

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 1]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE
FIRST PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA.

7th Sitting

Monday, 29th August, 1966

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

Present:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. A. P. Alleyne

Members of the Government

Ministers

The Honourable L. E. S. Burnham, O.C.	- <i>Prime Minister</i>
Dr. the Honourable P. A. Reid	- <i>Minister of Home Affairs</i>
The Honourable P. S. d'Aguiar	- <i>Minister of Finance</i>
The Honourable N. J. Bissember	- <i>Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction</i>
The Honourable R. E. Cheeks	- <i>(Leader of the House)</i>
The Honourable E. F. Correia	- <i>Minister of Communications</i>
The Honourable L. John	- <i>Minister of Agriculture</i>
The Honourable R. J. Jordan	- <i>Minister of Forests, Lands and Mines</i>
The Honourable M. Kasim	- <i>Minister of Works and Hydraulics</i>
The Honourable W. O. R. Kendall, C.B.E.	- <i>Minister of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation</i>
The Honourable D. Mahraj	- <i>Minister of Health</i>
The Honourable C. A. Merriman	- <i>Minister of Labour</i>
The Honourable J. H. Thomas	- <i>Minister of Economic Development</i>
The Honourable S. S. Ramphal, C.M.G., O.C.	- <i>Attorney-General and Minister of State</i>

Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. D. B. deGroot

*Parliamentary Secretary,
Prime Minister's Office*

Mr. O. E. Clarke

*Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education
and Race Relations*

Mr. J. G. Joaquin, O.B.E., J.P.

*Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and
Hydraulics*

Mr. C. V. Too-Chung

*Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance*

Other Members

Mr. W. A. Blair

Mr. H. Prashad

Mr. J. Budhoo

Dr. J. K. M. Richmond

Mr. W. G. Carrington

Mr. R. Tello, Deputy Speaker

Mr. P. Duncan

Rev. A. B. Trotman

Mr. R. G. B. Field-Ridley

Mr. H. M. S. Wharton, J.P.

Members of the Opposition

Dr. C. B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition

Mr. J. R. S. Luck

Mr. A. Chase

Mr. D. C. Jagan

Mr. B. H. Benn

Mr. H. Lall

Mr. Ram Karran

Mr. M. Khan, J.P.

Mr. R. Chandisingh

Mr. V. Ally

Mr. H. J. M. Hubbard

Mr. L. Linde

Dr. Charles Jacob, Jr.

Mr. R. D. Persaud

Mr. C. V. Nunes

Mr. M. Poonai

Dr. F. H. W. Ramsahoye

Mr. E. M. Stoby

Mr. E. M. G. Wilson

Mr. M. Bhagwan

Mr. G. Bowman

Clerk of the National Assembly (Acting) - Mr. E. V. Viapree
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (Acting) - Mr. F. A. Narain.

Absent:

The Honourable Mrs. W. Gaskin, Minister of Education
and Race Relations

Mr. T. A. Sancho - on leave

Mr. M. Hamid, J.P. - on leave

Dr. S. A. Ramjohn

Mr. S. M. Saffee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: Leave of absence has been granted to the hon. Member Mr. Sancho from 9th August to 31st August. The hon. Member Mr. Field-Ridley has been granted leave from today's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Paper was laid by His Honour the Speaker:

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on the 26th August, 1966.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

PERSONS EMPLOYED DURING INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Khan: I beg to ask the hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Burnham) Question No. 8 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

- (i) Will the Prime Minister state whether all persons employed during the Independence Celebrations have received full payment for duties performed, including overtime?
- (ii) Will the Prime Minister say how many persons, and in what categories, have not been paid (if any), and when these payments will be made?

The Prime Minister: (Mr. Burnham): The answer is as follows:

- (i) All persons employed during the Independence Celebrations were asked to call at the Independence Celebrations Office for payment, but everyone did not do so within the period specified. All remaining unpaid accounts were then passed to the Treasury for payment.
- (ii) On the 8th August, 1966, a total of forty-four persons in the following categories were not paid at the Independence Celebrations Office but may uplift payments due to them at the Treasury at any time:-

38 Chauffeurs
1 Supervisor
1 Waiter
3 Porters, and
1 Aide-de-Camp.

Mr. Khan: Can the Prime Minister say if it is because these persons are not satisfied with the payments now offered to them that they have not uplifted them?

The Prime Minister: That is not my information.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the Prime Minister say when and where the notice inviting these people to be paid appeared?

The Prime Minister: I am not sure of the date but I am reliably informed that due publicity

[THE PRIME MINISTER]

was given to it, and that should be apparent from the fact that, out of hundreds of persons, only forty-four persons remained unpaid on the 8th August.

Mr. Khan: Will the Prime Minister give us the undertaking that some effort will be made to communicate with these forty-four persons and intimate to them that they can now go to the Treasury and uplift their payments? My information is that they have been going to other places. They do not know where to go. They have seen no notice and heard no announcement.

The Prime Minister: I presume that the publicity which the Answer to the Question will evoke will be sufficient notice.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIA AND GUYANA

Mr. Khan: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation Question No. 9 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

- (i) Will the Minister state what were the terms and conditions of the Agreement entered into by and between the Governments of India and Guyana?
- (ii) Will the Minister state what quantity, and quality, of rice was sold to India and what are the terms of the contract?
- (iii) Will the Minister state
 - (a) What quantity, and quality, of rice was

held in the Rice Board's possession and the actual value of such quantities and qualities as at 31st March, 1966?

- (b) What is the extent of the Board's indebtedness to -
 - (i) the Banks
 - (ii) the Government
 as at 31st March, 1966?
- (c) What quantity and quality of paddy and rice are held in Government Bonds and Mills, including the R.D.C. Mills as at 31st March, 1966?
- (d) How soon will the Rice Board be in a position to purchase and pay-off farmers as well as the R.D.C. for Autumn 1965 rice?

The Minister of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation (Mr. Kendall): The Answer to the Question is as follows:

- (i) The State Trading Corporation of India, New Delhi, India, Incorporated under the Laws of India, agreed to purchase from the Rice Marketing Board, Guyana parboiled rice, and the Board, agreed to purchase from the State Trading Corporation of India, and im-

port into Guyana, either directly or through its nominee, Indian goods such as Jute Bags, Twine and Rope, Rice remilling Plant, Silos and warehouses, agricultural implements and miscellaneous items.

- (ii) The quantity of rice sold is 10,000 tons and the quality is described in the contract as follows:

"The rice shall be Guyanese parboiled rice of the 1965-66 season and of the specifications as per schedule given below:-

Brokens -
 not in excess of 30%
 Yellow Kernel do. 3%
 Damaged do. 2%
 Foreign Matter do. 1%
 Moisture content do. 14%

Milling degree -
 reasonably well milled.
 This will be comparable to a sample, mutually accepted.

