

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 29th December, 1959

The Council met at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT :

Speaker, His Honour Sir Donald Jackson

Chief Secretary, Hon. D. M. Hedges

Attorney-General, Hon. A. M. I. Austin, Q.C. *ex officio*

Financial Secretary, Hon. F. W. Essex, C.M.G.

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

Mr. I. Crum Ewing — Clerk of the Legislature

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

ABSENT :

Mr. S. Campbell—Member for North Western District—on leave.

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

Mr. H. J. M. Hubbard —Nominated Member—on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on the 15th and 22nd of December, 1959, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Hubbard, has applied for and been granted leave from the 28th December, 1959, to the 4th January, 1960.

The hon. Member for the North Western District, Mr. Campbell, has asked to be excused from today's meeting. I think his difficulty is one of transport.

GIFT TO FEDERAL LEGISLATURE,
WEST INDIES

I shall read a memorandum from the Chief Secretary to the Clerk of the Legislature with respect to the gift of chairs to the Federal Legislature. It reads thus:

"11th December, 1959.

I am directed to inform you that a letter has been received from the Federal Secretary conveying the thanks of the Federal Government for the gift of twelve chairs for distinguished visitors to the Federal Legislature, expenditure on which was authorised by Finance Committee on 7th November, 1958. The Federal Secretary also expressed his Government's pleasure at the beauty of craftsmanship displayed in the silver plates made in British Guiana which will be affixed to the chairs.

(Sgd.) J. A. D'Oliveira,
for Acting Chief Secretary."

PAPERS LAID

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex): I beg to lay on the Table the

Report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on the 30th October, 1959, covering the Supplementary Schedules of Expenditure for September-October, 1959 (Recurrent and Development).

Mr. Speaker: The Question is that the Report be adopted.

Agreed to.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): I beg to lay on the Table the

Drainage and Irrigation (Amendment) By-Laws, 1959 (No. 3).

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): I beg to lay on the Table the

Telephone (Amendment) Regulations, 1959 (No. 13).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING
SERVICES

The Financial Secretary: I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

"Be it resolved: That pending the passing of the 1960 Estimates, this Council approves of such expenditure for Recurrent and Development Expenditure in 1960 as may be required for the maintenance of existing services and the continuance of works in progress on the basis approved by this Council in the Annual and Supplementary Estimates for the year 1959."

With your consent, Sir, and the consent of the Council I propose to take advantage of Standing Order No. 24 to proceed with this Motion this afternoon.

CONTINUANCE OF RENT
RESTRICTION ORDINANCE

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to give notice of the following Motion:

"Whereas the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941; and

Whereas section 33 of the said Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that, prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year, and that

thereafter may from time to time declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation; and

Whereas the said Ordinance has been continued in operation until the 31st December 1959; and

Whereas it is considered expedient that the said Ordinance shall be continued in operation for a further period of one year:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1960."

I also wish to give notice of my intention to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Order to enable me to proceed with the Motion this afternoon. I have His Excellency's permission to move the suspension of the Standing Orders.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (REGISTRATION) BILL

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

Medical Practitioners (Registration) Bill, 1959.

I also take opportunity to give notice of my intention to move a suspension of the relevant Standing Order at a later stage to enable me to take the Bill through all its stages today. I have His Excellency's permission to do so.

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Rai): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the

New Amsterdam Town Council (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

I have His Excellency's consent to move a suspension of the relevant Standing

Order to enable me to take the Bill through all its stages today.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the following Bills:

Supplementary Appropriation (1958) Bill, 1959.

Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Appropriation (1960) Bill, 1959.

The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Benn): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the following Bill:

Nonpareil Park (Lease to the Indian Education Trust of British Guiana) Bill, 1959.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The following Bills were Read the First time.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (REGISTRATION) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the registration of certain persons as medical practitioners."

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the New Amsterdam Town Council Ordinance."

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1958) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to allow and confirm certain additional expenditure incurred in the year ended on the 31st day of December, 1958."

TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Tax Ordinance."

APPROPRIATION (1960) BILL

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

NONPAREIL PARK (LEASE TO THE INDIAN
EDUCATION TRUST OF BRITISH GUIANA)
BILL

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to authorise the leasing to the Indian Education Trust of British Guiana for Educational purposes of a parcel of land at Nonpareil Park, Plantation Thomas."

**MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING
SERVICES**

Mr. Speaker: The Financial Secretary gave notice of Motion earlier and intimated that subject to the consent of this Council he proposed to proceed with the Motion today. So far as my consent is concerned, I give it. The question is whether Members of the Council consent to the Motion being taken today.

Agreed to.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move that it be resolved,

"That pending the passing of the 1960 Estimates, this Council approves of such expenditure for Recurrent and Development Expenditure in 1960 as may be required for the maintenance of existing services and the continuance of works in progress on the basis approved by this Council in the Annual and Supplementary Estimates for the year 1959".

The reason for this Motion is obvious. We shall not be able to pass the 1960 Budget before the 1st of January, which is most unfortunate. I think that only once in the last 20 years did we succeed in passing the Estimates before the end of the year. That was in 1956. There have been various factors this year which have made it difficult to produce the Budget. There was the strike of Government employees in December, but the main reason was that we had to get the Development Programme passed by this Council, and when that was passed we had to set about getting the Estimates for Development in 1960 put into shape.

This is a formal and necessary provision, seeking essentially to ensure that existing services are maintained and works in progress continued on the basis

approved by this Council in the Annual and Supplementary Estimates for the year 1959.

I should like to say for the information of Members that Government intends to take the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill for 1960 on Thursday next, 7th January.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan): I beg to second the Motion.

