

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

FRIDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1955.

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT:

His Hon. 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.

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. P. A. Cummings (Mem-
ber for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Mem-
ber for Communications and Works).

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

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.●.

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials:—

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

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. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (acting).

Absent:—

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.—on leave

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

Mr. E. F. Correia—on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Thursday, the 24th of February, 1955, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBER EXCUSED

Mr. Speaker: I have no announcements to make except that Mr. Macnie has asked to be excused from attending today.

REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Fraser): I beg to lay on the table:

The Sixty-Fourth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana, for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The Member for Communications and Works (Mr. Kendall): I beg to lay on the table:

The Telephone (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Attorney General (Mr. Holder): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance with respect to the summoning of jurors.”

I also give notice of my intention to move the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable me to proceed with the Bill through all its stages today.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Land and Mines): I beg to give notice of the intro-

duction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Ordinance, 1940.”

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Georgetown Town Council Ordinance with respect to the payment of a gratuity where an officer or servant dies in the service of the Georgetown Town Council.”

“An Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Law (Offences) Ordinance.”

“An Ordinance further to amend the Gambling Prevention Ordinance.”

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

BRITISH CARIBBEAN FEDERATION

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I beg to give notice of the following motion:

“That this Council, having noted the steps which are being taken by other Caribbean Governments and by Her Majesty's Government towards a creation of a British Caribbean Federation, and the statement of the Secretary of State for the Colonies in Parliament to the effect that the constitutional instruments will provide that British Guiana and other territories which might care to do so will be quite free to join the Federation, is of the opinion that British Guiana should join the Federation, and that the question of this country's participation therein should be re-examined.

This Council further prays His Excellency the Governor to take such steps as he may deem fit to keep British Guiana in close touch with the action now proceeding towards the setting up of the Federation, and to ascertain the state of public opinion in this country towards participation in the Federation.”

Sir, the motion is of some importance. May I ask your permission to suggest that you give it priority consideration?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, I shall be happy to do so in view of its importance, but I do not think it is likely that it will be taken before next Friday.

The Chief Secretary: I think we can meet on Thursday next if it meets with your wishes, and with the wishes of the Council.

ORDER OF THE DAY

RECONSTRUCTION OF EAST BANK ROAD

Rev. Mr. Robb asked, and the Member for Communications and Works (Mr. Kendall), laid over replies to the following questions:

Q 1: Is there any truth in the allegation recently made by a member of this Council and repeated in the Press that the U.S.A. Military Authorities had offered to construct at their expense a permanent road from the Air Base at Atkinson Field to Georgetown and that this offer was rejected by Government during the regime of Sir Gordon Lethem?

A 1: The allegation is untrue.

Q 2: Will Government state the full facts regarding any arrangements which were made with the U.S.A. Military Authorities regarding the use of the public road between Atkinson and Georgetown for military purposes and for its maintenance, repair or reconstruction?

A 2: The use of this road by vehicles of the U.S.A. Military Authorities at Atkinson Field caused considerable damage and negotiations took place from time to time as to its reconstruction. In February, 1942, the U.S.A. Military Authorities informed Government of their proposal to recondition, improve and surface 15 miles of road from Hyde Park to Craig and later, in April, 1942, Government accepted a further proposal to construct an 18 to 20 foot highway from Hyde Park to Georgetown. Effect was

given to this decision by the publication in the Official Gazette of 25th April, 1942 of (a) the Georgetown—Hyde Park Road (Improvement) Order, 1942, legalizing the appropriation of the necessary lands and of (b) Government Notice No. 561 appointing an officer of the Department of Lands and Mines to assess and pay compensation in respect of action taken under the Order. In pursuance of these authorizations a sum of \$19,504.84 was paid by this Government to various persons as compensation for land appropriated and damage caused to buildings, drainage, cultivation and crops in surveying and arranging deviations in the alignment of the proposed new road. Government was however informed in December, 1942 of the decision of the U.S.A. authorities to abandon the project.

The full facts of the matter are contained in the attached copy of a Message dated 25th January, 1943 addressed by the Governor, Sir Gordon Lethem, to the Members of the Legislative Council in seeking approval of the Finance Committee for the writing off of the compensation payments, part of which was met from Colony Revenue and part reimbursed from U.K. "Reciprocal Aid" Funds.

Q 3: Will Government state why reconstruction of this important public road was not undertaken when Atkinson Field became the Colony's Airport?

A 3: It had been the intention of Government to give priority to the reconstruction of this road. However, by Resolution No. XXVII of 8th December, 1949, the Legislative Council recommended that priority be given to the reconstruction of the Corentyne Road over any other public road. Government decided to give effect to this recommendation and to postpone the work of reconstructing the Atkinson Field road until the Corentyne road had been completed.

Q 4: Has provision been made in the Development Programme for the

reconstruction of this road and what is the estimated total cost?

- A 4: Provision has been made in the Development Programme for the reconstruction of the East Bank Denterara public road. The cost, estimated in October, 1953, and based on the recommendations of the World Bank Mission is \$2,122,761.
- Q 5: How many miles of this road have actually been permanently reconstructed and at what cost?
- A 5: 10.2 miles of this road have been reconstructed since 1951 at a cost of \$1,121,379 up to 30th November, 1954.
- Q 6: Is it the case that portions of reconstructed road are already showing signs of serious deterioration and what steps are being taken to remedy defective construction?
- A 6: Portions of the road have shown signs of deterioration. Such portions are being repaired.
- Q 7: When is the reconstruction of the whole road expected to be completed?
- A 7: The average rate of reconstruction under perfect weather conditions is one mile in five weeks. At the end of November there were seven miles of road left to be done.

Honourable Members of Legislative Council.

EAST BANK ROAD

At the meeting of the Finance Committee on 26th October, 1942, and subsequently in the Legislative Council in Committee, I made statements referring to the situation which had arisen in connection with the Public Road on the East Bank, Demerara. A brief history of the matter is given below.

2. In February, 1942, the United States Authorities informed Government of the proposal to recondition, improve and surface the road from Hyde Park to Craig—a distance of about 15 miles, as a single track with 12 foot carriage way, by the United States Army Engineers.

3. In March, 1942, this Government was asked by the U.S.A. Consul to make special

arrangements with regard to any private property so as to facilitate the expeditious proceeding of the work, and it was agreed that pending any decision as to whether the United States of America Authorities would bear costs of compensation, these should be met by advance by the local Government. At that time it was estimated that the amount of compensation likely to be paid would be very small, i.e. in the neighbourhood of \$1,000, and this Government agreed therefore that payment of compensation should be made at once and the expenditure charged to a suspense account pending decision as to which Government would finally bear the cost.

4. In April, 1942, the United States Engineers informed the Department of Lands and Mines of a further proposal to construct a wider road, 18 to 20 feet, from Hyde Park to Georgetown, and that although it was proposed to make some use of the existing road as far as possible, there would be considerable deviations to avoid sharp corners and curves. Furthermore, that it would be impossible for the Engineers to follow the regular procedure of preparing plans before commencing actual construction because the road-making gangs would be following immediately behind the Survey parties. It was stated that plans were being altered and varied at intervals according to the usually necessary in connection with the cases adjustments might have to be made so rapidly that it would be difficult to go through the legal formalities that are usually necessary in connection with the construction of such roads. It was then realised that the amount of compensation which would be payable would, in all probability, be in excess of the \$1,000 originally estimated.

5. In these circumstances Government agreed that permission should be granted to the U.S.A. Authorities to proceed at once with the construction of the road, and that where it became necessary to pay compensation to persons whose property was destroyed or damaged as a result of the construction, such compensation should be paid forthwith by an officer of Government as Assessor, pending negotiations with the U.S.A. Authorities with regard to the settlement of claims. Effect was given to this decision by publication of the Georgetown — Hyde Park Road (Improvement) Order, 1942, in the Official Gazette of 25th April, 1942, legalizing the appropriation of the necessary lands, and of Government Notice No. 561

in the same Gazette appointing Mr. C. P. De Freitas, of the Department of Lands and Mines, to assess and pay compensation for damage caused by action taken under the Order.

6. Later in the year Government was informed of a communication received from the United States Engineers Department by the Commissioner of Lands and Mines to the effect that the Department had been authorised to complete construction of only some 4 miles of road extending to the vicinity of a place known as "Singh's Landing," which is a distance of about 2½ miles northward of the boundary of the leased area. The idea of building a first class road for the full length originally contemplated was deferred. The taking over of private property immediately ceased, but extensive possession had already been taken and demolition of buildings, fences and crops carried through. At that time the sums paid in compensation amounted to \$14,443 with outstanding liabilities (which have since been met) making a total of \$19,078.

7. After discussions between the Government, the U.S.A. Consul and the Officer Commanding the Base, an endeavour was made to secure a decision that the road be continued according to the original or modified plan. But a final decision to abandon this work was intimated in December.

8. The payments for compensation can be divided into two portions:—

(a) Hyde Park—	
Singh's Landing	\$10,108
(b) Singh's Landing—	
Pln. Brickery	8,970

and the question arises as to the action to be taken to dispose of this expenditure which, as already indicated, has been temporarily charged to suspense account.

