hon. Member, Mr. Ramphal, saw fit to bring in the Rice Marketing Board because, of course it is extremely relevant to the whole matter. In regard to my remarks—simple and easily comprehensible remarks—which I made in the year 1946, I have been challenged about them on several occasions, and on each occasion I gave the same reply, but strange as it may seem, this very story about my promise comes bobbing

up again and again. The hon. Member, Mr. Ramphal did me the honour to quote extensively from my speech in 1946, and I am going to risk boring Members by referring to the last part of the quotation which he read.

He was speaking about a speech I made in moving the second reading of the Bill which is now the Rice Marketing Ordinance of 1946. I quote again:

"I concluded my remarks"—

that is, of a speech I had made yet earlier, in 1943,

In the Council by stating that I give"—
this should read "gave"—

"an undertaking that as soon as the war is over I would do my best to have the present Board converted into a co-operative organisation of a democratic character, in the management and control of which those engaged in the rice industry would take an important share."

That is where Mr. Ramphal ended. He did not go on. It is easy to take remarks out of their context and give them a different meaning. If he had gone on, he would have read this:

"It is, therefore, a matter of great personal satisfaction to me that I am able to introduce this Bill with that objective in Council and to move the second reading today."

He did not read those words. Those words were intended to, and do mean that I was happy in 1946 to fulfil the promise I made in 1943 by introducing legislation in 1946 to convert the Rice Marketing Board into an organisation of a democratic character and of a co-operative character, which it is—and I fulfilled that promise. The Board of 1943 was a purely arbitrary body, created and established under

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Defence Regulations. It's Governing Body was appointed by the Governor. The Regulations under which it functioned were made by the Governor under war-time conditions, and were Regulations of an extraordinary character. There was no compulsion on the Governor to appoint anybody to the Board except those whom he saw fit. The 1946 Ordinance created what I call an organisation of a democratic character because, as the hon. Member, Mr. Sugrim Singh reminded us, it is comprised of members of whom no less than eight are rice producers, and who are selected from a Council whose election we are trying to provide for today. That is democracy.

I admit the character of the Rice Marketing Board can be made even more democratic. I myself argued quite recently that the time had come for rice producers to take a greater and a stronger share in the management of the Board. But let me warn that democracy in this case is bound to have some special features which do not normally appear in other cases, because the organisation does not only take care of the interests of rice producers but also of the consumers, and you cannot have a co-operative organisation with statutory power to fix prices which the consumer is bound to accept. You cannot have a co-operative organisation under a constitution which makes it an offence for a consumer to buy rice from any other person. Those are features embodied in the present Rice Marketing Board constitution, but which can only appear in an organisation in which the Governor has certain powers. I hope I have made it clear.

My answer is that the Board is a co-operative organisation. But if it is desirable to continue to accord it all these compulsion powers it now has, then it

cannot be governed by a body elected by rice producers themselves, and not have alongside of them representatives, people who are quite important, too; namely, the consumers.

I really want to thank Mr. Ramphal again for having brought that out, because it makes it so clear why this Bill is so necessary. We are not having a political election; we are having an election in order to enable the rice producers to continue to manage their own affairs. It is, I repeat, not a political election. Although it is correct to say that during November and December, 1953, it was very inconvenient — indeed it would have been wrong — to have an election and meetings of this nature at that time, it would not be wrong to have them today. It would be wrong to prevent the rice producers from taking a democratic part in the management of the Board as they are entitled to do. That is the real reason why we cannot avoid holding these elections whether we consider the climate to be wet or dry.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

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

Clause 2—*Amendment of Section 2 of the Principal Ordinance.*

Mr. Lee: I desire to explain fully the reason why I said it was not opportune to hold the elections now. I am not thinking of any particular party that may be in power, but I say for the good of the rice industry that many persons desire to have members of the

Board who would be able to exercise their judgment in a sound manner. In the present circumstances I can see that the majority of the real producers would be wiped out as regards election to the Board.

The Chairman: I gave the hon. Member an opportunity to explain all that and he could have moved an amendment, but he has not done so. He is speaking entirely on a question of policy and we understand what he means but it does not affect clause 2.

Mr. Lee: I am moving, therefore, that this clause 2 be deleted.