Mr. Tasker: I have no desire to do anything that would delay the passage of this Motion. I am, however, concerned about one phrase in it which refers to the Annual and Supplementary Estimates for 1959. If in fact we are dealing with expenditure over weeks and months, then I am not clear why it should take anything more for such periods than is provided in the annual estimates for 1959 set aside as being required for such periods. Apart from this observation, I support the Motion.

The Financial Secretary: The purpose of that phrase is to enable work which has been started on supplementary votes in 1959 to be continued in 1960. In other words, this work is being done on supplementary votes already approved by this Council, as well as votes in the original 1959 Estimates.

Mr. Speaker: If there is no other speaker, I shall put the question.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

**CONTINUANCE OF RENT
RESTRICTION ORDINANCE**

Mrs. Jagan: I beg to move the Motion standing in my name asking that it be resolved,

"that the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1960".

It has become necessary each year, in view of the acute housing shortage and the perennial need to peg rents, to continue in force the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186. On each occasion I have moved a Motion in this Council in this respect I referred to the state of housing in British Guiana and the impossibility, as Government saw it, of removing this Ordinance from our Statute Book. It is for the same reason that this Motion is moved, to have this Ordinance continued in force for a further year.

Mr. Benn: I beg to second the Motion.

Mr. Bowman: This is the third year in succession that the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing has come to this Council with a motion of this kind. As the housing shortage remains acute, anyone can see that it will be some considerable time before there is no need for this Rent Restriction Ordinance, and I think that Government should seek to have it in force for another five or ten years. I support the Motion, but with the request that the Minister think along the lines I have mentioned.

Mr. Tasker: I sympathize with the point made by the hon. Member for Demerara River. I am particularly glad that since I made some observations last year on the continuance of the Temporary Registration of Medical Practitioners Ordinance a Bill has been brought forward "to provide for the Registration of certain persons as Medical Practitioners". I would like, however, to comment on the way in which it has been brought forward.

I think the Legislature has been treated with scant courtesy in this matter. The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing has said that she has the Governor's authority to take the Bill through all its stages today, and yet neither on the Order Paper nor on the Supplementary Order Paper is any reference made to the fact that it would be so taken.

It so happens that the Bill is, I think, uncontroversial; still, that is no reason why Members of this Council should not have had previous notification of Government's intention to take this Bill through all its stages today.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion affirmed.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (REGISTRATION) BILL

Mr. Speaker: There is a certificate of urgency in respect of the Medical Practitioners (Registration) Bill, and it is intended to proceed with this Bill today.

Mrs. Jagan: In keeping with the notice given earlier, I now beg to move that the relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable me to take the Medical Practitioners (Registration) Bill through its remaining stages.

Mr. Benn: I beg to second the Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Orders suspended.

Mrs. Jagan: In moving the Second Reading of the Bill intituled

"An Ordinance to provide for the Registration of certain persons as Medical Practitioners"

I wish first of all to apologize to Members of this Council for not giving them sufficient notice of Government's intention to take the Bill through all its stages today. Due to the fact that the Legislative Council was prorogued and the form of meetings since the publication of this Bill did not permit it, the First Reading was not taken. We did not think it was necessary to have a meeting specially to move the First Reading of the Bill.

[MRS. JAGAN]

Members are however aware that it is necessary that this Bill should be taken through its remaining stages by year-end in order that we may not have to come to this Council again to seek further temporary registration of medical practitioners.

During last year's debate in this Council Members, particularly the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tasker, and the hon. Member for Georgetown Central, asked Government to bring forward permanent legislation in order that medical practitioners whose degrees are not normally accepted by the British Medical Council can be registered here under certain conditions. Therefore I am sure that Members will be happy that such a Bill is now before us.

I recall the point being made on the last occasion that the reason for the delay in bringing forth this permanent legislation was that there had been very strong opposition from the professional bodies concerned — the British Guiana and the British Caribbean Branches of the British Medical Association.

These bodies have expressed their disapproval of any form of permanent registration of a person having a foreign degree not accepted by the British Medical Council. We have not rushed into this Bill for two reasons. Firstly, there was no great urgency since there was a great number of doctors in this category waiting in line for this problem to be solved; and, secondly, we wanted to give very careful consideration to the position expressed by these professional bodies.

This we have done and hon. Members will notice in the Bill that we are asking that permanent registration be given to any doctor coming to British Guiana with a foreign degree not accepted by the British Medical Council once that doctor will have worked at an approved medical institution. By an approved medical institution is meant

any of the public hospitals, the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital or the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic. If, after a period of five years, however, that medical practitioner has proved that he can do good work, he will be allowed to be permanently registered on the recommendation of the Medical Board.

The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Fredericks, has circulated to this Council Amendments to Clause 5 (1). On further examination and discussion with my colleagues, we have agreed to accept his Amendments which would mean, in fact, that we will be reducing this period of five years to three years — the period, we might say, of the doctor's apprenticeship. We have agreed to this in spite of the fact that the British Medical Association, although they were opposed to permanent registration at one stage, had given a form of approval to a period of five years; but they are not prepared to go further than five years.

In order that the Bill could have a simple passage and in order to facilitate the doctors who might wish to give service to this country, we have agreed to the Amendments put forward. It is considered desirable that permanent provision should be made for the registration of medical practitioners who have foreign diplomas. Now and again we do get doctors who are not trained at the accepted universities but who had still had good training and who, also, may be qualified to give good service or, perhaps, better service than other doctors.

I, personally, am not one who is over impressed by the university at which a person studies. The university is important, yes, but I feel that the character of the individual, his ability to absorb learning, his work and his general aptitude and intelligence are, perhaps, more important than the name of the university. It is unnecessary to recall that this country has had doctors, fortunately only one or two, who have been trained at the best universities and have gone into service and have proved to be wanting one way

or another. It is true that the British Medical Council is very much concerned over this question of universities, but many of our neighbours to the south of us and to the north train their professionals at their own universities, and from what we have seen the results are not too bad at all.