The rice at the time of shipment shall be in good, sound condition, dry, free from bad smell, infestation and any deleterious matter."

The rice has been sold at a price of F.O.B. £37. 15s. (\$180.20) per metric ton nett, and the Board agreed to

purchase from the State Trading Corporation of India, and import into Guyana, the following Indian goods:-

F.O.B. Value of Rice	
1. Jute Bags)	50%
Twine)	
Rope)	
2. Rice Remilling Plant	15%
3. Silos and Warehouses	15%
4. Agricultural Implements Forklifts and other Machinery including spares	15%
5. Miscellaneous Items (Insecticides, Pesticides, Office Equipment, Duplicators, Typewriters, etc.)	5%
	<u>100%</u>

The freight differential on the transportation of rice from Guyana to India as compared with Thailand and India will be shared equally by the State Trading Corporation of India and the Guyana Rice Marketing Board.

Mr. Khan: Will the Minister say whether this is an initial contract, or a contract over a period of years?

Mr. Kendall: This is a contract for a specific amount of 10,000 tons.

Mr. Khan: Do I understand the Minister to say that the machinery and other items which will be purchased will be sold in accordance with the percentage mentioned?

2.40 p.m.

Mr. Kendall: I may mention that, of the first shipment that went off to India, we have already ordered enough bags to cover the value of that shipment.

The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. Jagan): Will the Minister state whether the equipment and supplies to be purchased from India will be used exclusively by the Rice Marketing Board or whether they will be for sale to the public?

Mr. Kendall: If the hon. Member was listening, he would have heard when I indicated that the purchase of the main item is directly or indirectly by the Board or its nominee.

Mr. Wilson: Will the Minister say how the prices of the goods from India compare with goods from other markets?

Mr. Kendall: I would not be able to say that now, but if the hon. Member is interested, he can table a Question and I will be able to make inquiries for the House.

Mr. Wilson: Was no effort made to compare these prices?

[*The hon. Minister offered no reply.*]

Mr. Khan: Will the Minister say, while these products have been determined, whether the value of the items to be purchased have also been determined and agreed upon?

Mr. Kendall: The value of the items may not have been determined, but the Board or its nominee will see to it that its price is competitive.

Mr. Hubbard: Will the Minister tell us to what extent the devaluation of the rupee has had an effect upon this arrangement, seeing that this contract to purchase from India and to sell to India was made before the 33 1/3% devaluation of the rupee?

Mr. Kendall: The devaluation of the rupee does not affect this contract in any way. I can assure the hon. Members that, in spite of the devaluation of the rupee, the price is a reasonable one and is accepted by us.

Mr. Hubbard: Is the Minister trying to suggest that following the devaluation of the rupee, the value of items imported from India will remain the same?

[*The hon. Minister offered no reply.*]

Mr. Khan: In view of the fact that the Rice Marketing Board is not a public trading corporation, except for purchasing rice, the main item, will the

Minister say who will be the Rice Marketing Board's nominee?

Mr. Kendall: The Rice Marketing Board's nominee can be GIMPEX or any merchantile establishment. **[The Prime Minister:** "Certainly not GIMPEX."]

Dr. Jagan: I asked whether the items to be purchased from India will be used by the Board or whether they will be for sale to the public, and if they are to be for sale to the public, whether Government has decided on a policy for selling or contracting this business.

Mr. Kendall: I should like to remind the Member that when I indicated the percentage, he would have noted that 95 per cent will be goods that will be used by the Rice Marketing Board, and I have indicated that the Board has already ordered enough bags to cover the value of the first shipment, which is about half of the 10,000 tons.

Mr. Khan: I should like to ask the hon. Minister Question No 9 (iii) standing in my name on the Order Paper.

Mr. Kendall: In Answer to No. 9 (iii):

(a)	Quantity	Value
(i) Unblended Rice	199,717 bags	\$3,603,369
(ii) Blended ,,	100,383 ,,	1,638,202
(iii) Packaged ,,	<u>11,820 ,,</u>	<u>73,189</u>
	<u>311,920 ,,</u>	<u>\$5,314,760</u>
(b) Bank		
Overdraft both Banks		\$5,393,070
Government		
Government Guarantee to Banks for losses 1964/65 crop year	\$3,000,000	
Direct loan from Government	<u>\$1,697,117</u>	<u>\$4,697,117</u>
		<u>\$10,090,187</u>
(c) (i) Stocks at Bonds and mills -		
	Padi (Bags)	Rice (Bags)
	602,660	171,183
(ii) R.D.C. Mills -	<u>434,212</u>	<u>43,524</u>
	<u>1,036,872</u>	<u>214,707</u>
(d)	The Board is continuing to purchase rice from farmers and from the Rice Development Company daily, and payments are being made continuously. The Rice Development Company has paid off farmers for the autumn crop padi, and payment for the spring crop padi has commenced.	

Mr. Khan: According to the figures given, approximately \$5.3 million has been lost --

[**The Prime Minister:** "Question!"] Could the Minister say what is the principal reason for this loss?

Mr. Kendall: The Question which the Member asked was for the period ending 31st March, 1966. I can assure him that the position is much better today, and if he would like to know what is the present position, I should be glad to give it to the House.

[**Dr. Jagan:** "Let's hear it!"]

At the 31st of July, 1966, we had padi in stock at Mahaicony and Anna Regina to the value of \$2,373,000, and for rice from Anna Regina and Mahaicony the sum of \$233,069.06. At the moment, with the commitments we have up to September, 1966, the Rice Marketing Board has oversold to the tune of about 4,000 tons.

2.50 p.m.

Mr. Khan: Can the hon. Minister tell us the reason for this loss?

Mr. Kendall: The reason for the loss is that a large portion of the rice had to be sold at a price far below that at which the Board purchased it from the farmers. The farmers have nothing to complain about because they were paid the price agreed upon for the rice.

Another reason is the dishonest practices of people

directly or indirectly concerned with the rice industry, that is, people either in the Board or in the R.D.C.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the hon. Minister tell us how this price relates to the price obtained in the West Indian market?

Mr. Kendall: It has been expressed in this House over and over again that the price obtained in the West Indian market is much more than that obtained in the world market. That is elementary where grain is concerned. The same thing happens to rice and sugar on the world market.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the hon. Minister say how this price relates to the price obtained in the Cuban market?