The Chairman: But your remarks would not be apropos of that particular clause. There is nothing in it to justify your referring to the political situation. You have said enough, however, and I am sure we all understand you.

Mr. Lee: What does the clause say? It says:

"2. Section two of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended by the substitution for the words "December, nineteen hundred and fifty-four under the provisions of Regulation four" in paragraph (a) of the words, "February, nineteen hundred and fifty-five under the provisions."

If, therefore, I move the deletion of this clause I must give the Council the reason for so doing. Your Honour has said that you have given me some latitude and, if that is so, I am moving the deletion of the clause in order to explain that the time is not yet ripe for it. The reason is that the rice industry is at a turning point now and only those who have had experience with the affairs of the Board and the management of the Rice Producers' Association would know what is best for the industry. Only old members of the Board would know what the implications of this legislation are.

Sir Frank McDavid: May I interrupt the hon. Member? I think he is speaking on the question of policy, but I want to ask him not to assume that the people who might be elected in place of existing members would not be capable of giving similar good service on the Committee.

Mr. Lee: What would be the policy of Government if the \$5 million had to come out of their pockets and put into a public Company. With the increased salary given to the Manager of the Rice Marketing Board, does anyone think that the present members of the Rice Producers' Association would be able to save the Colony from being saddled with this heavy expenditure? I would like it to be understood that the old members of the Rice Marketing Board know what is the cause of the present situation and would be able to guide the affairs of the Board in the best possible manner. Owing to the dissatisfaction that has arisen from the question of salary increases and other things, one would find that practically all the old members of the Rice Producers' Association and also of the R.M.B. would be wiped out entirely. The new members of the Board would be making promises to the rice producers which they would have to fulfil, but I feel that these producers would not know much of the pros and cons of the rice industry so that it would be wrong to leave its guidance in their hands.

The Chairman: If the hon. Member knows that, why doesn't he move that the Bill be read six months hence? He spoke of there being trouble, but he did not indicate the kind of trouble he was speaking about. I take it that he is referring to trouble as regards people being prevented from voting and so on. Apparently he wants the

[The Chairman]

existing conditions to remain in force. He seems to think that there will be some change in the personnel of the Board. I do not think he was expected to say that.

Mr. Lee: I accept your censure, Sir. I did promise Government co-operation with respect to this Bill.

The Chairman: If I feel that the hon. Member's amendment is not in line with the purpose of this clause I am not going to put it.

Mr. Lee: I am therefore going to withdraw my amendment, having had my say.

Sir Frank McDavid: I cannot allow certain things to go unchallenged, however, and possibly create wrong impressions. If the hon. Member feels that certain members of the Rice Producers' Association would endeavour to have certain persons elected to its Council and in turn to the R.M.B., who would be so wicked as to seek to destroy the industry, let me say at once that neither he as a Member of this Council nor I as a Member of the Government would permit that to happen. As Mr. Ramphal has stated, there are provisions in the governing Ordinance which enable Government to overrule the Rice Marketing Board. If certain wrong decisions are made by the Board, Government and this Council would at once put things right, and would not permit people to ruin the industry and themselves in the process.

Clause 2 put, and agreed to.

Council resumed.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg leave to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Attorney General seconded.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION BILL

Mr. Speaker: Does any Member present wish to speak on the motion for the second reading of the Appropriation Bill?

Mr. Lee: Mr. Speaker, the Council is not properly constituted at present; there are only nine members in their seats.

Mr. Speaker: There are other Members in the lobby.

Mr. Lee: But there are only nine Members present in the Chamber. Other Members are outside, therefore the Council is not properly constituted.

The Speaker: They are all within the precincts of the Chamber.

The Attorney General: I think there are hon. Members who desire to speak on the second reading of the Bill but they are not ready to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Why I mentioned it is because the Financial Secretary is not prepared to speak to the motion today. I propose to adjourn the Council until 2 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. Raatgever: I would suggest that you adjourn until Thursday next week.

Mr. Speaker: If Members say they wish to speak on the Budget we may or may not meet tomorrow.

Mr. Raatgever: I think that those Members present are agreed that we should meet on Thursday next week and not tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Council will therefore be adjourned until Thursday next week at 2 p.m.