Therefore, I am happy to see we have got over the hump and we now agree—I hope hon. Members do agree—to bring in this form of registration so that doctors who may wish to remain in British Guiana and continue practice outside of the institution may do so as permanently registered medical practitioners once they proved to be of good calibre and capable of performing their duties as they should at an approved institution.

I would ask Members to give this measure their full support and, perhaps, give a sigh of relief that next year we shall not come to this Council and ask for a renewal of the Temporary Registration Bill.

Mr. Fredericks: The Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance was enacted in 1947 and renewed yearly since then. This meant that for the past 12 years this Ordinance has been coming before this Council for renewal — a very unsatisfactory arrangement. I am not, here and now, concerned with who is responsible for this state of affairs, but I do feel that the Medical Board should have been more militant in its efforts to remedy this situation.

The present Bill is a step forward and a laudable effort to end these yearly renewals and, at the same time, to obtain final registration of practitioners who have a number of years' practice. However, this Bill still leaves many questions unanswered and for which answers will have to be found in the not-too-far distant future. One of the questions is: What will happen to the person who desires to be registered and qualifies in terms of the conditions of registration (a)

and (b) of the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance but is unable to find a place or to be considered for employment in any of the approved institutions? I think this is somewhat unfair, as such a person should not be denied the opportunity to be registered.

I am happy to hear that Government has decided to accept the three-year period of practice, as I do feel the condition of five years' practice for final registration is unreasonable and unrealistic. If a practitioner is performing his duties efficiently for two or three years, surely, that should qualify him for final registration. Final registration will depend upon the medical practitioner performing his duties efficiently, but the Bill does not say who is to determine the competency of the practitioner. Is the Medical Board qualified to pronounce judgment?

Before concluding I would like to commend the Minister of Labour, Health and Housing and the hon. the Attorney-General for their efforts to bring this matter nearer to finality, and to thank Government for accepting the Amendments.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: This is only a half measure. It is a measure which is certainly not in keeping with advanced thinking in the world. British Guiana is moving in the forum of world thinking. I was surprised when the Minister said that universities or mere university training is not good enough. Certainly, the university is important. The university from which you come is most important. If you come from the State Hospital of New York you have a qualification as good as if you had even come from a United Kingdom University. When Sir Anthony Eden was ill, where did he go? He went to the United States of America. I feel it is unfair for us to deny a man the right to go and seek knowledge in the progressive countries of the world. We should base the registration of practitioners on the qualifications from the universities from which they graduate.

We are not qualified, neither are the doctors here qualified, to judge them,

[MR. JAI NARINE SINGH]

because many of the doctors in this country, though they come from a noble profession, do not practise the nobility of that profession. It is unfair for those who practise the medical profession in our hospitals to be receiving fees from people who can hardly walk, in addition to their remuneration from the Government. It is time that Government take action in protecting the citizens of this land. They are not protecting the citizens of this country. I, personally, sent a crippled person who was not seeing in one eye to the hospital and promptly came back the answer: 'you have to get \$7 before I can see you.' What a sorry state of affairs we have in British Guiana! Is it not time for the Government to take stock?

We need many more doctors than we have. There are great scientists in France as there are in India, the United Kingdom, the United States and in Russia. We must not close our doors to doctors who have qualified in foreign countries, and we must remember that we have sent several cases to Venezuela for treatment. If we want to have experienced doctors we must give the same treatment to those coming from Canada, the United States, Germany or the United Kingdom, provided they have obtained their qualifications at recognized universities.

If medical practitioners are expected to serve one year's apprenticeship in a local institution such an apprenticeship should apply to all. I feel that we are not going far enough in this matter, and that the time has come when we should base the registration of medical practitioners upon their university qualifications instead of requiring them to practise and prove their capabilities, because I do not think the Legislature or the Medical Board should sit in judgment as to a medical practitioner's competence. Because a medical practitioner has not graduated from a British university is no reason why he should be debarred from practising his profession in British Gui-

ana. The world is becoming smaller and smaller, and very soon there will be no boundaries between the nations. We are living in the jet age; we have passed the propeller age in aviation. We have pierced the sound barrier and we will soon pierce the life barrier. They will soon be putting us into a capsule and shooting us off wherever we want to go. National boundaries are going to be removed. Institutions of learning have no barriers. It is my view that as long as a medical practitioner has received his qualifications at a university of a certain standard he should be accepted in this country in the same way as one with qualifications from a British university.

Mr. Gajraj: I would like to offer words of commendation to the Government for having brought this measure before the Council. There is no doubt that for a number of years when it was necessary to ask for annual extensions of the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance quite a number of Members on this side of the Table and, indeed, practitioners themselves and the public at large felt somewhat frustrated that persons who had proved their worth were being treated rather shabbily by the Laws of this Colony in that they had literally to seek an opportunity each year to have their professional worth accepted by the country's legal system.

Knowledge is not confined to people of a particular national or racial school of thought. It is universal, and when that knowledge has been obtained in one language or another it is the value to which that knowledge can be put that indicates its worth to humanity at large. So that if only from that point of view, I say that I agree with my Friend that the Bill is not progressive enough, in that we are still following the traditional pattern of giving complete freedom to graduates from British universities and providing restrictions on those who happen to have graduated from institutions of a different origin.

We have to bear in mind that we admit the lack in British Guiana of a

sufficient number of qualified persons in the medical and surgical field, because we have had within recent times cases where Guianese have been sent to hospitals in Caracas for treatment which they could not get here, and there was a time, too, when many Guianese went across to Dutch Guiana to be treated by doctors who qualified at universities in Holland.