9. In regard to (a) above I consider that it would be inexpedient to approach the United States Government for reimbursement, having regard to the fact that ownership of the land and road in this section, together with usage facilities of the road itself, remain with the Colony. Subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State, therefore, I propose that compensation charges under this head should be borne by the vote for Colonial Emergency Measures.

10. The expenditure under (b) is in an altogether different category, and correspondence is proceeding with a view to meeting this expenditure from funds other than those of the local Government.

11. I propose to discuss the matter with Members of Council at the next meeting of the Finance Committee and to invite approval of the action proposed.

GORDON LETHEM,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
BRITISH GUIANA.
25th January, 1943.

DR. MILLER SCHOLARSHIP

Miss Collins asked, and the Chief Secretary (Mr. Jakeway) laid over replies to the following questions:

Q 1: Was there any sum of money left under the will of the late Dr. R. Miller, retired Government Officer, for Government to establish a scholarship or scholarships?

A 1: Yes.

Q 2: If so:

- (a) How much was it?
- (b) When was the amount paid to Government?
- (c) What were the conditions laid down for the Scholarship?

A 2: (a) \$5,000.

(b) The amount was paid into the Treasury during October 1950 by the Public Trustee, and in accordance with an Executive Council decision of the 29th of May, 1951, the funds were invested in New Amsterdam Mayor and Town Council 4% Bonds.

(c) The relevant extract from the Will is as follows:

"I direct my executor hereinafter named to sell my dwelling house known as "Sydney Ville" with the lots 35, 36 and 37 on which it stands; and from the amount realised to pay over the sum of Five Thousand Dollars to the Government of British Guiana, and I do hereby request the

said Government to accept the said amount and to use the said sum for the sole purpose of establishing by the said Government a Scholarship for one boy and one girl of purely African blood born in British Guiana. The said Scholarship shall be known as "The Miller Memorial Scholarship," and to be competed for every three years and tenable at one of the Secondary Schools recognised by and approved by the Government of British Guiana. The age limit shall not exceed twelve years for entrance to the competitive examination on which the award is to be made. The examination shall be on the standard of the Government County Scholarship or such other standard as the Governor in Council may from time to time decide upon. Every candidate competing for the said Scholarship shall satisfy the Department of Education with two certificates as to respectability and general good character. I direct that my executor shall at all times where requisite be a member of any Board or Committee appointed by the Governor in connection with the carrying out of my wishes herein expressed."

With the approval of Executive Council the following conditions were published in the "Official Gazette" of Saturday, 12th April, 1952:

"MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS"

The Trustees of the Miller Memorial Scholarship established under the Will of the late Dr. Robert Stuart Miller desire to give notice that in and after 1952 Miller Memorial Scholarships will be awarded under the following conditions:

1. One "Miller Scholarship" tenable at one of the secondary schools recognised by the Government for

the purpose shall be offered for competition. The first scholarship shall be awarded to a boy in 1952 and the second to a girl in 1955, and thereafter alternatively to a boy and a girl every three years.

2. Every candidate shall satisfy the Trustees as to his respectability and general good character and produce two certificates to this effect.
3. The Miller Memorial Other Con-Scholarships shall be open to any boy or girl of purely African blood born in British Guiana, whose age does not exceed 12 years on the 31st day of May in the year of the examination. Candidates must supply satisfactory proof of the Trustees, that he is of purely African Blood.
4. The scholarship shall be awarded on the results of the Government County Scholarship Examination and subject to any entrance test imposed by the secondary school selected.
5. The award of the scholarship shall be made by the Trustees.
6. The scholarship will provide the cost of tuition and a grant will be given towards books and maintenance.
7. The sum due in respect of each scholarship shall be paid in equal terminal instalments. The Trustees shall deduct from

each instalment the amount due for school fees and pay this direct to the Principal of the approved school. Any balance of the instalment remaining in hand after payment of such fees shall be paid by the Trustees to the parent or guardian for books and maintenance.

8. Every Miller Memorial Scholar shall be under the general supervision of the Trustees to whom the parent or guardian of each scholar shall send at the end of each term a certificate of good conduct and satisfactory progress from the Principal of the School attended. Failure to obtain such a certificate may, at the discretion of the trustees, entail a suspension of all the rights and privileges of a scholar for one or more terms, and two consecutive failures to obtain such a certificate shall entail forfeiture of the Scholarship if the Trustees so decide.
9. The Trustees of the Miller Memorial Scholarship shall be the Director of Education or his representative and the Public Trustee."

It is to be noted that the Scholarship is not a Government Scholarship.

Q. 3: Have any scholarships been granted?

If any, when?

If none, why?

A. 3: One scholarship was granted to a boy, J. H. Fraser, in 1952. A scholarship for a girl, to be

awarded on the results of the 1955 Government County Scholarship Examination, was advertised in the "Official Gazette" of 18th December, 1954, and in the Press on 19th December. It will be re-advertised twice in the Press and the "Gazette" near the closing date for entrance—26th March, 1955.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (APPEALS) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Attorney General: Sir, I wish to ask that the second reading of the Summary Jurisdiction (Appeals) (Amendment) Bill standing in my name be deferred in view of further talks taking place on the matter, and certain comments which have been made by the Judges. I have to redraft certain clauses of the Bill, and I shall follow that up with comments.

Mr. Speaker: Further consideration of this Bill is deferred.

CRIMINAL LAW (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Attorney General: I beg to move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order to proceed later in the day with the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance with respect to the summoning of Jurors".

This is the Bill appearing on the Supplementary Order Paper, of which I gave notice earlier.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Orders suspended.

The Attorney General: Whenever the Council wishes I will proceed with it.

Mr. Speaker: If hon. Members consent to it you can proceed now.

The Attorney General: If that is so, I will proceed now. I beg to move that the Bill be read a first time.

Mr. Gajraj: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The Attorney General: I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time. In doing so I wish to say that on the trial by jury of accused persons, as hon. Members are aware the Registrar is empowered under the provisions of section 30 of the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance, Chapter 18, to summon a panel of thirty persons qualified to serve as jurors, for each Court. Each jury for the trial of an issue must consist of twelve persons. On the trial of an indictment each accused is entitled to challenge not more than three jurors peremptorily, whether or not more than one accused is being tried on the same indictment. In addition each accused person as well as the Crown is entitled to challenge any number of the jurors on the panel for cause shown.

Where there is a sufficiently large number of accused persons on trial on one indictment it is therefore possible for the panel of jurors to be exhausted by reason of peremptory challenges or of challenges for cause shown.

A Judge of the Supreme Court has, in a recent decision, ruled that the provisions of section 39 of the Criminal Law (Procedure) Ordinance, Chapter 18, prescribing the procedure to be adopted for adding jurors to a panel, is appropriate only where the insuf-

ficiency in the number of jurors is occasioned by persons summoned to attend as jurors not appearing at the trial of an issue, and that there are no provisions in the existing law for a similar procedure where a panel is exhausted by reason of challenges.

In a recent case where nine accused persons were charged on one indictment counsel for the accused intimated to the Court that the accused intended to exercise fully their statutory right of peremptory challenge. It will be appreciated that in such circumstances the Court had no option but to adjourn the trial pending the enactment of legislation to remedy the position, as after such challenges no more than three jurors of the panel would have remained for the trial of the issue.

Provision is now sought to be made to empower the Registrar to summon such number of jurors, being not less than thirty for a panel as he may, having regard to the number of accused charged on any one indictment expected to be tried at the Sessions for which the panel is being summoned, think necessary.

Provision is also sought to be made to empower the Registrar, on the direction of the Court, to add persons qualified as jurors to the original panel where by reason of challenges or default of jurors a full jury cannot be obtained for the trial of any issue. I think all hon. Members will agree as to the necessity for making this amendment, having regard to the particular circumstances which I have sought to place before this Council.

I may add that I am taking this opportunity, if Members will agree, to make another amendment which I shall circulate, and that is to provide that members of the Special Reserve Police Force should not be required to serve as jurors. It will be appreciated that it

might be somewhat embarrassing and undesirable for members of the Special Reserve Police Force to be giving evidence in a matter engaging the attention of the Court, and at the same time some other members of the Force are sitting to determine the case as jurors. So I am taking the opportunity to deal with that.

I would suggest to hon. Members that the Bill is of a non-controversial nature, it is a measure which is necessary, and its provisions are along the lines of legislation existing in Trinidad in particular regard to the matter providing for additional jurors where the panel is exhausted.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Speaker: As we are in Committee I should like to remind the two lady Members of this Council that they have the privilege of suggesting that additional jurors be members of their own sex. They have an opportunity to do so now, since the Bill might become contentious. It has been mentioned by more than one Member that it is one of the rights of the lady Members to make that suggestion.

Mr. Ramphal: May I suggest, Sir, that this is a matter of principle that goes further back than the present amendment?

Mr. Speaker: Without emphasising the amendment any Member may speak on it. I am only mentioning the point

to the ladies. When we are in Committee a Member may speak as often as he or she likes.

Clause 1—*Short title.*

The Attorney General: I beg to move that the figures "1954" be amended to read "1955".

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended, passed.