Mr. Kendall: The Cubans paid more than what we are getting today for our rice in the world market. I have indicated in this House more than once that if Cuba had money to pay for our rice, this Government would be willing to sell rice to Cuba.

Mr. Ram Karran: Is the hon. Minister aware that the Rice Marketing Board refused to accept an offer made by me for the sale of rice to France?

Mr. Kendall: I am not aware of that. Mr. Ram Karran is always very close to me. If he had

such an offer and the Board refused to accept it, in the same way as he has approached me on other matters, he could have approached me on this matter.

Mr. Khan: Is the hon. Minister aware that the rice sold by Connell Rice and Sugar Company, a company which this Government has retained to sell Guyana's rice at a fee of over \$257,000 plus 1 per cent commission, has resulted in a loss to the Board of approximately \$2 million?

Mr. Kendall: It is better for the Board to lose \$2 million than for it to lose \$14 million or \$15 million. Several members of the Board were also members of the R.P.A., and they knew the true position when they ordered India rice at \$37. 15s. per ton.

Mr. Khan: When was the offer to buy the rice made to the Board?

Mr. Kendall: It was made when Mr. Jack Alli was working there.

Mr. Ram Karran: Is that the reason why the Rice Producers Association saw "red" at the time?

Mr. Khan: The hon. Minister says that the farmers have already been paid, but that is not correct.

Mr. Kendall: The farmers have already been paid for the

autumn crop and the spring crop. A few wealthy farmers have not yet collected the amount due to them because it may interfere with their income tax returns.

Dr. Jagan: Is it right for the Board to charge people 10 per cent interest, when the people do not get any interest on the padi which they deposit at the mills and for which payment is made a long time afterwards?

Mr. Kendall: I am not aware of that. If the hon. Member will give me the necessary information in writing, I will have the matter investigated.

Mr. Khan: Is the hon. Minister aware that the farmers are experiencing difficulty in collecting money from the R.D.C. for their padi?

Mr. Kendall: That is not so. For the autumn crop the R.D.C. has paid out \$4,232,252.27 as against the purchase of padi which amounted to \$4,278,123.95. We owe the farmers \$45,871.68 for the autumn crop. The R.D.C. has the money to pay the farmers, and the R.D.C. will pay the farmers whenever they elect to collect it.

For the spring crop of 1966 the R.D.C. purchased \$1,075,329.10 up to the 23rd August, leaving a balance of \$71,599.12. That amount the R.D.C. has in hand and the money can be paid out at any time.

Mr. Luck: The hon. Minister, in his first reply to Question (iii) (a), gave the number of bags of rice and the value of the rice. I should like to know how he arrived at the value of the rice. He said that the 199,717 bags of unblended rice was valued at \$3,603,369, and I would like to know how he arrived at that amount. Did he use the price paid by Cuba in order to arrive at the amount? These figures are fictitious.

Mr. Kendall: There is nothing fictitious about this matter. We have used the price at which the rice is purchased, and not the price at which we are going to sell the rice.

Mr. Luck: He is using the price at which the rice is bought, and not the price or true value he hopes to get for the rice. This is purely fictitious.

Mr. Khan: Will the hon. Minister tell this honourable House whether it is true that the R.D.C. has been charging farmers interest at the rate of 10 per cent on seed padi despite the fact that the R.D.C. has not paid the farmers the money due to them for several months?

Mr. Kendall: I have already indicated that I am not aware that farmers are being charged interest at the rate of 10 per cent on padi. I repeat that the R.D.C. has paid the farmers for their autumn crop with the excep-

tion of a few farmers who will not collect their money.

Mr. Khan: It is rather amusing to hear that, in these days when money is so scarce, the farmers will not collect what is due to them.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the hon. Minister say whether rice is available for sale to a foreign market and whether anyone in this country can sell in the French market?

Mr. Kendall: Yes, the French market does not form part of the Connell Rice and Sugar Company contract?

Mr. Hubbard: What countries are covered by the Connell Rice and Sugar Company contract?

Mr. Kendall: This matter has already been dealt with in this House.

3 p.m.

TRADE WITH NON-COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES

Mr. Khan: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation Question No. 10 standing in my name on the Order Paper: Will the Minister state the names of the Firms that trade with non-Commonwealth Countries and what is the value of such trade in respect of each Firm within the last five years?

Mr. Kendall: Statistics of External Trade are never kept under the names of traders, but by categories of goods and destination and origins. The information requested by Mr. Khan is therefore not available.

Mr. Khan: Obviously something is wrong somewhere. Will the Minister then say how it was that the Government came to the conclusion that the balance of payments was not in a favourable position with respect to the socialist countries.

Mr. Kendall: Figures, not names, are needed in order to come to conclusions.

Mr. Hubbard: I would like the Minister to say whether the Licence Revenue Division of his Ministry does not, in relation to individual importers, keep particulars of licences issued to them for importation of goods from countries where licences are required.

Mr. Kendall: The Licence Revenue Division does keep a record of the individuals to whom it issues licences. A list is now being prepared of the firms that imported from the Soviet bloc countries during 1964. I saw the document a few days ago and I think it is interesting reading. If the hon. Member wishes, I shall lay in this House a document giving the names of the firms, the countries from which they have purchased certain goods, and the quantities pur-

chased. It can be itemised and brought to this House. I think it should make interesting reading for all Members.

Mr. Hubbard: The Minister is admitting that it is not true that there is no information available about importation in terms of the names of firms.

Mr. Kendall: I invited firms to indicate to the Competent Authority the quantity of goods imported during 1964 from Soviet bloc countries and that is why I now know the firms. There was no record kept of the individual firms that were trading. The Statistical Department kept records only of the quantity of goods imported and a description of them. The Department is now going through the exercise of obtaining the names of the firms and individuals. I have indicated to this House that I can present a detailed list within a week.

Mr. Hubbard: I am grateful to the hon. Minister for acceptance of our comments.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Minister is obviously working very hard. I wonder if he has taken into account how the ban on importation from Socialist countries will affect the cost of living, particularly of the poor urban working-class people.

Mr. Kendall: The Government is very concerned over that ques-

[MR. KENDALL]

tion. For that reason we are going to review the whole situation. I have indicated to this hon. Member privately that his fears about this ban should be reduced, because he will be able to obtain permission to import now that he has changed from a socialist to a capitalist.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Member is jumping from limb to limb. I should like him to indicate whether the Government made an inquiry into the increase in the cost of living for the urban working class.

Mr. Kendall: Yes.

Mr. Ram Karran: Is the Minister able to indicate to this House the effects of the ban?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

Mr. Wilson: A short while ago the hon. Minister said something about permission being given to Mr. Ram Karran to import from certain countries when he has changed from socialist to capitalist. I wonder whether he will indicate what is his objection to socialist countries.