I think we are all agreed that those persons must have had the requisite knowledge and skill to be able to treat patients from this part of the world, but because we have to maintain this British pattern persons who may be qualified from a university in Holland cannot normally gain registration as a medical practitioner in British Guiana.

If it were only a case of nationals of another country qualified in their own country coming here to seek a living, and that we had all the medical practitioners we need, there might be some reasonable ground for giving preference to nationals of British Guiana who have qualified at British institutions, but we find that even our own boys and girls cannot find sufficient places in British universities to pursue studies for the medical profession. Already we have Guianese who have qualified at universities other than British universities.

I can sympathize with the Minister of Health and the Government generally because I know how difficult the members of the British Guiana Medical Board can be in a matter like this. They are anxious to preserve the rights and privileges, whatever they are, which they have enjoyed for years, and therefore would endeavour to restrict as much as possible the entrance of candidates from other sources of learning into the field which they have monopolized for many years.

I feel that this Bill is a step in the right direction, and I also feel that as time goes on the law will have to be amended again in keeping with the needs of the time. For example, if a Guianese cannot get into a British university and is forced to seek admission to a foreign uni-

versity, and he qualifies as a doctor and returns home, what has he to do in order to obtain registration? Firstly, he has to prove to the Medical Board that he is a man of good reputation. Having set their doubts at rest he has to produce proof that he received his medical training and qualification at an institution approved by the British Guiana Medical Board. I agree that it is necessary to differentiate between standards of training, because there are some institutions in some parts of the world which may not be considered to be of the highest standard. Admitting that the Medical Board has the right to do that, it prescribes the names of those institutions, and provided the applicant has received his qualification from an approved medical institution he is eligible for registration in a separate part of the register. Then he has to show that he is not going into private practice, but is going to be employed at one of the recognized local institutions — the Government Medical Service, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital or the Davis Memorial Hospital. I am quoting the words of the Minister; I heard only those three institutions mentioned.

If those institutions are fully staffed, as we hope they will be one of these days, what is to happen to that young Guianese? He will not be permitted to have his name put on the register of medical practitioners, and will be turned away from his homeland to seek a livelihood elsewhere and to give his service to another country. On the other hand, if it is possible for the young Guianese to gain such employment he is penalized for three years by being prevented from practising his profession wherever he wished in British Guiana, being limited to patients at the hospital. I think that is an unnecessary hardship, and while in the present circumstances I do not believe that Government will be able to get the Medical Board to co-operate in every way, it is something which should be mentioned here and noted for the future, because I feel that as time goes on that particular part of the Bill will have to

[MR. GAJRAJ]

come before the Council for further amendment.

What I consider to be a more severe hardship is that after having served for three years in one of those institutions, the medical practitioner has again to go on bended knees to the Medical Board before that august body might condescend to his name being transferred from one part of the register to the other part which provides permanent registration. For a professional man, I think that is humiliating. My own view is that, having served for three years in an approved institution and having overcome the initial barriers, to have to go back before a Medical Board to say, in effect, he has not killed anybody—whom some other doctor might not have killed anyway — is asking too much, and I will ask Members when dealing with this particular Clause to seek some means to make the registration automatic after three years, thus eliminating the stage where the doctor would have to apply before a Board again.

This Bill is a progressive measure, but I would like to see it made even more progressive.

Mr. Tasker: There has been a great deal of criticism this afternoon of the Medical Board and of the standards that it insists on maintaining, but, as the hon. Member for Georgetown South remarked, it is hardly up to us or any Legislature to decide on the relevant qualifications of the medical profession. It seems to me that, as he said, the qualifications confer a licence to heal and a licence to kill; most surely, then, this is a profession which must always police its own standards. This means, as the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Gajraj, suggested, that whether or not the Board has a vested interest in maintaining the present standards of qualifications for the profession, we must assume that these are concerned with the quality of the teaching in the medical schools that give the diplomas or degrees. The hon. Minister and others were at pains to sug-

gest that the name of the university was important. To me, that seems entirely wrong: it is not the name of the university that is important, but the quality of the medical school that awards the diploma, or degree, and obviously standards will differ.

I warmly welcome this Bill — in fact, as the hon. Minister has said, I spoke of the need for it a year ago. As to the period of probation, I am not wholly convinced that a period of three years is better than a period of five years. While I know that the drafting of Bills is a complicated process, I do not believe that Clause 5 (1) was drafted without due attention to medical requirements. However, Government has accepted an amendment to that subsection and the Minister has said very little about it. My only anxiety lies in this Amendment, and I hope that in her reply the hon. Minister will be a little more specific than she has been so far as to why Government is prepared to accept so rapidly a period of three years, when the proviso to this Clause stipulates five years as the total period of time required.

Mr. Davis: I would like to mention for the record that I seconded the Amendment moved by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Fredericks. I am persuaded by his arguments, and I agree that a three-year period is sufficient time for a person to satisfy the authorities of his *bona fides*. I am very keen that the right action should be taken in this matter because there are a lot of young Guianese, at the University College of the West Indies and elsewhere, who are studying medicine and when these young men and women have qualified they would be able to return home to practise instead of seeking to do so in foreign countries.