New clause 4—

The Attorney General: There is an amendment which is proposed to come after clause 3 and before clause 4. In other words, it is for the insertion of a new clause 4 which reads as follows:

4. The first schedule to the Principal Ordinance as amended from time to time is being further amended by the addition of the following at end thereof — "Members of the Special Reserve Police Force."

I think the two lady Members are fully appreciative of the fact that they can raise the point you have referred to, Sir. It was mentioned last week but I do not think the hon. ladies will raise it today. As the hon. Mr. Ramphal has said, it is a matter of principle, and has nothing to do with the provisions which we are considering today. We will have to change the wording of the clause, and the words "other persons" will include a lady—any individual and not only any male person.

Mrs. Dey: That is what I am saying Sir. I do not intend to deal with the matter this afternoon, however.

New Clause 4, as printed, passed.

The Attorney General: This clause, as I have stated, is the result of a request from the Commissioner of Police. As I said in

[The Attorney General]
the course of the second reading, there is a schedule which sets out the persons who are exempt from jury service. The Police have come into this category and what we are seeking to do is to add "Members of the Special Reserve Police Force" at the end of this schedule. I think hon. Members will agree that it is desirable to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members have the wording of the schedule, and to that will be added the words: "Members of the Special Reserve Police Force".

Council resumed.

The Attorney General: With the consent of Council I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MINING (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"An Ordinance further to amend the Mining (Consolidation) Ordinance with respect to the payment of royalty on timber cut on concessions and leases granted under that Ordinance."

For many years there has been the practice and custom not to exact from mining undertakings any royalty on timber cut within the boundaries of areas held under a title issued under the Mining Regulations. This, as I have said, is a matter of custom or practice or, as was said also, "sweet reason-

ableness". Nevertheless, there is provision in the Mining (Consolidation) Ordinance, Chapter 175, which prescribes that royalty should be paid on such timber at the prescribed rates in force. I would like to emphasize that this timber is cut and used on the mining concession itself and, of course, is not removed from the area in which it is cut. In practice, information is given to the Lands and Mines Statistical Department of the amount of timber cut, but no royalty is demanded. After some consideration of the position it has been decided to recommend to this Council the regularising of the position by amending the law. The existing law appears in section 21 Chapter 175, and reads:—

"The holder of every concession or lease may, subject to the regulations, any regulations under the Forestry Ordinance, and the Crown lands regulations for the time being in force, cut timber and fuel on the Crown lands for mining purposes, on payment of the royalty prescribed by the last named regulations."

Clearly, the Bill now before the Council seeks to repeal that section and to insert what appears in clause 2 of the Bill. An important sub-clause to clause 2 reads:

"The holder of any concession or lease granted under this Ordinance shall not remove from any such concession or lease any timber cut thereon except on the payment of royalty at the rates prescribed by Regulations made under this Ordinance."

Consequently, it exactly reverses the interpretation of the law as it exists today.

Sub-clause (2) provides that the holder of any concession or lease granted under the Ordinance shall not remove from any such concession or lease any timber cut thereon, except on the payment of royalty at the rates prescribed by Regulations made under the Ordinance. That is to ensure that the timber is actually used in the mining

operation and is in no way removed from the mining area for the purpose of sale or export. I am sure hon. Members will consider this the right action to take to regularise the position which exists, and that it is entirely right and proper. I formally move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Cummings: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Carter: I desire to move an amendment that the Bill be read a second time six months hence.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Member give some reason?

Mr. Carter: I suspect and believe that this Bill has a very strong bearing on my motion on the Order Paper. I am therefore asking that the second reading be deferred for six months.

Sir Frank McDavid: I can assure the hon. Member that it has no bearing whatever on his motion. The matter was raised by the Department concerned months before his motion was seen, if not tabled. The Bill seeks to regularise a practice which is in force. There is no change in the administrative situation.

Mr. Carter: The second paragraph of the memorandum of Objects and Reasons says:

"At present royalty collected from such timber is negligible and forms only a small proportion of the royalty collected on timber generally."

Since that is so I do not think the hon. Member should worry about so negligible an amount of royalty. My reason for moving the amendment is because I feel that the Bill has a strong bearing on the motion which is in my name on the Order Paper.

Sir Frank McDavid: I have already given the hon. Member an assurance

that the Bill has nothing whatever to do with his motion; it was being considered long before his motion was even conceived.

Mr. Phang: I have had many claims working gold, and on any timber cut on those claims no royalty was collected at all. This Bill is to regularise the procedure and has nothing to do with the hon. Member's motion.

Sir Frank McDavid: The hon. Mr. Carter has referred to paragraph 2 of the Objects and Reasons which, I think, is badly worded. It says that the royalty collected "is negligible." What I have been trying to say is that no royalty is collected, and the hon. Member, Mr. Phang, has supported me in that. This Bill is merely intended to regularise the position which has been existing for many years.

Mr. Carter: There are several laws which are not enforced, and there is no harm in their remaining on the Statute Book.

Mr. Lee: Mr. Speaker, I think I should ask your ruling on the procedure.

The Attorney General: According to parliamentary practice the hon. Member is within his right in moving the deferment of the Bill, but the motion for the second reading of the Bill having been moved, the Council should proceed to debate that motion. If the hon. Member has any point to raise germane to the debate he should proceed to do so, but the Council should proceed with the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Bill. The hon. Member can vote against it if he so desires.

Mr. Speaker: No debate on the hon. Member's amendment would be in order because it has not been seconded. Having heard the assurance by the hon. Member for Agriculture (Sir Frank Mc David) I would have expected the hon. Member

[Mr. Speaker]

to withdraw his amendment. However, his amendment has not been seconded and there is nothing to debate.

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I quite agree that this Bill has nothing whatever to do with the hon. Member's motion. My experience is that not only the large gold mining companies but the small pork-knockers use the wood cut in the forests for the purpose of their gold digging operations. If the present position is not regularised the possibility is that some day companies and pork-knockers may be called upon to pay royalty on such wood.

Mr. Lord: I should like to support this Bill for the reason that possibly I have been one of those who failed to collect royalty on timber which had been removed in the course of mining operations. It is a moral procedure in the course of dredging operations. The land has to be cleared of the forest before the dredge can operate, and the timber cut has sometimes been made use of by the mining company who submit details at the end of the year, but no royalty is collected on such timber. The time has come when that state of affairs should be regularised, which this Bill seeks to do.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and approved the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

Sir Frank McDavid: I move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

POUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL DEFERRED

The next item on the order Paper was the second reading of the Bill intitled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Pounds Ordinance with respect to the publication of lists of impounded strays."

The Chief Secretary: I do not propose to proceed with the second reading of this Bill today, because certain representations have been made with respect to it which I would like to consider.

Bill deferred.

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

Mr. Carter: I beg to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper which reads:

"Whereas the locally grown wood known as "dalli" is being exported to a foreign country and no export duty is being collected thereon;

And whereas only the highest quality grade of dalli logs which must be free from knots, splits, waness, warps, flats and borer are acceptable in the export market and as a consequence rejected logs involving thousands of cubic feet of this wood are allowed to rot and waste in the forest;

And whereas this Colony imports plywood on which import duty is collected, and such plywood is manufactured from dalli logs of this Colony;

And whereas the Colony's forests abound with dalli and in quantities estimated to operate a plywood industry for at least forty (40) years;

And whereas the Colony's housing programme would absorb all of the plywood that could be manufactured locally and the establishment of such an industry from dalli and other suitable Colony woods,

would create employment for many of the present unemployed:

Be it resolved:

That this Council recommends—

- (a) the appointment of a Select Committee comprising five members to investigate and report on the possibility of establishing a plywood industry in the Colony;
- (b) the immediate imposition of an export tax on the wood known as dalli.
- (c) the imposition of an export tax on all forest products excluding firewood and charcoal;
- (d) that Rules be enacted under Section 18 of the Export of Timber Ordinance 1937 (No. 1) to provide for the collection of export tax and inspection fees, etc. on forest products.'

I propose to give hon. Members an idea of what plywood is. Its first conception was as a veneer, a process of gluing a thin layer of valuable or beautiful wood on to a piece of wood of inferior quality. Plywood, on the other hand, is the term used to describe a form of board built up by a similar process of gluing together two or more layers of rotary cut or sliced cut wood with the grains crossed at right angles to each successive layer. The glues originally used in the manufacture of plywood were organic glues which were liable to attack by humidity, insects and fungi, thereby causing rapid deterioration, and as a consequence plywood was a material which could not be used for constructional or other purposes unless it was kept dry and away from the ravages of insects.

Today the use of plywood has been enormously expanded by the application of resinoid glues and termite treatment making them partially or completely waterproof and immuned from attack by insects. Resinoid glue happens to be a product of modern plastic industry and plywood manufacture. There are several

forms or kinds of resinoid glue, but the one principally used in this industry makes the wood impervious to attack by insects and is also waterproof, and to a great extent heatproof and does not suffer any of the inherent disadvantages of animal glues hitherto used in plywood manufacture. In this tropical clime of ours a material which is strong, light and cheaply priced and above all can be easily and quickly erected to a wooden frame should serve our housing purpose to a great degree, and I feel, Sir, knowing plywood as I do, it is not only good enough for partitions and interior work but also for floors and outside walls. It would appear to me that plywood prepared for this purpose would adequately meet the needs of our housing problem. The material can be prepared in large sizes according to the thickness, width and lengths required, and that would very much reduce the labour necessary in this experiment. Since it is the strongest material in this type of manufacture, I feel that if used in the construction of small houses because of its lightness of weight, heavy foundations on our unstable soil would not be necessary, thereby reducing the total cost of construction.