Mr. Kendall: I said that Mr. Ram Karran has changed from being a socialist to being a capitalist.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the hon. Minister indicate whether

the policy of the Government has been influenced by the lesser part of the Coalition?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

Dr. Jagan: Is the hon. Minister aware that the quota system which was previously in operation in this country was rife with a great deal of corruption? Does he know that dead people had quotas and that people were selling quotas? Is he aware of this and is he proposing to launch out again on this system which leads to a great deal of corruption and nepotism?

Mr. Kendall: I must admit that we have seen corruption at the Control Department where licences were issued to individuals to the extent of \$20 million as against \$5 million the previous year. It was therefore necessary to do something to arrest some of the corruption which may have existed during the seven years that the hon. Member was in office.

Dr. Jagan: I am speaking of the period before liberalisation of the quota system.

CRITERIA USED BY EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE IN PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Ally: I beg to ask the hon. Minister of Labour Question No. 11 standing in my name or

the Order Paper: What are the criteria used by the Employment Exchange in providing employment?

The Minister of Labour (Mr. Merriman): The criteria used by the Employment Exchange in submitting persons for selection for employment are as follows:

- (a) Length of period registered with the Employment Exchange;
- (b) Regularity of stamping of Registration Cards while unemployed.
- (c) Comparative need, where that can be established;
- (d) Residence in the area where employment opportunity exists.

Mr. Luck: I should like the hon. Minister to answer slowly.

Mr. Ally: Can the hon. Minister say whether the officers at the Employment Exchange have a duty to channel unemployed Guyanese for jobs regardless of their race, colour, creed and party affiliation?

Mr. Bissenber: Shame!

Mr. Merriman: I have already stated the criteria.

Mr. Hubbard: Will the Minister tell us whether the Em-

ployment Exchange Service has abandoned the party card employment policy which he and the Minister of Works and Hydraulics, Mr. Kasim, together with others worked out last year? Will he tell us whether it has been abandoned or whether it is still in force?

Mr. Merriman: We have certainly abandoned the party card system which the People's Progressive Party used.

Mr. Luck: I should like the hon. Minister to explain the third criterion which he mentioned, namely, "comparative need." How does the Ministry of Labour determine "comparative need"? How does an applicant establish "comparative need" against others? I should like the hon. Minister to think of his answer before he replies.

Mr. Merriman: It is done by investigation of, and statements made by, the registrants.

Mr. Luck: I have challenged the hon. Minister on this particular matter in a debate in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker: You must ask a question.

Mr. Luck: Will the Minister deny that this criterion of comparative need is being used to

[Mr. Luck]

perpetuate racial discrimination in employment practices?

3.10 p.m.

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

Mr. Wilson: Will the Minister say whether the criterion used for comparative need is based on the party card?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

Mr. Bissember: Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that we started 20 minutes late, and that additional 20 minutes have already been used up on questions.

Mr. Speaker: We started 25 minutes late. I am prepared to allow questions until 3.15 p.m.

Mr. Hubbard: Will the Minister tell us why Mr. Simmons was transferred from the Employment Exchange?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

SALARY AND ALLOWANCES OF SIR JOHN CARTER, Q.C.

Mr. Luck: I rise to ask Question No. 12 standing in my name on the Order Paper:

What is the salary of Sir John Carter, Q.C.?

(ii) What are the allowances being paid to him?

The Minister of Finance (Mr. d'Aguiar): The Answer to Question 12 is as follows:

(a) Salary of \$10,320 per annum.

(b) (i) Overseas Allowances of \$13,056 per annum.

(ii) Entertainment allowance (non-accountable) - \$13,600 per annum.

(iii) Outfit allowance - \$2,210 every two years.

Mr. Khan: Will the Minister say whether these are Guyana dollars or U.S. dollars?

Mr. d'Aguiar: We are dealing in Guyana dollars.

Mr. Ram Karran: We cannot be certain. The hon. Minister gets his inspiration from the United States.

Mr. Luck: Are these allowances, which total \$39,000, in addition to a free house, a free car and a chauffeur?

Mr. d'Aguiar: In addition, the Ambassador will be provided with a free furnished house, the

services of a car and the free use of a chauffeur.

Mr. Bhagwan: With respect to Ambassadors, will the Minister let us know if different criteria are used for different officers in different countries?

Mr. d'Aguiar: A different criterion is used, to some extent, depending upon the cost of living in the particular country.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the —

Mr. Speaker: I will allow one more question.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will the hon. Minister say what principle is used?

Mr. d'Aguiar: The principle of normal comparison between allowances granted the Commissioners for Jamaica and Trinidad as well as other countries with financial status similar to ours.

Dr. Jagan: Are we —

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the rest of the Order Paper.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2 OF 1966

"Be it resolved that the Committee of Supply ap-

prove of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2 of 1966 - Schedule of Additional Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending August, 1966, totalling \$2,509,747."
[Minister of Finance.]

Mr. d'Aguiar: I beg to move, in Committee of Supply, the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper. Before proceeding further, I should like to point out that the division between Current and Capital is as follows: \$1,250,641 Current expenditure, of which \$549,641 is met from savings making a total additional expenditure of \$701,000; and \$1,259,106 Capital expenditure, of which \$912,106 is met from savings, making a total additional expenditure of \$347,000.

I beg to signify that the Motion for the approval of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2 of 1966 has been approved by the Cabinet.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Page 1.

GOVERNOR

Purchase of Equipment

Dr. Jacob: Item 1: I should like the Minister to state exactly what amount has been spent for the purchase of the motor

[DR. JACOB]

car and what amount has also been spent for furnishing the Ambassador's residence.

[Pause.]

Mr. Luck: May I repeat the question asked by the hon. Member Dr. Jacob. This amount of \$38,000 is to provide for the purchase of a motor car and for furnishing the residence of Sir John Carter. Can we be told what is the cost of the car and what is the cost of the furnishings of the house? Surely, this is an entirely reasonable request. What is there to hide?

3.20 p.m.

The Prime Minister: The cost of the car is \$12,000 and the cost of the furnishings is \$26,000.

Dr. Jacob: The cost of the automobile is \$12,000. May I now inquire of the Minister concerned what is the "make" of this car. [Mr. Luck: "Silver or gold plated"?)

The Prime Minister: It is a Lincoln so far as I understand.