Mrs. Jagan: I appreciate hon. Members' basic support of this legislation. I shall seek to answer some of the points raised in the debate. The hon. Member for Georgetown South has spoken of a capsule. Well, I have been trying to visualize him as a capsule coming out into space. [*Laughter*]. Some Members seem

to have misunderstood one or two points of importance. At the moment there are several Universities outside of the United Kingdom which are recognized by the British Medical Council and whose graduates may be registered to practise here: for example, graduates from certain medical colleges in India, Scandinavian countries, Belgium and Germany. This means that certain Universities outside of Great Britain are acceptable to the British Medical Council — but the Council does not recognize degrees from universities all over the world. We do have on our Statute Books a piece of legislation initiated by the present Minister of Trade and Industry which allows graduates of Canadian and American universities to be registered here. I am perfectly in agreement with the remarks of the Member for Georgetown South that there are important medical schools and institutions in the United States where many people from British countries go for study or treatment, including Sir Anthony Eden.

There are difficulties to be overcome, for while there are Universities which have a good standing in their own countries, for one reason or another they are not accepted by the British Medical Council. Not exactly because their standards are not high enough, but because of reasons of reciprocity.

One Member suggested that we should accept graduates from any university and not just those accepted by the British Medical Council. That, of course, raises this question: who rates the Universities of Ecuador, Venezuela, South Africa, France, Cairo or Russia? I am aware of no international body that has a list of accredited universities.

It is a very puzzling question for any to decide which universities are the best. That is one of the reasons why we have accepted that there should be a three-year probationary period whereby a doctor from a university that is not recognized will be allowed to work in an accredited institution and to prove his worth. The three years is the period

during which a doctor from a foreign university will be observed; he will be watched; he will be guided and, no doubt, the opinion of his colleagues and, most of all, his medical superior will be important methods whereby his aptitude and capabilities are determined.

The hon. Member for Georgetown South made some remarks that we are wrong to give these doctors licence to go into institutions and, perhaps, butcher or kill. Certainly, it is better for a doctor whose degree is somewhat uncertain to work in an institution and not go into private practice immediately. In an institution he is not alone. There are other doctors to help him and guide him and if he is making mistakes, these mistakes can be corrected soon enough before harming people.

The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tasker, has asked for an explanation for the reduction of the apprenticeship period from five to three years. Speaking quite frankly, five years were accepted by the British Medical Association (Caribbean Branch) and the Medical Board, but my personal view has always been that three years were sufficient. I feel it is only fair and reasonable to say that you must be able to judge a man's qualities in three years. I do not think it really should take five years to determine whether a man is a good doctor or not; and as I said before, the person no doubt to have the last word will be the senior medical officer in the institution in which the medical practitioner serves. No doubt, if the medical practitioner is not up to standard not only will he fail to be registered but he will also fail to be employed in the institution. Therefore, I feel that three years is a long enough time to see what a man is made of.

The hon. Member for Georgetown South referred to the fact that certain medical practitioners—certain specialists—in the hospitals are squeezing the last cent out of the patients. That is wrong and that is to be prevented; and if the Member will give me all the facts of the case I will bring them to the attention of

[MRS. JAGAN]

the Director of Medical Services as I have already brought to his attention half-a-dozen cases since consultation practice is allowed.

I wish to make it quite clear that the consultation practice which is allowed specialists employed by the Government means that the specialist can only see a patient recommended by another doctor. When I say he can only see a patient I mean he can only receive a fee from a patient recommended by a private practitioner. Any patient entering the Public Hospital or going to the Out-patients' Department can see a specialist without paying a fee, and the specialists are not allowed to charge a cent of any person who is unable to pay.

I see the hon. Member shaking his head. Human nature being what it is I would not doubt that there are violations of this. I hear a number of complaints myself. I know the hon. Member knows that the introduction of consultation practice is not permanent but it is for a limited period during which the Government will observe how it works out. If it is found that the specialists are taking advantage of persons not able to pay it will be necessary to discontinue the practice. Because of the shortage of doctors and because, we might say, a pistol was put at the head of Government and Government not wishing to see the public suffer, this form of service was allowed to be introduced. But I say categorically, if consultation practice proves to be unsatisfactory mainly from the point of view of the patient who is unable to afford it being taxed, it will be stopped. It is entirely up to the doctors themselves to see that the consultation practice is run on a straightforward basis. If the hon. Member knows of any case to bring to my attention I will give every assurance that I will investigate it fully because I have no intention to allow patients to be exploited.

One hon. Member discussed the question of the Medical Board having

the last say in determining if a person is to be registered. To some extent the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tasker, answered that when he said that some professionals are incapable of determining if a person should be registered or not. I am not sure if it will be in the public's interest to allow automatic registration after three years. It might work all right in most cases but there is the possibility that one or two may slip through without having a proper professional valuation of the candidate with a foreign degree; therefore, I am in favour of retaining Section 4. I think we will have to retain it during this period. If it is possible that, after working under the Registration Bill for sometime, we see it is unnecessary I think we can consider that alternative.

I hope I have answered some of the points raised by hon. Members and I would ask that the Bill be read the Second time.

Mr. Benn: I beg to second the Motion.

Bill read a second time.

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

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

Clauses to 4 were passed as printed.

Clause 5.—*Final registration of persons registered by virtue of section 3.*

Mr. Fredericks: I would ask that Clause 5 (1) be amended as follows:

the substitution of the word "three" for the word "five" in the sixth line;

the substitution of a full stop for the colon after the word "accordingly" in the ninth line; and

the deletion of the printed proviso.

Mr. Gajraj: I would like to move an Amendment to the Amendment. I agree

with what my hon. Nominated Friend, Mr. Fredericks, has said, but I would now move that the word "efficiently" in the fourth line of Clause 5 (1) be deleted. The effect of this, Sir, is, as I had mentioned in the course of my remarks on the Second Reading, to make the registration of a medical practitioner who has served for three years in an approved institution, automatic at that stage. I have heard the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Tasker, speak of the necessity, with which I agree, of the profession policing itself and I submit that the measure of policing which is necessary is contained in that Clause of the Bill which is already passed whereby the applicant must prove to the Medical Board two things: (1) that he is of good character; and (2) that he has received his training and qualification from an institution approved by the Medical Board. But there is a further safeguard and that, Mr. Chairman, has been admitted by the Minister of Health when she said that if the practitioner who is employed in one of those approved institutions does not carry out his work satisfactorily, it is expected that his employment would cease.