There are a number of other uses for plywood, such as house, office and factory furnishing, ship interior furnishing. There are many other uses in industry that you or I do not know about. Apart from that, if we should manufacture plywood in this country, I am absolutely certain that we can capture a large portion of the world's market. In this country we have the materials for the manufacture of this useful commodity. With the exception of the various resinoid glues and other chemicals needed in the process, which form a very small percentage of the whole, the greater portion is British Guiana timber which we have in abundance. The neighbouring Colony of Dutch Guiana has a plywood factory and imports a large percentage of their raw

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materials in the form of British Guiana dalli which is known as and called "baboon". I would like to read a Press release published in the *Daily Argosy* of the 14th November, 1954, where it states "British Guiana timber for the Surinam Plywood factory".

Sir Frank McDavid: Is it an editorial?

Mr. Carter: It is an ordinary statement made in the Press. It says:

"The plywood factory of Bruynzel will soon be importing much needed raw material from British Guiana. Negotiations were recently successfully completed which will enable the Bruynzel factory to increase its production by 50 per cent."

At this point I would like to give the figures of the export of dalli to that factory during 1954. The amount is 27,025 cubic feet. I do not know if every Member of this Council is acquainted with the wood we call dalli and I would like to pass a sample around. (*Sample of dalli wood passed around the Table*). This wood is eminently suited to the manufacture of plywood, but there are a number of other known woods of this Colony which are also suited for this and other manufactures, especially in the manufacture of plywood. I would like before going further to quote one or two statements made by Mr. G. O. Case. In one of Mr. Case's reports he says:

"The plywood and veneer factory recommended by Mr. A. H. Scroggs would require 584,000 cubic feet of logs per annum to make annually 312,500 cubic feet of plywood, allowing for waste in cutting, etc.

If only 20% of the light species of woods in the readily accessible areas is available for making veneers and plywood, there would still be sufficient timber to supply the proposed plywood and veneer factory for over 600 years."

Under the Head "Market for B.G. plywood and veneers" Mr. Case says:

"Messrs. Veneer Craft inform me that they now have on hand contracts to the

value of £1,080,000 for the veneer and plywood installations, and that they would be interested in a selling agency for British Guiana veneer and plywood. They find it difficult to obtain sufficient supplies.

Mr. A. D. Wood, part-author of the text-book on Plywood, in a letter to me dated August 20th, 1945, states that "there is a market for well-cut veneer of commercial quality for plywood, specialities: for railways, ship-building, doors and many other industrial uses. Then there is a large market for commercial grades of plywood in thinner gauges for furniture-making and a hundred and one other jobs."

Those are few of the recommendations for B.G. plywood and veneer. If the Surinam plywood factory can make such considerable use of our B.G. dalli, I fail to see why since 1946 this report by Mr. Case was handed to Government--

Sir Frank McDavid: May I ask the hon. Member if he quoted from Mr. Case's reports exclusively or was it from Mr. Case's and some other?

Mr. Carter: I was reading from Mr. Case's reports. To give Members of this Council a better idea of why I would like us in this country to operate a plywood factory, when we reduce 27,025 cubic feet of timber to 3/16 of an inch plywood, we would get 864,800 panels measuring 3/16 in. by 4 ft. by 8 ft. If that is imported into British Guiana and duty is paid on it, it can be sold for \$7,195,136. That calculation is as correct as I can give it to you. There is a certain contractor who used in 1954 not less than 1,100 such panels at \$8.64 each. Knowing that one cubic foot of timber would give 693 square feet of 1/16 veneer, I have been able to calculate the figures I have given accurately as if I were a manager of such a concern. But what it would cost the factory to obtain this wood is my greatest alarm, and what the Government would get out of it adds to that alarm. Three cents per cubic foot is the royalty collected on this valuable timber. And of

the 27,025 cubic ft. shipped, all that this Government got out of it was \$810.75. The poor Amerindian who must soak himself in the swamps, cut and collect these logs and haul them over a distance of a mile to the point of shipping gets 12 cents per ft., and the middleman who has nothing to do but take delivery gets 8 cents.

At this stage I would like to amend subclause (b) of the resolve clause of my motion. Instead of the words:

"the immediate imposition of an export tax on the wood known as "dalli,"

I am asking that it should now read—

"the cessation of the export of the wood known as 'dalli' and also all other soft woods to be required for the manufacture of plywood;"

Sir Frank McDavid: I take it that the hon. Member means prohibition.

Mr. Carter: Yes, that is what it means.

Sir Frank McDavid: The hon. Member had better use that word.

Mr. Carter: Thank you. Going back to the preamble of the motion, as I said, in 1954 27,052 cubic ft. were exported. I feel that even if we export timber to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries duty-free, it should not be done in the case of a foreign country. The second clause in the preamble of the motion says:

"And whereas only the highest quality grade of dalli logs which must be free from knots, splits, waness, warps, flats, and borer are acceptable in the export market, as a consequence rejected logs involving thousands of cubic feet of this wood are allowed to rot and waste in the forest;"

Formerly, lengths of 15 and 20 ft. were the only lengths of logs acceptable, and because of that, logs were discarded. The logger has never been able to judge the perfection of a tree while it is standing. It is only after it is felled that

he can see that a log does not stand up to export specifications. As a result the tree is left there and as the area is mostly swamp, it quickly rots. If we had a plywood factory, whether in that area or in any other part of the country we would have been able to utilize that wood. As I said, the Conservator of Forests was trying to get a sawmill put down in that area to utilize dalli that otherwise would have been left to rot, but I do not know if it has been done.

The third preamble reads:

"And whereas this Colony imports plywood on which import duty is collected and such plywood is manufactured from Dalli logs of this Colony;"

We imported from Surinam in 1954 693 cubic ft. of plywood at c.i.f. value of \$5,437, and the 24 cents duty that was paid will eventually fall to the consumer.

The fourth clause of the preamble reads:

"And whereas the Colony's forests abound with dalli and in quantities estimated to operate a plywood industry for at least forty (40) years;"

A trained Dutch field executive in April, 1954 was sent here to investigate the possibilities of our dalli and after he saw on the Waini River between the mouths of the Luri and the Baramani tributaries the trees growing there he said, "My God, you have enough timber here to satisfy my factory for 30 years!" If he could say that about one area, then I think we can operate a plywood industry for 40 years.

Sir Frank McDavid: What is the hon. Member referring to? Is that his personal opinion? Are we supposed to accept his personal opinion?

Mr. Carter: I am stating an explanation made by the Dutch field executive. The last preamble reads:

"And whereas the Colony's housing programme would absorb fully all of the ply-

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wood that could be manufactured locally from Dalli and other suitable Colony woods and the establishment of such an industry would create employment for many of the present unemployed."

I have here some pictures of a plywood house and another of that kind in the course of construction which I would like to pass around for Members to see. We know that the Colony is suffering from unemployment and we also know that the Amerindian is becoming again a virile race, and that we would like to improve his standard of living. He is the best logger we have in this country and it is no use trying to turn him into an agriculturist. As the Commissioner of the Interior's report says, the Amerindian will always be a hunter and never an agriculturist unless he is trained from his boyhood days in it. According to Amerindian talk, that is 'squaw work.' The plywood industry would enable the Amerindian to find employment year in and year out. It would also encourage loggers to go back to the forest. Because the price paid locally for dalli is very uneconomical many who formerly would have laboured in that direction have desisted. The wood is very light and would float down the rivers. I feel that if we establish a plywood industry in British Guiana it would find employment for 1,000 of our people.

Going to the resolve clause, I am asking for the appointment of a Select Committee comprising five members to investigate and report on the possibilities of establishing a plywood industry in the Colony. We have already amended subclause (b). Subclause (c) reads:

"the imposition of an export tax on all forest products excluding firewood and charcoal;"

This will meet with opposition, and if you will permit me, Sir, I would like to give hon. Members an idea of our timber and lumber exports in 1954.

Greenheart: 645,044 cubic ft. were exported at a value of \$1,270,410—this was round and hewn greenheart. Other kinds: 91,506 cubic ft. exported—value \$99,712. Sawn greenheart: 328,680 cubic ft. exported — value \$1,046,243; other kinds: 21,921 cubic ft. exported—value \$50,014; railway sleepers: 26,259 cubic ft. exported — value \$45,540; shingles: 1,229,304 exported—value \$25,140. Government collects royalty on the exports and, I hope, is introducing the timber to new world markets. I know that greenheart can be sold for double the price it is sold for at present in the world market, and I know that if these timbers were properly advertised more of them would be wanted from this country. As I said before, I strongly resent the idea that we are to export these things, particularly when they are manufactured into other commodities and sent back to British Guiana for our personal consumption.