Dr. Jacob: A Lincoln is one of the most expensive cars manufactured by the Ford Motor Company. This is a poor country. This Government has squandered enough money. Why could it not have bought a Chevrolet or an ordinary Ford? Why must it buy a Lincoln? Who is footing all

these bills, when this Government has relieved all the wealthy people of taxation and placed the burden on the masses? Is it fair to the poor people of this country for this Government to continue to indulge in its prodigal expenditure?

The Prime Minister: It is a question of standards really. Actually, the car which has been purchased for the Ambassador to Washington is the cheapest Limousine of the class used by Ambassadors. The last speaker who spoke about squandering forgot that he made us pay Jagan's personal debts. The hon. Member ought to know that you cannot buy a Chevrolet for an Ambassador.

Let me point this out. The individual is covering two diplomatic posts. He is covering the Ambassadorship to Washington and the High Commissionership to Ottawa. In the circumstances, after careful examination, this Government decided to give him the cheapest type of limousine, which is not out of order. We have made that decision, and if, perchance, these people who had the workers pay Jagan's damages against d'Aguiar want to vote against it, they can vote against it because we have the numbers.

Mr. Ram Karran: American personnel in this territory obtain duty free equipment. Has the Guyanese Ambassador to the United States of America paid duty on this \$12,000 car?

The Prime Minister: Does not the hon. Member recognise that this is a conversion of U.S. dollars to Guyanese dollars?

The Chairman: Page 2.

Dr. Jacob: I have not finished with page 1, sir.

**MINISTRY OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Establishment of Productivity
Centre**

Dr. Jacob: Item 2, Ministry of Economic Development, 5 - (New) Establishment of Productivity Centre, \$20,000. I should like to know from the Minister concerned what is the nature of the training these five persons are going to receive, and whether the training will be given in Guyana or abroad. If abroad, in what country?

The Minister of Economic Development (Mr. Thomas): It is going to cost \$20,000 to send five persons to be trained at the Productivity Centre in Trinidad. One of them will be a director, and the other four will be officers. The cost also includes office equipment for setting up a Productivity Centre in Guyana.

Mr. Bhagwan: May I ask how this Productivity Centre operates?

Mr. Thomas: The answer would involve quite a lot of details.

I should think it is quite right for us to go into the details, but this is really not the right time. It can take hours to explain.

Mr. Bhagwan: I think, as a matter of principle, when the House is called upon to pass a Motion for a new Head or sub-head, at least some explanation must be given by the Government. I am not so sure that what we have here is of any substance. I am quite willing to wait until some later stage to have this matter amplified.

Dr. Jagan: I, too, would like the Minister to tell us in what way this Productivity Centre will differ from, let us say, the Technical Institute, and whether at the Technical Institute an adjunct could not be set up to incorporate what is being envisaged or what is done at this centre? Is it because the Americans want it that way?

Mr. Thomas: This has nothing to do with Americans. In fact, we were approached by the U.N. to make a start on a Productivity Centre. We thought of having it as an adjunct of the Technical Institute, but we found it more convenient to attach it to the Guyana Development Corporation where we can have it as an advisory service to industry as a whole. That is the reason why we have not attached it to the Technical Institute. It has nothing to do with the United States.

Mr. Bhagwan: I should like to find out from the Minister whether the subjects to be taken by the five persons have been decided upon by the Ministry, and if so, what are the subjects to be taken?

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Thomas: That was decided by my Ministry. In the first place, the Director will be the overall head of the Productivity Centre. There will be an officer who will be in charge of Management Training, another specialist will be trained in Work Study, and so on.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Minister has been reluctant to give details regarding this new item. There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding between the hon. Prime Minister, whose lack of knowledge is so often displayed in this House, and the hon. Minister of Economic Development. The hon. Minister of Economic Development himself stated that consideration has been given to the attachment of this Productivity Centre to the Technical Institute, but, eventually, it was felt that it would be better to attach it to the Guyana Development Corporation. That was not the hon. Prime Minister's reaction to the question, and it shows that this matter has not been properly thought out.

If the Members of this House have to approve expenditure on a new project, then they should

be given details regarding the project and an opportunity to study the matter thoroughly before the Government embarks on the project. It may well turn out, as the hon. Minister has admitted - he is not infallible - that this project has not been given a thorough investigation. I doubt whether the hon. Minister of Finance has gone into this matter thoroughly. He comes here and asks us to vote for increased expenditure on various items, and then he goes outside and he attacks the increased expenditure in the *Sun*. We wonder whether this item will be treated in the same manner.

I strongly suggest to the hon. Minister of Economic Development that he should go into this matter thoroughly and present a paper to this House before a decision is taken. If the hon. Minister wants to send these chaps on a holiday - many of them are going on a holiday nowadays - I would have no objection, but I suggest very strongly that he should submit a comprehensive paper to this House so that hon. Members may be able to see the benefits to be derived from this Productivity Centre. After careful consideration of the matter, it may be possible to attach it to the Technical Institute.

Dr. Jagan: I agree with the remarks made by the last speaker. The hon. Minister of Economic Development mentioned that the original request or suggestion came from the United Nations. I should like to inform him - he

may not be aware of it - that the I.C.A. Consultant, Mr. Emerson, had discussed with the previous Government the question of setting up a Productivity Centre to be financed by the I.C.A. a long time ago. That is why I have asked whether there will be any duplication and whether the Productivity Centre should not be operated under the aegis of the Technical Institute.

We are not opposed to this Government doing anything that is necessary to improve efficiency or reduce cost, but we are very much concerned about the growing bureaucracy in this country, the proliferation of Ministries and agencies. There is a tendency toward bureaucracy in this country from the bottom to the top. The top boys are always going on trips. I am not fully satisfied that this is necessary. I feel that since the Government is starting a new venture, then the House should be given full details of the project.

I have mentioned the Americans, because I know that they would like to have something in this country to which they can refer as a little monument which they have built themselves. I am not opposed to the Americans building monuments, but I am very much concerned about the manner in which this Government is spending money. Here it is proposed to spend \$20,000 on this project. I would ask the hon. Minister to withdraw this item, and bring it back at a later stage when he can give us detailed information.

Mr. Bhagwan: Will the hon. Minister state whether this is the final amount to be spent on this item.

Mr. Thomas: This is the final amount for the year.

Mr. Bhagwan: What is the amount envisaged for next year?

Mr. Thomas: You will be told next year.

Mr. Bowman: What will these five persons do after the completion of their training?