However, if someone is permitted to work as a medical practitioner for three years in an approved institution, I suggest that in all fairness that person has by continuance of employment proved his worth. Having proved his worth, why should he have to ask the Medical Board to pronounce as to the satisfactory nature of his service in order that his name should be entered in the permanent register?

So that I feel that the policing which has been advocated has been provided for. Safeguards for the public are provided for, and in the circumstances it is up to us in the Legislature to prevent a medical man from being humiliated by having the Medical Board pronounce on the satisfactory nature of his service before his name is placed on the permanent register.

The Attorney-General: Great emphasis has been placed on humiliating a medical practitioner by requiring him to

go before the Medical Board and satisfy them that he has practised efficiently in a Government institution or other approved institution for three years. No one has thought of the patient who is the real person who must not be humiliated by having to be treated by someone who has not reached a proper standard of medical skill and knowledge. He is the person who must supply the test, and the Medical Board acts on behalf of the patients. The medical practitioner who comes to this country with a degree obtained in a foreign country is of secondary consideration to Guianese who want medical care and treatment of a reasonable standard which they are entitled to expect.

It is the view of this Government and of previous Governments, that the best method of testing whether a doctor who comes here from a country where the standards of his profession are not precisely known, should go through a period of probation. It is not a matter of saying that he holds a diploma in Medicine of a medical school or university in a foreign country. Paper qualifications are only *prima facie* proof that a professional man is sufficiently equipped to come to this country and practise his profession. The British Medical authorities have by universal acknowledgment a very high standard indeed, and I understand that after going carefully into the medical qualifications of other universities and seeing the work done by the doctors from those non-British universities, they have a system of reciprocal acknowledgment or acceptance. It is not only a matter of paper qualification but a doctor from another medical school should be able to say "Not only have I got a medical qualification but I have demonstrably shown that I am able to practise my profession to the required standard."

The whole object of Clause 4 is that it is not enough for a doctor who comes from a foreign country to say "I hold a medical diploma. This is what the syllabus was. I passed with high marks, and so on". The Medical Board, how-

[THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL]

ever composed, however eminent the doctors, would not, I am sure, be able to say that a man who holds the highest paper qualifications is necessarily a satisfactory doctor for British Guiana, because he must prove in practice to have the requisite standard of skill.

So far as British universities and some others are concerned, over the years the authorities here and in England have come to know that if a doctor holds a diploma from certain medical schools he not only has the required knowledge but also, by reason of the practice acquired in the course of his training and otherwise, the required skill. The Medical Board has not the facilities, I think, for going in detail into the standards of foreign medical schools. What the Board does is to say to a doctor "On the face of your diploma you have sufficient experience and knowledge and, we hope, skill. At least that syllabus we have read should have given you the necessary training, and it is up to you to satisfy us that by practice you have what you claim to have."

The Government recognizes now that three years will provide sufficient time for a doctor to prove his worth. Five years is probably too long, and it is for that reason that Government has accepted the modification. But it is nonsense to talk about someone holding a paper qualification being *ipso facto* of the required standard. I cannot for one moment support the Amendment to the Amendment moved by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Gajraj.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: I wish to support the Amendment to the Amendment which has been moved by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Gajraj. After a doctor has served what may be regarded as a three-year apprenticeship in an institution, he would be required to go before the Medical Board to pass final judgment on him. The members of the Board may not like the colour of his skin or the religion he professes. The

medical profession is a noble one which we all respect. There is a shortage of doctors in this country, and there are efficient doctors who cannot function during normal working hours. They say to patients "See me at my surgery on the East Bank after hours; I am busy now." Such a doctor should not be allowed to practise the noble profession.

The British Medical Council does not function in British Guiana except through the B.G. Branch of the British Medical Association, and I know through my friends what goes on at meetings of the B.G. Branch of the B.M.A. It is a serious matter. We are trying to protect the sons of Guiana. I know a certain gentleman who came here with very high qualifications from the U.S.A. where he practised as a specialist, but he was not even allowed to be registered as a medical practitioner here when people were dying for want of medical care. We do not even have sufficient dispensers to attend to the sick, yet unless a doctor comes from certain universities he has not only to serve an apprenticeship for three years in an institution but to seek final approval by the Medical Board. I think Government should accept Mr. Gajraj's Amendment in good faith, and if it finds that it has not worked as was expected, the Ordinance could be amended and the word "efficiently" restored to the Section.

Mr. Gajraj: I do not think the hon. the Attorney-General kept strictly to the question in the course of his remarks when he spoke of its being nonsense to talk of someone waving his paper qualification and expecting registration as a medical practitioner. I wish to answer him categorically by saying that that is not the issue at this stage. We have agreed that a person shall be registered on the basis of the qualifications laid down in Clause 4 of this Bill. What I have been saying — and I claim that my thoughts are very logical on this issue — is that since an individual has to practise in a recognized institution, an institution recognized by the Governor in Council

and the British Guiana Medical Board, and since that person must for three years have satisfied the persons who have employed him, there is no question whatever that at the end of those three years he could be branded as being inefficient. It is the word 'efficiently' I have moved the deletion of. I feel that it is wrong for a medical practitioner who has been permitted to serve for three years in an approved institution, to have to ask the Medical Board to state that he has worked efficiently. If he had not worked efficiently he would not have been employed for three years.