I am saying that even if this Council refuses to agree with my motion for the imposition of an export tax on our forest products, including firewood and charcoal, it should do so at least where a foreign country is concerned. That also speaks for my statement as regards the previous clause. That is all I am prepared to say at the moment as I would like to give other Members a chance to say something. I wish this Bill a happy and successful passage.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I rise to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: After the hon. Member in charge of that section has spoken and the Financial Secretary gives us the necessary figures, I think the motion should be sub-divided. One recommendation is for the establishment of a plywood industry, but the recommendation for the appointment of a Select Committee, I take it, is something different. The hon. Member is recommending the

introduction of an export duty; in other words, a proposed amendment to the Tax Ordinance. It is said that these things could be given effect to if the amendment is passed. The idea of the tax is to prohibit the exportation of certain forest products. It may be felt that there should be a plywood industry but, notwithstanding that, there may be opinion against this export duty. Therefore, I wish Members to understand that there are really two motions. I do not expect them to come forward today; I have not been able to examine them. I should like Members to know, however, that they can speak on both.

I am anxious to know what obstacles there are in (a), (b) and (c). I do not know if one knows the obligations of the first speaker as regards the appointment of a Select Committee, but I shall appreciate any assistance in that respect. My opinion, as a result of what has been said, is that this matter requires examination and we may well ask the hon. Mover to delete the words "Select Committee." We can have a wider membership of the Committee and a wider examination of the questions concerned. I should like hon. Members to proceed with the debate on that understanding.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I thought we had Members of this Council who were competent to be part of a Select Committee.

Mr. Speaker: I am not saying otherwise. I thought perhaps we might have been able to ask the hon. Mr. Lord to be a member if he had the time. Let us get on with the motion, however; it is a private Member's motion.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I rise to support this motion, and I do so in keeping with an established principle—encouragement for minor and other industries in this Colony. It is also in keeping with the principle of converting our

raw materials into some commercial value. As regards this plywood question, I had the privilege of visiting a factory some months ago while I was in Paramaribo, and I had a great deal of discussion with the Management. Immediately after that discussion I got in touch with our Conservator of Forests to see whether there was a possibility of securing enough plywood—popularly known as dalli—for the setting up of a factory in this Colony. From my discussion with the Conservator of Forests it became clear that the production of dalli in Surinam is far greater than it is in British Guiana. I am told, Sir,—and I think the hon. Mr. Phang will bear me out—that dalli is found particularly in the North West District. It seems to me also that there are two types—one with high stalks and the other without stems. The latter is said to be the type least suitable for the manufacture of plywood. I am also told that during the last 10 months or thereabout, several ship-loads of dalli have been exported from British Guiana to Surinam, each load being valued at about 4,000 guilders. I notice that the Financial Secretary in his Budget Statement—on page 3—says:

"There has been some recent talk of the development of such industries as plywood and paper-pulp manufacture. In regard to plywood, although there may well be possibilities for the future, figures do not bear out the suggestion that a plywood factory could operate for very long on our present supplies of dalli which is the only timber used for plywood in Dutch Guiana."

The Financial Secretary is correct in making this statement, on the assumption that only Dalli can be used for the manufacture of plywood. Our supply of dalli in British Guiana is short and would not be able to keep a plywood factory going for a long time. This question has been investigated and I am told by those who are experts in this line—I refer particularly to the Conservator of Forests—that we have in

[Mr. Sugrim Singh]

this Colony several other woods which have been tested and tried and which could well be used to form what has been described as "the core" of this plywood. I am instructed that plywood has up to thirteen "plies" which these other woods can be used for making (as the core). Plywood is, today, one of the most important items of manufacture and export in the neighbouring Colony of Surinam. It is a good dollar earner and it is exported to such places as Cuba, Puerto Rico and the U.S.A.

It seems to me that there is justification at this moment for investigating the possibility of erecting a plywood factory with regard to dalli alone, taking into consideration that several other woods which we have in this Colony—particularly baromalli—could be used at the same time. Unless something is done to indicate our intention of starting a plywood factory in this Colony some day, it would not be realised that we should value our stock of dalli as much as possible and conserve it. I agree that we should place some restriction by way of an export to Surinam, as suggested in the motion. I know that there is a great "fight" being staged by several persons in an effort to export this product to Surinam.

With your permission, sir, I would like to read the results of an experiment by a very competent Company—the Drexel Furniture Factory—in the manufacture of plywood. I am referring to baromalli because I am told that we have large stocks in this Colony. Besides that, there are other woods which can be used, as I have said before, for making the core of plywood. For instance, we have crabwood and we also have futi. I would also like to pass these inquiries on to the Ministry concerned for the benefit of all concerned.

Sir Frank McDavid: I should like to inform the hon. Member that we

have been in close touch with the investigations made with this particular wood—futi—and we can supply the facts.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I am grateful to the hon. Member for the assistance offered. I am told that extensive experiments were carried out in England and the United States on behalf of the Forestry Department as regards the suitability of those woods which are found to be growing extensively in this Colony, including crabwood, with the view of supplying the core of plywood. In view of the results of those experiments this motion is timely. We should do our best to conserve our natural resources and exploit their commercial value. Plywood is a dollar earner; there is a large market for it in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the U.S.A. There is also the possibility that a thorough investigation may disclose that we have sufficient raw material to establish a plywood factory. The Surinam factory cost 2½ million guilders, I was told by the Manager, and it is run in conjunction with a sawmill and tractor business to a total cost of 7 million guilders. I am told that the cheapest and most durable plywood machinery comes from Japan, and it is actually being used by an American company in the U.S.A. There is the possibility of establishing a plywood industry in this Colony, and the time is now.

I am informed that six ship-loads of 400 logs of dalli have already left this Colony. Something must be done immediately to stop the export because our stocks are limited, and if they are further depleted the possibility of establishing a plywood industry here will have to be forgotten. So important is this industry to the economy of our neighbouring Dutch Colony that they have actually started to plant dalli, and I have had the privilege of visiting some of the sites. In this Colony there are large areas of swamp land which are at present useless. The time has come

when we should explore their possibilities. Why should other countries import our raw material and ship it back to us in manufactured articles? Are we not enterprising enough? We are sitting here in still water waiting for someone to teach us to float. Our stocks of dalli, the chief wood used in the manufacture of high quality plywood, are short, but with baromalli and other woods which could supply the hard core, it should be possible for us to keep a plywood factory going? The local consumption may not be very much but we would be able to take our share in the lucrative export market.

I support the motion and trust that this Council will see the wisdom of exploring the possibility of establishing a plywood industry. I would not be surprised if an extensive survey disclosed large areas of dalli which would keep a plywood factory going for several years.

Mr. Lord: I also rise to support the motion because I know that there are possibilities of a plywood industry being established in this Colony. As hon. Members know, the late Mr. G. O. Case submitted a report on the subject some years ago. I have seen samples of plywood produced locally which were sent abroad for examination and were reported on favourably, but I think it would be necessary for the Committee to investigate whether or not there are adequate supplies of this particular type of wood in this Colony. We do not know what proportion of our dalli is used in the manufacture of plywood, because the sample which the hon. Member has produced is actually of the Surinam species, and I think they must have vast supplies in their own country. In any case dalli is a soft wood, and as such grows quickly, and there may be possibilities of silviculture experiments with regard to the regeneration of the dalli forests to keep a plywood industry in British Guiana going more or less in perpetuity.

The manufacturers of plywood in Surinam are very progressive people. Having learnt that our Housing Department was interested in plywood they supplied it with numerous samples of one, two, three, four and five ply. In addition they supplied sufficient paneling for a small house which is now the property of the Central Housing and Planning Department. They have actually sent out Christmas cards made of small bits of plywood. I personally received a card made of dalli wood. So that there are possibilities for the manufacture of plywood from the woods of this Colony, and as the last speaker said, there are certain of our woods which have been proved to be suitable for the manufacture of the core of plywood. I think the motion deserves support.

Mr. Ramphal: I have considerable sympathy with the motion and I wish to join in congratulating the hon. mover not only for bringing it forward but for the industry which he has displayed in placing facts and figures before us. But I do not think I can support paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of the resolution. I am prepared only to support paragraph (a), for the appointment of a Select Committee, and to suggest that a time-limit be placed upon the reporting of the Committee. Committees have a tendency to continue their investigations for a very long time. Possibly the hon. mover of the motion might consider the inclusion of some time-limit within which the proposed Committee should report.

Not very long ago we had a very interesting debate on the question of investigating the possibility of establishing a paint factory in this Colony, and I think much of what was said with respect to new industries generally might now be repeated, but need not be repeated. I have very great sympathy with this motion if only from the point of view that the greater the number of industries introduced in the country the

[Mr. Ramphal]

fewer would be the unemployed people with whom I come in more or less daily contact. This Interim Government would be doing a great service to the country if it could set in motion in industrial development what we have already done in agricultural development.

With regard to paragraph (b) of the resolution, which suggests an immediate imposition of an export tax on dalli, I am a little doubtful whether we have a sufficient supply of dalli to embark on this important project. I think the hon. mover said there was sufficient of the wood for 40 years.