Mr. Thomas: The officers will be stationed partly in the G.D.C., but they will make use of the material from the Statistical Bureau and the Central Planning Division.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Equipment

Dr. Jacob: With regard to Item 3, Sub-head 12 - Equipment - \$1, I observe that \$60,000 was provided in the 1966 Estimates under the Ministry of Home Affairs to purchase equipment. The hon. Minister of Finance is now requesting an additional \$1, "Token provision to enable the purchase of fire extinguishers, refill, hose reels, etc., for Government Buildings and institutions." I should like the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to be good enough to inform this House what amount was estimated to be spent on the purchase of fire extinguishers, refill, and hose reels.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Dr. Reid): The sum of \$10,000 was estimated to be spent, and it was included in the Supplementary Estimates because these items were not listed. That is the only reason why it was included. We have now listed the items in the Supplementary Estimates so that everyone will know what pieces of equipment were necessary.

Dr. Jacob: I expect that to be the truth!

AGRICULTURE

Machinery and Equipment

Mr. Bhagwan: With regard to Item 4, Sub-head 33 - Machinery and Equipment - \$22,000, will the hon. Minister be kind enough to say whether the Republic of Germany is making a contribution to this sub-head?

The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. John): I am not aware of any contribution being made by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Bhagwan: There is a footnote in the Estimates which states: "Purchase of 7 Jeeps, 2 tipping trucks, 6 outboard engines, 2 launches and miscellaneous equipment. Anticipated grant from the Federal Republic of Germany. . . ." I think the hon. Minister should explain this reference.

Mr. John: No money has been received from the Federal Republic of Germany.

MINISTRY OF TRADE, SHIPPING AND CIVIL AVIATION

Purchase of Equipment

Mr. Ram Karran: With regard to Item 5, Sub-head 13 - Purchase of Equipment - \$1, the legend states: "Token provision to enable the payment for a land rover ordered during 1965 which was received this year."

Mrs. d'Aguiar: That is all right.

3.40 p.m.

Page 2.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Postal Services

Dr. Jacob: With respect to Item 6, I should be grateful if the hon. Minister of Communications would inform this House exactly what was the final payment that was made to the contractor on completion of the Mackenzie Post Office and other works.

The Minister of Communications (Mr. Correia): Practically \$8,000.

Dr. Jacob: Will the Minister then explain why he is seeking only a token provision?

Mr. Correia: The voted provision of \$100,000 will be sufficient.

Purchase of Equipment

Mr. Ram Karran: I should like to know if the same reply applies

to Item 4, Purchase of Equipment - \$40,000, which has a token additional provision of \$1. The legend states that the amount has already been advanced from the Contingencies Fund.

Mr. Correia: There is a token provision of \$1 for the purchase of two additional motor vehicles.

Dr. Jacob: Will the Minister kindly inform the House what was the cost of these two motor vehicles?

Mr. Correia: About \$6,000 each.

Mr. Ram Karran: If the cost is "about \$6,000 each," I should like to know what kind of vehicles these are. Why was a token provision set down and why was the amount advanced from the Contingencies Fund?

Mr. Correia: The Contingencies Fund is to meet immediate purchases. One vehicle was required urgently in Georgetown and one in New Amsterdam. Two accounting machines are on order and will not arrive until next year. The savings from the two accounting machines were used to pay for the two motor vehicles.

Mr. Ram Karran: The Minister is confused. He says "the savings" from the accounting machines have been used to purchase these two vehicles.

Mr. Correia: Money was advanced from the Contingencies Fund.

Mr. Ram Karran: What is the Contingencies Fund?

Mr. Correia: Under the present Constitution the Contingencies Fund takes the place of the Special Warrants.

Mr. Wilson: Will the Minister say how long ago the Mackenzie Post Office was completed?

Mr. Correia: At the end of 1964.

Mr. Wilson: Why is the final payment only now being made?

Mr. Correia: It is part of the retention money from the contractor, which is now being paid.

Mr. Wilson: Will the Minister say in what other area he contemplates putting post offices?

Mr. Correia: If the hon. Member will examine the Development Programme he will see what new post offices will be erected in 1966.

Stellings

Mr. Bhagwan: Will the Minister say why it was not possible to estimate for this expenditure? Secondly, what is meant by the reference in the legend to "savings on Sub-head 7 Purchase of Equipment"?

Mr. Correia: The amount provided under Sub-head 7 to purchase equipment will not be required this year and will, therefore, be spent on other stellings.

Mr. Ram Karran: When the Minister's hair was black a decision was taken by the Transport and Harbours Department for the construction of quarters for Superintendents. The sum of \$100,000 will be spent on the construction of offices for the Marine and Senior Goods Superintendents, while the Superintendent at Vreed-en-hoop has to live in Georgetown. Many things were happening at Vreed-en-hoop. [Interruptions.] The Superintendent has to return to Georgetown by the last boat. When he is off duty he returns by an earlier boat. Many things have been happening at Vreed-en-hoop and at New Amsterdam.

The Prime Minister is receiving money from all parts of the world and from the United States. We see expenditure of large sums of money and yet no accommodation is being provided for poor persons. The present Superintendent in Georgetown is a man transferred from Berbice, and he has to pay excessive rent in Georgetown. The same thing applies to the man at Vreed-en-hoop.

These officers are transferred from one post to another and the Government is making absolutely no effort to provide accommodation, although it was promised that this would be done when funds were available. The hon. Member, Mr. Carrington, sits very quietly and \$100,000 is being spent for offices. I would like to know if these are going to be offices like the Prime

Minister's. Even that one did not cost \$100,000.

3.50 p.m.

Will the Minister please give this House a description of the carpets, rugs and furniture which will cost \$100,000 and which will be used in these offices? The sum of \$70,000 was originally voted and yet no accommodation was made for these people.

Mr. Correia: Because of the previous Government's neglect, this Government is now building offices so that our officers can work in reasonable comfort. If the members of the past Government did not neglect their duties when they were in the Government, we would have been able to build quarters now instead of offices.

Mr. Luck: I should like to press the same point raised by the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran. How do you explain the sum of \$170,000 to build offices for the Marine and Senior Goods Superintendents? How do you explain this sum of \$170,000 for two lowly placed functionaries? Have you put a Minister in charge of the construction of these offices so that the money which should be used on them will be stolen? How do you explain this amount?

Mr. Correia: The amount is only \$100,000. The amount of \$70,000 was used for other stellings. The offices contemplated now are for the Marine and Senior Goods Superintendents.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will this work be given out on contract, or will it be done by direct labour? Who are the architects?

Mr. Correia: The work will be done by the Department.

Mr. Ram Karran: If the Minister is having difficulty, perhaps he should explain to this House. The Chief Civil Engineer attached to the Transport and Harbours Department is being replaced by an expatriate. Is this the reason? The Minister should take us into his confidence. We will help him from the wealth of our experience. There can be no justification for the expenditure of \$100,000 on offices for the Marine and Senior Goods Superintendents - the hon. Minister says "only" \$100,000. If there is no justification for this expenditure, the hon. Minister should at least try to convince us and give some explanation. Is it, as my colleague and friend Mr. Wilson said, that the architect is no good? Is it that the engineer from the Transport and Harbours Department has misled the Minister?