Mr. Rai: We all know that professional persons may have a diploma or certificate from a recognized institution testifying to a certain amount of skill or efficiency. Yet when these persons come here to practise many of them make very poor practitioners. So my view is that a diploma is no absolute guarantee that a person can practise on his own. If we have a system whereby a doctor's qualifications are accepted as *prima facie* proof of his skill and then he is allowed to practise under supervision in an institution approved by Government, while he might not be more than a 'marginal' practitioner, he would not be entitled to have registration later and to practise on his own.

The Chairman: If there is no other speaker, I shall put the question.

Mr. Burnham: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have another Amendment. I beg to move that the words "which may include the period of internship" be inserted after the word "years" in the sixth line of subsection (1) of Clause 5. The purpose of that, if I were to explain, would be easily recognized. You may have an individual coming here who has already served his period of internship and he would have to serve three years — after having got his degrees, plus his period of internship. Whereas, another individual

less qualified would come here and do the same three years. For instance, if one comes here with a degree from Mainz, or any of the other well-known German universities, he would face this requirement although periods of internship or degrees from those institutions are very highly recognized in other parts of the world. It would be unfair to such a person to ask him to do three years of internship again, hence my Amendment.

The Attorney-General: I for my part cannot see the real object of this Amendment, because what we have been saying so far is that we in British Guiana wish to see how a doctor with a foreign qualification performs his work. He comes here with a paper qualification which looks all right and he has served a period of internship which also may be all right. Yet that does not get us any further: we want to be satisfied that he has the skill to treat Guianese efficiently, and we shall not know that until he has practised for the required period here—not in Addis Ababa, Mainz, or wherever else he may have practised. With due respect, I do not think a period of internship served outside of British Guiana gets us any nearer to the answers we want.

Mr. Burnham: There are two fallacies in the Attorney-General's remarks. Foreign degrees! What is all this talk about foreign degrees? British degrees are foreign degrees! They are not Guianese degrees. There are many degrees from Universities like Mainz and Heidelberg with which many British degrees cannot compare; and many British doctors go to places like Johns Hopkins University for post-graduate courses.

Guianese have two eyes, two hands two nostrils and two feet like any other human being. What is this talk about the importance of knowing how to treat Guianese medically? If the hon. Attorney-General wants to say that there are peculiar Guianese diseases, he must say so. I cannot for the life of me understand

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what he means by "treating Guianese efficiently".

Of course, there are some fields in which we are treated differently in our own country, but it is not the political field that we are discussing now. This is unsatisfactory and it leaves a bad taste and a bad sound as the year comes to an end.

On the question of internship, Members will note that I said in my Amendment, "which may include". I am appreciative of the fact that there will be some degrees from some universities or some courses from some universities which will hardly gain recognition and acceptance in the greater part of the civilized world. I accept that. That is why I say, "which may include"; but is the Attorney-General going to tell me that a doctor coming here from Mainz, Heidelberg or Geneva University where he has served his internship will have to satisfy us further? Who are we? Those are Universities with a world-wide reputation.

To avoid the correspondence courses which masquerade as degrees, I say "may", and I use the word advisedly. I believe the Attorney-General now appreciates my point.

We have here in British Guiana a young doctor who has qualified at Mainz. Would you make him do four years here when other people come here and do three? I do ask the Attorney-General to show his sympathy for the sick and suffering by acceding to my Amendment. There is nothing cynical about it.

Mrs. Jagan: The intention of the Bill is that people with degrees who will not normally be accepted by the local or corresponding Branch of the B.M.A. will have the opportunity of coming to British Guiana and working with an approved institution under the guidance of medical officers who will determine if the doctor is capable of giving good ser-

vices to this country. Therefore the question of an internship outside of British Guiana would not be a means of improving the doctor's work in British Guiana. I do not think that the Amendment is in keeping with the intention of the Bill, it is not necessary and I do not agree with it.

Perhaps the hon. Member was not here when I made it clear that it was not only British degrees that are accepted by the British Medical Council, but degrees from other parts of the world: so our discussion does not centre around the acceptance of British degrees alone. We have just recently taken into the Medical Services a Medical Practitioner who has a Scandinavian degree, and there are a great many doctors practising in British Guiana with Indian degrees; besides this fact, there is another Ordinance which allows Doctors with American and Canadian degrees to practise here. The reference which the hon. Member for Georgetown Central made to post-graduate courses at Johns Hopkins University might not have been made if he was here earlier.

I understand what the Attorney-General was trying to say. His attitude was worthwhile: it was important to consider the patient, whether the words "Guianese patients" were used or not. We have to be careful that we do not give permanent registration to people who may harm patients instead of helping them; so I think the caustic remarks of the Member for Georgetown Central were unnecessary.

Mr. Burnham: The Government seems to be pressing this question of whether doctors are capable of dealing with people without harming them. The Law Reports are replete with dozens of instances of people with British qualifications who made mistakes or killed people or damaged them. There is nothing to show that a British graduate is automatically more capable than another, otherwise these tomes on medical negligence would not keep piling up

and cases keep coming up year after year.

To one who has had the opportunity to study these things this excuse about being capable after three years is not worthy, unless the three-year period is applicable to all medical graduates.

I do not think I misunderstood the purpose of this Bill. The Objects and Reasons are written in English and I read them. The suggestion which I made with respect to the internship is a suggestion which has come from a respected member of the Medical Profession—a British graduate twice over and another British graduate only once—and he pointed out what can happen in cases where a man who has served his internship is required to serve three years, whilst another man who does not bother to do his internship comes down here straight-away after he has got his degree and spends three years.

I have already explained that my Amendment is intended only to be a compromise, not obligatory or mandatory, and I cannot see the worry. If at the end of the two-year period, in the case of the man who has done his two years' internship, the Board is of the opinion that he cannot handle Guianese, well, they do not give him credit for the year's internship but let him go on for a further year. But even then, according to line 4, he does not automatically get permanent registration, for he has to establish his efficiency. We want to give some elbow room for special cases.