Mr. Speaker: I think he said that a visitor saw what he anticipated would be sufficient to operate a factory for 40 years.

Mr. Ramphal: If that figure is correct, and even if we could continue for another year or two, we would have destroyed so much of our natural wealth, and if perchance the project fell through we would have lost some export. It is not only the loss of royalty that matters but the loss of employment and the amount of money that circulates as a result. I therefore cannot support paragraph (b).

Paragraphs (c) and (d) are complementary. I was in Jamaica not so long ago and there was one of our sons who is doing a very valuable job. He is interested in box wood and is getting suitable timber from this country. One of the things he asked me to see not done here is that there should be no imposition of an export tax on box wood, or wood going to Jamaica for the purpose of being made into boxes. Jamaica has a very large box-making factory and is importing an immense quantity of wood from the Scandinavian countries, while the timber we are exporting to Jamaica is gradually falling away. I would suggest that

the imposition of an export tax on all of our forest products would tax us out of the export market. However small our exports of timber are, money is being brought into the country, and I would ask the hon. mover to keep in mind that it is not only the amount of revenue that comes in but the amount of timber that goes out that matters. I therefore cannot support paragraphs (c) and (d) of the resolution.

I heard the hon. Member say that we could obtain double the price we are now obtaining for our exports of greenheart. That has come as a great surprise to me, because one of my friends in the timber industry went to New York only recently to recover some of the markets which he was losing because of competition with other woods from other countries. Perhaps, I have to dismiss that as more or less one of the rumours which go around. I do not think great emphasis can be put on that. The imposition of an export tax may price us out of the market for good. I am prepared to support (a) very fully but not (b), (c) and (d) of the motion.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Land and Mines): I think it is right that I should intervene at once, because it is clear that hon. Members have got certain facts but not all the facts, whereas I am in the position of having at my disposal the reports on investigations by the Forest Department. I would say at once that the Government sees no objection whatever to paragraph (a) of the resolve clause. That is the paragraph which recommends the appointment of a Select Committee "to investigate and report on the possibility of establishing a plywood industry in the Colony." Government proposes to accept that. However, I want to express what is my personal view about this kind of motion. We have had two weeks ago a motion be-

fore this Council praying Government to make enquiries through a Committee on the possibility of establishing a paint factory, and we now have a motion of the same kind praying Government to investigate the possibility of establishing a plywood factory.

When you have resolutions like these brought to the Legislative Council they are reported in the Press with undue affirmation. One paper saw fit to publish under a special headline: "Paint Factory to be established in B.G." The point I am trying to make is that we in this Council must be extremely careful what action we take about this sort of thing. We should refrain from doing anything which would serve to give false hopes to our community. I am not suggesting that these investigations should not be made. The point I am trying to make is, that by bringing these formal debates in the Council in this way and giving an impression that these things are easily possible we do more harm than good. I would suggest that to the minds of particularly some of our more ambitious Members. I would like us to have a paint factory or a plywood factory but not when questioned in two or three years on the point as to why this factory had not been established to be unable to give a satisfactory reply. As I said, it is my personal view that this sort of enquiry should not be the subject of a formal full-dress debate in the Legislative Council.

Mr. Speaker: Do I recognize in the hon. Member a potential candidate?

Sir Frank McDavid: Your Honour is entitled to draw your own conclusion. Nevertheless I am sure the hon. Mover is one if I am not. I desire to make that observation with all the more emphasis because, when this motion was first introduced, I did offer the hon. Member who introduced it the opportunity of having it discussed with me

and with the experts available in the Forest Department so that we should really get the facts of the case beforehand. But he did not wish to avail himself of that opportunity. He laughingly said he did not want any examination. My point really was to get these things done, as they should be done, administratively and not made public and so raise hopes which may not fructify.

This particular matter first came to my notice about the middle of last year when we had visits from representatives of the Bruynzel Timber and Plywood Factory of Surinam for the purpose of ensuring the continuance of shipments of dalli to that country. Quite obviously their reason for the visit was that they wanted to ensure that sufficient or as much as possible of that raw material would be available to supplement what they themselves had. What was more, they were purchasing a ship here and wanted to ensure that the ship would have cargo to take away. Like hon. Members, I myself felt very doubtful about this. If our Dalli was so useful to Surinam, it came to me, it should be very useful to us and we should keep it here. So I thought that I myself should make enquiries of our Forest Department about it at once. I did so, and the result of those enquiries caused me a great deal of disappointment. Very briefly the position is this:

Dalli, unfortunately, does not grow in British Guiana in the same quantities or volume as it does in Surinam. It is a "swamp" wood, as one hon. Member said, and it is in very high concentration in Surinam but very low in British Guiana. Indeed the amount of Dalli available in our forest is estimated by our Conservator at 25 trees per 1,000 acres. The Conservator went on to explain to me both in writing and in oral discussion, as the hon. Member, Mr. Sugrim Singh, has said, there are other woods in British Guiana which are capable of

[Sir Frank McDavid]

being made into plywood—baromalli, crabwood, kuchai, maho, corkwood, futi. He went on to say that during the years 1947-1950 not only those woods but 30 different kinds of woods have been tested both in the United Kingdom and in the U.S.A. for plywood, and the verdict was that although there is really no outstanding specie in British Guiana there are about 15 of those 30 from which a reasonable plywood can be made—and this is the important point—if enough is available in sufficient quantities. Unfortunately there is not one of these species in this Colony which, in the opinion of the experts of the Forestry Department, is found in sufficient quantity to justify setting up a plywood factory.

May I again say that I want obviously to join in any attempt whatever to establish industries in British Guiana, but I think it is my duty to put before this Council all the facts as we know them to be. To continue, the Conservator also said that if technological progress eventually secures a means by which, what he calls, mixed plywood becomes successful—where you can mix all the woods together in the process of the manufacture of plywood—then there would be hope for the establishment of a commercial plywood undertaking in British Guiana. I gave, Sir, the volume per 1,000 acres of dalli at 25 trees. The volumes of the other woods are somewhat higher, viz:— baromalli — 300, crabwood—150, kurokai—100, maho—100, corkwood—80, futui—30, dalli has the least. The Conservator also said, that those figures are the average figures for the whole of the forest belt of British Guiana. There are, of course, local differences, but the highest recorded figure for dalli is 38 trees per 1,000 acres in the North West District.

On the face of that situation last year, naturally I was inclined to support the desire of the Surinam authorities to be allowed to continue the privilege of

the export of Dalli from British Guiana. As the hon. Member, Mr. Ramphal, has said, it is not a question only of the review from Royalty, it is a question of employment to those who cut the wood and the resultant circulation of money in the Colony. It is a small amount but every cent adds up, and we cannot afford to lose this share in our economy. So Government at the time when this motion was introduced was on the point of going a little further and allowing the Surinam authorities by their agents here to have some sort of long-term arrangement by which they can be assured of a certain amount of export of dalli. But having had this motion brought to us, the Government has not taken any step in that direction.

Let me say at this point that I did not only stop there. I approached the Regional Controller of the C.D.C.—I mean the Head of the organization in this region, who is located in Jamaica—and I also approached the B.G. Timbers Co., the local organization set up by the C.D.C., and tried to see whether they would be interested in the establishment of a plywood factory as part of their undertaking, I met with no success whatever, absolutely none. They had been into the question and were satisfied from their point of view that it was not by any means an economic proposition. If these people who have just put up a mill in this Colony have gone into this question and found it is not an economic proposition, it is unlikely that a new organization would come into British Guiana and put up a plywood factory by themselves.

It must be remembered that the Bruynzel factory in Surinam is a very large timber and logging concern, and plywood is only one aspect of its operations. That is the position. But again hon. Members would forgive me if I seem to be throwing cold water on the proposal. I am only giving the facts. Because of this motion and because our Conservator of Forests, Mr. Gordon, is leaving us in a few days'

time, I asked him to collect all the facts, that he has already given to me in various minutes and discussions, and let me have a concise report on the subject. I have his report in my hand and I want to quote extensively from it. It is an official document addressed to me from the Head of the Forest Department and, I think, I am entitled to quote from it.

Mr. Speaker: It will take some time before it is printed as a Sessional Paper.

Sir Frank McDavid: It is not intended to be a Sessional Paper.

Mr. Speaker: I will not deny you the right to use your discretion in the matter. You can quote from it.

Sir Frank McDavid: Mr. Gordon is leaving this Colony in a few days' time and will be taking a Chair — a Lectureship—at Oxford University in Forestry, and I think his opinions in this field must be respected. I am going to quote in some cases and paraphrase in others.

Mr. Gordon begins by telling me that the problem which arises out of this motion divides itself into two parts: firstly, the general prospects of manufacturing plywood in British Guiana, and, secondly, the desirability of conserving Dalli for this purpose. It is strange that although he wrote without having had an opportunity to hear the hon. Member, yet he has come close to what he says, for the hon. Member's arguments can also be summarised into these two points: What are the prospects of establishing a factory? and should we conserve this wood, Dalli in British Guiana? Although a public officer, I think Mr. Gordon is entitled to be caustic if needs be. This is one case where a man is leaving a professional job to go to a University, and that gives him the right to indicate his true feelings.