How can the Minister, either by day or by night, convince a layman that \$100,000 is going to be expended on the construction of two offices, one for the Marine Superintendent who is not an expatriate, and the other for the Senior Goods Superintendent who is no longer an expatriate? Is this going to be a steel building? Is it going to be built in the middle of the Demerara River? The sum of \$100,000, in

any currency, is a lot of money. The Minister should explain how he arrived at this figure. Is this the reason why you are sacking Yhap?

Mr. Correia: The hon. Member should put all those questions in writing.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Minister says that I must put questions in writing. He is a highly paid Minister and he has highly paid officials and assistants. He should not treat this House with contempt. He is asking us to vote an expenditure of \$100,000 and he is not prepared to give us any explanation.

Rolling Stock East Coast Railway

Mr. Bhagwan: Item 10, Sub-head 23. I observe that here again the expenditure has increased by 100 per cent. This practice of underestimating, and then having to come to this House to ask for additional provision to such an extent, suggests that someone has not been doing his homework. One would think that perhaps a lot of fictitious figures were put forward when the Estimates were presented, with the result that, within a very short space of time, approximately \$5 million had to be voted in supplementary estimates. Will the Minister give us some reason for this?

Dr. Jacob: Certainly, I do not agree with the last speaker. He has claimed that the Minister of Finance (Mr.

[DR. JACOB]

d'Aguiar) has not been doing his homework. I suggest that the Minister of Finance has been doing his work too well in order to keep his deficits to a minimum. He has been deliberately manipulating the figures in the Estimates, underestimating expenditure and boosting revenue, but what is going to happen at the end of this year? I wonder whether his British imperialist friends will give him another £1 million to help balance his Budget. There are too many token provisions in the supplementary estimates and even in the 1966 Estimates. This is the device the Minister has been using to reduce this embarrassing deficit and to cover up the wasteful - and in some cases corrupt - expenditure of this Government.

Mr. Corriea: In addition to the amount of \$125,000 previously provided, this amount of \$145,000 is to be used to carry out major repairs to one locomotive, two carriages and ten waggons, as well as for the purchase of five second-hand carriage underframes for the East Coast Railway. [Mr. Bhagwan: "We know that already."] The coaches or these underframes will be built locally, thereby finding employment for 50/60 people for 10/12 months.

Mr. Ram Karran: This is a disgrace. The hon. Minister stands up and tells us that we are going to buy second-hand vehicles from the United Kingdom and the legend states that the expenditure will be offset by

savings on Sub-head 10 - Berbice Ferry Terminals - and Sub-head 12 - Construction and/or Reconditioning of Ships. I think it would be a greater disgrace for this so-called "solvent" Government to accept these second-hand vehicles as gifts, so it has decided to pay for them, to replace our own stock with second-hand vehicles, and to set aside the completion of the Berbice Ferry Terminals. I wonder if the Minister has taken the trouble to travel up to Berbice and examine the ferries at Rosignol and New Amsterdam?

4. p.m.

I do not know if Government is embarking on this because of its perverseness. It is, perhaps, not developing this area because it believes it has no support there. I should like to call on the Minister of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation - after all, he is resident in New Amsterdam or at least he expects to go back there after his term of office is completed - to look into the perverseness which is displayed by the Government, in denying services to a large number of people in Berbice, that is, on the Corentyne as well as on the West Coast of Berbice.

I understand that the Minister went to address a meeting in that area and the residents who he thought were supporters of the P.N.C. walked away with the lamps. This only happened a few weeks ago. Perhaps that is the reason why the Government has decided to embark on a system of rehabilitating the railway,

with a huge question mark behind it. I do not know which engineer is going to examine the rolling stock of the British Railway. The people in Britain cannot find money for the rehabilitation of their own railways. They have had to abandon many schemes. Is this former colony which is now a free and independent territory being taken for a ride by Her Majesty's Government on scrap iron and second-hand rolling stocks for the alleged rehabilitation of our railway?

I want to help the hon. Minister. I know that he has not got much experience in this matter. I have worked on the railway for 17 years. I think I ought to have some experience in this matter. That does not make me an expert, but at least I am here and I am willing to pass on whatever knowledge I have to the Minister *gratis*. However, there can be no justification at all for the purchase of second-hand scrap iron for the alleged rehabilitation of our railway, at the expense of the people on the Corentyne, who form nearly half the population of this country. The completion of the Ferry Terminals at those two points has been deferred. The last time we bought second-hand equipment was during the time of Colonel Teare. The hon. Minister knows of the junk that was brought here. Some of it was abandoned in places like Mahaicony and Belfield.

The previous Government did not make the policy of the railway which, as you know, was built

here for the transporting of sugar, and which was nationalised in 1922. That was the British imperialists' policy. Perhaps I should send some of the Reports to the hon. Minister. I wish to try to persuade the hon. Minister to abandon this attempt to purchase scrap iron from Britain; and to go ahead and construct the Berbice Ferry Terminals.

Dr. Jagan: The hon. Minister told this House from the very beginning that savings will be made to the extent of several hundred million dollars. He said that there will be savings of \$500,000,000 under the Supplementary Estimates. What kind of savings are these? Mr. Nunes and myself had a talk with the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, and the Chairman is admitting today that the Government is not filling posts.

Ferry Terminals

You said that you intended to build Ferry Terminals and you intended to recondition ships. These things were estimated for several years ago. Now, we are told that we are making savings. There is no doubt about what the Minister of Finance has just said. The Minister, first of all, underestimates his expenditure. I do not know whether this will be a part of the gift which is being given by the British Government in the form of scrap iron. Let us know!

What I should like to know is simply this: Is the Government satisfied that works should

[DR. JAGAN]

be deferred? Is it the Government's policy to defer work which it anticipated at the beginning of this year? Is the work no longer necessary? Even if the Government wants to buy scrap iron, why is it that the work on the Ferry Terminals and the reconditioning and/or reconstruction of ships are being deferred? Will the Minister of Finance and the Minister in charge of this Head tell us why? The House should be told that savings are made at the expense of the services which should be rendered to the population of this country, and at the expense of the people who should be holding, not acting appointments all the time, but substantive appointments.

4.10 p.m.