To say that we are recognizing and approving non-British degrees at this time is to say something for which the Government is to be commended; but I know, from representations I have had to make on behalf of clients, that the local representatives of the B.M.A., having qualified such a long time ago, do not seem to know certain universities which are the byword for learning in the field of medicine. It took this Board, here, several years to agree to the validity

of a Mainz degree. If it took them that time to do that, how many more years it will take them to start recognizing degrees of other universities. It is hoped that they will awake from their slumber and recognize other universities the internship and degrees of which are good enough for our purpose. That is what I am saying. I am not saying that in every case they should recognize degrees and give a man credit for his internship; but the losses to British Guiana are felt by such discretions being left to statutory bodies. I cannot imagine there will be opposition to this.

The Chairman: I shall now put the several Amendments. The first one is the one which seeks to change the word "five" to "three" years in the sixth line, that is, the Amendment to Clause 5 (1), Mr. Fredericks' Amendment, which has been accepted by the Government.

The Attorney General: (Mr. Austin): And also the Proviso.

Mr. Tello: That is injecting a new thing. I do not think there was any intention to withdraw the Proviso. I feel that all this discussion has only revealed that Members, and even members of the Government, are satisfied that there are certain people with certain qualifications and aptitude who might qualify for registration before the now agreed three-year period. That is the intention of the Proviso, and I ask now it is accepted that three years are enough for the person whose qualification had been most in doubt, why we cannot amend the Proviso rather than withdraw it?

The Chairman: Are you moving an Amendment?

Mr. Tello: Yes. I am going to substitute "two" years for "three" years. I am asking that the Proviso remain and where it is stated "not less than three years", it should read "not less than two years".

The Chairman: You are suggesting that the Proviso should have "not less

[THE CHAIRMAN]

than two years" instead of "not less than three years". Is that it?

Mr. Tello: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Jai Narine Singh: There is a lot of merit in the suggestion made by Mr. Tello and his Amendment, and I will like to support him.

The Chairman: Any more? [Laughter] When I rise this time I shall not permit anyone else. Now is the opportunity if anybody wishes to say anything more. I shall now put the question. The first question I shall put this time is that the Proviso be deleted.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Chairman: The next question is that the word "five" be substituted for the word "three".

Question put, and agreed to.

The Chairman: The next Amendment I shall put is that the word "efficiently" in the fourth line of Clause 5 (1) be deleted; that is Mr. Gajraj's Amendment.

Question put, the Council divided and voted as follows:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
Mr. Gajraj	Mr. Tasker
Mr. Jai Narine Singh	Mr. Fredericks
—2.	Mr. Tello
	Mr. Jackson
	Mr. Burnham
	Mr. Kendall
	Mr. Saffee
	Mr. Rai
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mrs. Jagan
	Mr. Benn
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary.
<i>Not Voting</i>	
Mr. Bowman.—1.	—14.

Amendment negatived.

The Chairman: The next Amendment I shall put is that which seeks to

insert after the word "years" in the sixth line, the words "which may include the period of internship".

Question put, and negatived.

Clause 5 as amended was put, and carried.

Clauses 6 to 8 were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

Mrs. Jagan: I beg to report that the Medical Practitioners (Registration) Bill, 1959, was considered in Committee and passed with two Amendments. I now move that the Bill be read the Third time and passed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Rai): I gave notice earlier of the introduction of a Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the New Amsterdam Town Council Ordinance" and of my intention to take the Bill through all its stages today.

Mr. Speaker: The necessary certificate has been laid. We shall therefore proceed with the Bill.

Mr. Rai: I formally move the Second Reading of the Bill. Owing to the fact that many ratepayers are in default of paying the first moiety of their taxes when it falls due in the early part of the year, the New Amsterdam Town Council has had from time to time to borrow money to enable it to carry out necessary works of the Municipality. At the present time the Council cannot borrow any money without the consent of the Gov-

error in Council. The amount which the Council may borrow in any one year cannot exceed 15 per cent. of the expenses included in the approved estimates for that year. That percentage would be roughly equal to about \$100,000. This power is being provided in addition to that already conferred by the Governor in Council.

The New Amsterdam Town Council consents to the enactment of this measure and I invite hon. Members to support it.

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): I beg to second the Motion.

Question, put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill Clause by Clause and approved the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

Mr. Rai: I beg to report that the New Amsterdam Town Council (*Amendment*) Bill has passed through the Committee stage without amendment. I therefore move that it be now read the Third Time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

THE LATE DR. J. A. NICHOLSON

Mr. Speaker: I would like to repair an omission. I omitted earlier to intimate to Council that a letter had been received from Mrs. Rosamond Nicholson in respect of the Resolution of condolence which was passed in this Council with respect to the late Dr. Jacob Nicholson. The letter reads as follows:

“106, East Sheen Avenue,
London, S.W. 14.
7th December, 1959.

Dear Mr. Crum-Ewing,

Will you please convey to the Members of the Legislative Council my sincere thanks for the tribute paid to my late husband in the Resolution so kindly sent me.

On behalf of myself and children I should like them to know that we have been deeply touched by this gesture.

Yours sincerely,
Rosamond Nicholson.”

NEW YEAR WISHES

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): May I take this opportunity on behalf of my fellow legislators to wish you, Sir, a very happy New Year and a fruitful year in office.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I reciprocate your very kind wishes and wish all Members of the Council a very bright, happy and prosperous New Year.

The Chief Secretary: I move that Council adjourn to Wednesday, 6th January, 1960.

Council adjourned accordingly.