"I think" (says Mr. Gordon) "that the economic manufacture of plywood in the immediate future although widely possible"—

I translate that to mean justly possible:

"is most unlikely. I think there is a likelihood that it might come in the more distant future, but it would not surprise me unduly"

and here is sarcasm:

"if the Demerara bridge came first. However, neither I nor anybody else in British Guiana is qualified to give a final answer on that, and the number of people in the world qualified to do so is quite limited. The only opinion I would trust would be that of a specialist who had spent most of his life on plywood, who made a lengthy stay in this country, visiting all districts and collecting all existing data, and who was examining the question with a view to investing some of his own money or the money of his own firm in the project."

Well, of course, that is very sarcastic, but we can translate it into meaning that he does not foresee the possibility of a plywood industry in British Guiana in the near future.

Now, with regard to the second point — the desirability of conserving dalli, this is what he says:

"Here, I am on surer ground. Dalli is a relatively scarce timber in British Guiana. Our only chance of manufacturing plywood out of dalli would be to start now making a thousand acres of dalli plantations every year and think about a plywood factory in 25 years time when the older plantations were reaching maturity. I would not, of course, suggest doing anything of the kind. If we are going to invest money in this way, we had much better go for a high grade species such as red cedar which could be used both for lumber and for plywood.

"I do not consider that dalli is a factor in the situation, although Crabwood, for instance, well might be."

Then he goes on to talk about the Bruynzel factory, and why they have used dalli, and he emphasizes the fact of the concentration of dalli in

[Sir Frank McDavid]

Surinam's swamp forests, something quite contrary to what exists here. In one paragraph he says:

"In Surinam there are considerable areas of swamp forest carrying 40,000 cubic feet of dalli per sq. mile. Even so, there has been a miscalculation and it is now realised that there is going to be shortage of dalli. The long-term solution, which is already being followed, is to put down plantations of dalli. In the meanwhile, the factory is trying to get dalli where it can in spite of additional costs."

Now, having said that about Surinam, this is what he says about us:

"Our largest supplies of dalli are to be found in the North West District and Pomeroun, but even here an average stocking of 4,000 cubic feet per sq. mile is about the greatest that has been found anywhere. Information concerning the frequency of this and other timbers was collected by field parties under trained Foresters footlogging through the bush over a long period of years. If they are distrusted, they can only be checked by a complete repetition of the process. As the minimum annual consumption of an economic plant is about 1,200,000 cubic feet, it would be necessary to cover annually more than 300 sq. miles of North West District forest to supply it, whereas in Surinam 30 sq. miles would usually be sufficient. It has been found in the North West District that it takes about two weeks to collect the 400 logs necessary to make a ship load for the Arawai."

And here is a point that may shock Members.

"This ship load is only enough to last the Bruynzel factory a day and a half."

So Members will understand what the economics of this operation really means.

In another paragraph Mr. Gordon goes on to explain that it might be suggested that since we have not got enough, we might build a smaller plant, but he points out that the economics of such an undertaking demands a plant of a certain minimum output, and that as long as you do not have the material to

maintain that output, you are bound to make a loss; indeed, your factory might be shut up for most of the time.

In another paragraph he talks about the possibility of using baromalli. Here, Mr. Gordon is extremely critical of this suggestion. He says this:

"It has been suggested that a plywood factory might operate here using baromalli as core stock and Dalli for the facing. But where does Dalli grow? Is it in the same place as baromalli? Where is the best place for a factory? What about transportation costs of the logs? How are they going to get them all to a central factory without their being destroyed by borers? What about the availability of labour? It has been found that baromalli sinks. If the bark is removed, it floats for a time but gets attacked by borers. Finally, the proportion of peeled dalli suitable for the outside of plywood is not high and the problem rather is to get sufficient of it to cover up the material that is unsuitable."

I shall not be very much longer—I hope I am not boring Members. The last two paragraphs deal with the conservation of dalli because of its possibilities, and he goes on to say that one might come to the logical conclusion of stopping the production and export of all kinds of timber if that is the kind of attitude one must take up. That is not important, but what is important in his report is this:

"I would point out, however, that in natural forest one does not increase the quantity of timber by ceasing to cut it. Our forests have been there for thousands of years carrying approximately the same volume of timber all the time. The growth is merely wasted as old trees decay and young trees grow into the gaps, and the purpose of forestry is to use this growth by cutting it at the right age. dalli is a fast-growing species reaching maturity in 25-30 years, and is almost certainly short-lived. Even in the unlikely event of our getting a plywood factory in ten years' time and finding a way of making use of dalli, the fact that ten years before we had sold trees of sixteen inch girth and upwards would make little or no difference to our supplies as they would have been replaced by crops of a younger generation."

So now we have expert advice which tells us that we are not going to accomplish anything by ceasing to cut dalli in the hope that this is the way in which we are going to conserve it. I go on to this last paragraph, in which he says:

"I estimate that it will not be possible to collect more than three Arawak ship loads per month in the North West Division and Pomeroun, i.e., about 16,000 cubic feet per month. I also think that even this low figure can only be maintained for a few years while the more accessible dalli is being used. However it would mean that for these years there would be an annual income to the people of the North West District and Pomeroun of about \$40,000 and to Government of about \$6,000 by way of royalty."

The last comment is too caustic for publication.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member might have used the word "whimsical".

Sir Frank McDavid: Yes, Your Honour, he merely said that the stoppage of this production might lose votes for somebody. But that is a matter of opinion.

I am sorry if I have bored this Council with this rather lengthy description of the information I have tried to obtain on this very difficult matter. Obviously, people must be somewhat disappointed that in Surinam there is a factory manufacturing plywood for which they get dollars and which is giving employment, while we do not have one here. In one of his recommendations Mr. Case referred to the making of glass from sand. We had billions of tons of sand for that, but Mr. Case was wrong in that, and, perhaps, he is wrong in this too.

I am not surprised that other Members have taken this attitude; I am not surprised for any reason which I should disclose. There is someone who, undoubtedly, is at variance with the Company operating in Surinam, but I do not think he has any

real regard for British Guiana. I think the hon. Member was endeavouring to establish that all we have to do is to ask the Import-Export Bank for a \$2 million loan and we would be doing better than Surinam in this matter. I know that that particular person happens also to be a representative of a firm of Japanese manufacturers which is manufacturing plywood machinery. I certainly do not put any reliance whatever on representations which come from a tainted source of that description.

That is as much as I want to say on the first part of the motion. Of the other resolve clauses — (b), (c) and (d) — obviously, Government cannot possibly accept them. I cannot but emphasize that the imposition of an export tax now on our timber, retrospective, would be criminal folly. I heard my hon. Friend say that it was a credit to me that it should be said that the price of greenheart could be doubled. I am certain that if he could go to the B.G. Timbers and convey that information to them, then there is no reason why he would not share whatever consideration is possible. I know that this undertaking is striving against bitter opposition to maintain its position in the export market. We might surely kill the export industry and our timber industry.

I cannot but repeat that the resolve clauses—notably (b), (c) and (d)—are not acceptable and must be opposed. But I am sure my hon. colleague, the Financial Secretary, would be able to give the argument to them because they come rather more within his ground than mine.

Mr. Speaker: I would like Members to understand that I desire to put this question in two parts. I hope, on the other hand, that before the debate is over the hon. Member would see his way to withdraw this motion.

[Mr. Speaker]

When the hon. Member comes to reply he might indicate his wishes before the vote is taken.

Mr. Gajraj: I did not intend to take part in this debate, but for a point which has been made clear by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines. I am ready and willing to support sub-clause (a) of the first resolve clause, but I am not in full agreement with (b), (c) and (d). The reason for imposing an export tax on timber has been explained by the hon. Mr. Ramphal and the Member for Agriculture. We certainly do not wish, while we are investigating the possibilities of the timber industry, to do anything that would deny to the people engaged in such a primary industry, the chance of earning a livelihood.

I think Government should be careful however, and not give any contract to the Bruynzel factory, permitting them the sole right of cutting the timber which would be needed for establishing a factory here. In other words, I am warning Government that it would be very bad policy for us to prevent our own people from doing wood-cutting on our forests lands and selling timber to those who might wish to export it to the Dutch factory owners. I want to be certain foreigners would not be in a position to come to British Guiana and obtain a stronghold in an industry that should be the birthright of the people of the Colony.

I desire to touch upon one other point in this matter and that is, I feel very strongly that the Conservator of Forests — or, indeed, any Head of a Department—should have written in such terms as those quoted in the report read by the hon. Member for Agriculture. I can well appreciate that the Conservator of Forests, who has retired, is anxious to shake the dust of

British Guiana off his feet in order to occupy a chair in a University in Great Britain, but I feel that his report is an insult to the people of British Guiana and to this Council.

Miss Collins: I desire to support the first part of the motion and to oppose paragraphs (b), (c) and (d). I have listened to what has been said by the hon. Mover of the motion and would like to add that I also am not in agreement with the views expressed by the Conservator of Forests. I think they are too sarcastic, and I would state, further that certain individuals in this Colony appear to be strongly opposed to the establishment of new industries here. I cannot but recall that the late Mr. G. O. Case made a number of recommendations to Government for the establishment of several new industries in this Colony, but those recommendations have probably died already. This is not a time for much talk on the part of anyone, but rather for effective action. There is too much talk about uneconomic matters and so on.

Mr. Raatgever: I could not sit without supporting the remarks made by Mr. Gajraj in his condemnation of the conduct of a civil servant in this Colony. It is not because this officer is leaving the Colony that he should consider himself free to insult the people of the Colony who had employed him. I did not intend to speak on the motion, but I, too, am of the opinion that Mr. Gordon should not have voiced such condemnation of the Colony. I think it is most disgraceful conduct, and I feel that Mr. Gajraj ought to be complimented for the stand he has taken. It took courage to do it, and I stand and support him. I take strong exception to the remarks.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether Mr. Gordon is still a member of the Civil Service of the Colony.

Sir Frank McDavid: Mr. Gordon is still a member of the Civil Service, and I must rise to defend him if Your Honour will permit me to do so. I read certain extracts from the report in the course of my remarks, and I said that certain portions of the report were caustic. You, Sir, said that I used a wrong word, and that the comments were "whimsical". When I read the remarks, however, a colleague of mine in the Council said that Mr. Gordon had insulted a Member of this Council. I am certain, Sir, that Mr. Gordon never intended to insult any Member of this Council, and this, in fact, has not been done. Instead, I feel that the report was a perfectly readable one, written by an officer who was about to leave the Colony.

Mr. Speaker: I must ask hon. Members not to make any reference to members of the Civil Service who are not able to defend themselves. Such remarks might be thought justifiable, but there is a principle that remarks of that kind are not permissible—where the officer or officers have no opportunity of replying. I would rather that hon. Members refrain from making any further references of that kind. It is not proper form to attack an officer in his absence, if I may say so. The whole of the report in question might be considered, and it might be found to be of some value, in spite of the fact that it contains some personal remarks. I think you should give him credit for having given us good advice. May I ask if any other Member wishes to speak?

Mr. Tello: I would like to add a few words to the debate, because I am strongly in favour of paragraph (a) of the resolution. I think paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) have merely sprung from excessive zeal to serve the same people who would be hampered by the adoption of those paragraphs. I know the hon. mover very well; we have worked to-

gether as trade unionists. I think the ultimate goal aimed at in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) is to conserve enough of dalli to ensure a long period of employment for workers in this Colony. I do not agree with him at all, and I think that in his anxiety to butter the bread of his brother employees (to use our current trade union language) he may be taking it away from them.

I listened with a great deal of interest to the comments by the Conservator of Forests which were read by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines (Sir Frank McDavid). Your Honour has asked me not to refer to that officer personally, but those quotations were made of opinions expressed by someone of authority, and naturally they must influence the tone of the debate and the result of the voting. I respect expert opinion, but in this case I cannot help saying that as I listened intently to the opinions of the Conservator of Forests I discovered that because of his technical knowledge he has arrogated to himself the authority of an industrial expert. That is what he has done, and it is an unkind and unfair thing, because that document was quoted from authoritatively. That gentleman went out of his way—

Sir Frank McDavid: If the Member had listened attentively he would have heard in the first paragraph I quoted, that the Conservator of Forests said that on the general prospects of manufacturing plywood in British Guiana he would require a specialist to assist him in deciding that point. He went on to say that there were very few qualified people in the world, and he was not arrogating to himself the right to say that.

Mr. Tello: While he said so in his first paragraph his subsequent paragraph did not support what he said in the first one and, I think that—

Sir Frank McDavid: I must rise again. In the second paragraph the Conservator was dealing with a matter on which he was completely able to express an opinion—the advisability of conserving a certain wood in this country for the manufacture of plywood. He is completely qualified to express an opinion on that point, and that is what he is employed for. If he could not advise us on that point he should not be Conservator of Forests.

Mr. Tello: Perhaps the hon. Member did not hear what I said. In the early paragraph the Conservator spoke with authority, which the hon. Member for Agriculture said he had every right to do, but in his subsequent paragraph the Conservator went beyond his scope. New Members of this Council must seek guidance from those Members with the extensive knowledge and experience of the hon. Member for Agriculture, and I feel that as a result of his knowledge and experience the hon. Member read extracts from the Conservator's report with the intention of influencing the debate.

To return to the motion proper I desire not only to thank the hon. Mr. Carter for moving it, but for the lecture he gave us on dalli. I have read a little about it but I was certainly treated to a lecture and supplied with facts which I can accept and pass on as coming from some authority. I invite hon. Members to join me in supporting paragraph (a) of the resolution.

Mr. Jailal: I am also prepared to support paragraph (a) but not the other paragraphs. However, I heard the hon. Member for Agriculture say that the Surinam Company have been trying to obtain a contract for the supply of dalli from this Colony, and I wish to warn Government that such a contract should never be entered into. While most of us are not supporting para-

graphs (b), (c) and (d) we think that some measure of check should be adopted to conserve our supplies of woods of this type which would be needed to supply a plywood factory in the event of its establishment in this Colony.

Mr. Phang: I do not quite understand the last speaker's remark about a contract. The Surinam Company are not asking for a contract; they have a man on the spot, a Mr. DaSilva, who has contracted with them to supply dalli. There is no question of Government contracting with the Company.

Mr. Jailal: If that is so then I will have nothing more to say in the matter. I feel sure that the hon. Member for Agriculture did infer that Government was being asked for a long-term contract but had done nothing about it in view of this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Is this wood growing in a reserved area of any kind? Is it within an Indian reservation?

Mr. Lord: There is some within an Indian reservation.

Mr. Carter: In replying briefly to the debate I may say that much of what has been said by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines (Sir Frank McDavid) was anticipated by me, and it was quite natural for him to quote the figures supplied by the Forest Department. I secured my figures since last November and I actually asked the Conservator of Forests what he thought of my motion. He was as sarcastic then as he is in his report to the hon. Member in charge of his Department. So I anticipated all, but I also know the extent of the growth of dalli in this country and I cannot accept the figures given by the Department as being true or correct in the light of what I said in my opening remarks—that in April, 1954, a trained

field executive of the Bruynzeel Company of Surinam was sent to this country, and with a guide he visited the North West District, particularly the Waini river, and after an inspection of the forest, which was all dalli, he said "You have enough dalli to run my factory for 30 years." I say that if that is so then we have enough to run a factory of our own for 40 years.

Mr. G. O. Case's Report is replete with recommendations that we should establish, among other things, a plywood factory in this Colony. A similar motion was tabled in 1946, and I anticipated that it would be said that a plywood factory was uneconomic. Everything is too expensive and uneconomical, or we cannot find the money. Any effort made which shows genuine thought or initiative is just brushed aside in this Colony. If we will not encourage foreign capital to do it then this Government will have to do it by putting up a capital of \$1 million for a \$2 million plant and holding 51% of the shares, giving the remaining 49% of the shares to the public.

I wish to thank the hon. Mr. Gajraj for his comments on the very caustic remarks made by the Conservator of Forests in his report to the hon. Member responsible for his Department concerning Members of this Council, and the hon. Mr. Raatgever for taking a similar view. I do not think I should say very much about that aspect of the matter.

As regards the contract which Government is likely to enter into with the Bruynzeel Factory I would like to tell Government that it would be doing the greatest evil to this country. If that Company want to buy dalli from this Colony let them do so and give the people in the North West District an opportunity to make a livelihood. If Mr. Da Silva feels like entering into a contract with the Surinam Company that is his business, but I would not advise

this Government to enter into any contract with this or any other Company to supply wood of this kind.

I am prepared to withdraw paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of the resolution with the consent of my seconder, in view of what has been said by other Members, but I readily accept the hon. Mr. Ramphal's suggestion that a time-limit be fixed for the Select Committee to report, if not its report might be put into cold storage.

Sir Frank McDavid: As the hon. Member is very likely to be the Chairman of the Committee he can fix a time-limit right now.

Mr. Carter: I suggest a six-month period.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can amend his motion. I suggest that he does it now as we are about to adjourn.

Mr. Carter: My reply may be more hurtful than Mr. Gordon's Report. I must thank hon. Members who supported the motion and also Sir Frank for Mr. Gordon's Report and his comments on it and also for his opinion on the motion.

Sir Frank McDavid: I support the motion.

Mr. Carter: That being so, as it is past our adjournment time I do not mind Your Honour putting the motion now.

Mr. Speaker: The question is "That this Council recommends the appointment of a Select Committee comprising five members to investigate and report on the possibility of establishing a plywood industry in the Colony."

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

REFUND OF TAX ON PRIVATE BILL

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I formally move the following motion—

“Be it resolved:

That this Council recommends to Government the refund to the British Guiana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha the sum of one hundred dollars paid in terms of the Tax Ordinance, 1939, for the Private Bill intituled An Ordinance to incorporate certain persons as trustees of the body known as the British Guiana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha; to vest in such persons certain property; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.”

Mr. Ramphal: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: I do not suppose anyone has any objection. The question is, that the motion be adopted.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Council is adjourned to Thursday next, 10th March, 1955, at 2 p.m.