Mr. Correia: In answer to the questions and criticisms of the two hon. Members, I should like to tell this House that the work on the Rosignol Ferry is still going on, but we cannot complete the job this year. We cannot spend all of the money on the Rosignol Ferry this year, and we are using a portion of it to carry out certain repairs to vehicles.

With regard to the carriages purchased from the United Kingdom, we sent our Mechanical Engineer to inspect the carriages before they were bought. The cost of a new carriage would be in the vicinity of £10,000. We can build these carriages in this country and employ about fifty to sixty workers for a year.

Mr. Wilson: The hon. Minister has confidence in the Mechanical Engineer, and that is why he sent him to inspect the equipment.

Mr. Correia: If we did not have confidence in him, we would not have retained his services.

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HYDRAULICS

Purchase of Equipment

Dr. Jacob: With regard to Item 11, Sub-head 32 - Purchase of Equipment - \$17,000, I notice that it is proposed to purchase three new cars. May I be informed how many cars have been purchased? Will the hon. Minister tell this House exactly how this "Pool" will operate?

The Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Kasim): I am not in a position at the moment to tell this House how many cars we have in the "Pool", but I can get the information for the hon. Member. These cars are being used in the service of the Government of Guyana.

Mr. Persaud: What type of cars will be purchased for the "Pool"?

Mr. Kasim: The usual type of cars bought through Bookers.

Mr. Ram Karran: I wish to congratulate the hon. Minister for being frank and saying that the cars will be bought through Bookers.

The Chairman: Page 3.

Purchase of Office Equipment

Mr. Ram Karran: With reference to Item 12, Sub-head 33 - Purchase of Office Equipment, etc. - \$100,000, the original sum provided in the Estimates was \$50,000. This Government now seeks an additional \$50,000. I think the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics was responsible for furniture and for furnishing all Government Departments. We see that \$50,000 is provided for furniture under one Ministry and a similar amount is now requested for another Ministry. The legend states: "To provide for the increased demands for furniture, etc., as a result of the creation of new Ministries, and the expansion of the service in general." Are these things for the Chancellor and the Ombudsman? Is the hon. Minister in a position to tell us why this provision has been doubled? How many new offices have been built? Is the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics no longer responsible for providing furniture for Government Offices?

Under this system the hon. Minister can be fooled, because I know how competitive the Ministries can be - each of them will ask for better and better equipment. If this matter is to be controlled centrally, I think the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics is the best Ministry to distribute things evenly. Of course, the hon. Prime Minister must have a different set-up and he will need special furniture.

Perhaps the hon. Minister would be willing to give us some information on this matter.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
RACE RELATIONS**

Grant to Mackenzie High School

Mr. Nunes: With reference to Item 15, Sub-head 21 (New) - Grant to Mackenzie High School - \$6,000, we on this side of the House support the principle of increased accommodation for the increased population at the secondary level for Mackenzie and other areas where the need exists, but this Government has not followed the policy of the previous Government with respect to secondary education.

The previous Government's policy was to extend free secondary education to private secondary schools, and to negotiate for the handing over of private secondary schools to Government ownership, in the same way as it had successfully negotiated for the handing over of the Canadian Mission Schools in 1964. It was also the previous Government's policy to take full responsibility for the payment of secondary school teachers and to provide them with leave and pension rights which they do not now enjoy.

4.20 p.m.

We on this side of the House would like to know why this policy has been varied to give the Mackenzie High School full

[MR. NUNES]

control over secondary school education at Mackenzie.

[The hon. Minister was absent.]

Mr. Luck: I notice that we are going to subsidise the re-building of this school to the tune of \$24,000. How many places does the Government anticipate will be in the Sixth Form of Mackenzie High School? As an educator like you, Mr. Speaker - [Laughter] - I confidently predict that Mackenzie High School will never have 20 pupils in its Sixth Form.

To say, therefore, that in exchange for this grant of \$24,000, Government will receive 40 per cent of the Sixth Form places available means that we will be paying \$24,000 for three free places every year, because I estimate, without any hesitation, that in the first years there will be no more than 10 pupils in the Sixth Form.

I should like to know if this is considered value for money, but first of all I should like to know how many children Government expects to see in the Sixth Form of Mackenzie High School. In the light of the numbers which I anticipate, is this expenditure justified? Further if a small school like the Mackenzie High School is to receive \$24,000, is the Government going to give \$72,000 to a school three times as large as that school?

The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Mr. Bissember): The hon. Minister of Education is absent.

Mr. Luck: Do I understand that you are going to postpone this Item?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Rural Hospitals, Health Centres, Dispensaries

Mr. Chandisingh: With respect to Item 16, may I ask the Minister how much was spent on the purchase of land north of the Port Mourant Hospital compound, and to what use the land is being put?

Mr. Bissember: The Minister is not here, but I remember that \$100 was paid for this land.

Mr. Chandisingh: The Minister has not answered the second part of my question: How is the land to be used?

Mr. Bissember: The land is to be used for the extension of the hospital.

Mr. Chandisingh: The Minister should say so.

Mr. Bissember: The Minister is not here.

Mr. Chandisingh: I should like to ask why is it that so

many of the rural hospitals, particularly in remote areas, appear to be out of operation. Several health centres and rural hospitals, chiefly in the river-ain areas, are not functioning as such. I understand that there is no nurse at the health centre on the Pomeroon River and also on the Mahaica River. Could the Government say why these centres are not staffed?

Mr. Bissenber: With reference to the hospital on the Mahaica River, the nurse was chased out on racial grounds and that is why there is no nurse there. The Government is doing everything possible to have this health centre restaffed.

Mr. Ram Karran: The name of the place is Handsome Tree and the people there are very good people.

Mr. Bissenber: They went to the centre with horses and guns.

Mr. Ram Karran: On behalf of his colleague, who has chosen to run away rather than answer the questions, will the Minister tell the House who chased away the doctors from the Georgetown Hospital? The policy of the Government for progress is to extend the alms-houses. It wishes to place an alms-house at Port Mourant and at Handsome Tree. That is the kind of development the members of the Government are thinking about. I congratulate them; we need more alms-houses.

If the nurse-midwife at Mahaica has been chased away, the Minister should tell us whether the nurses at Georgetown, Esse-quiibo and Bartica have also been chased away. This is a most dishonest answer, which we have received. By allowing his colleague to run out of this Chamber, the Minister is misleading the people of this country and the hon. Members of this House.

Mr. Bissenber: The legend speaks for itself. The land is required for the extension of the Port Mourant Hospital. Nobody is trying to mislead anyone. Is it the wish of the members of the Opposition that this land should not be purchased to extend the Port Mourant Hospital? I was there recently and I think it is necessary that the hospital should be extended.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Loans to Students

Mr. Luck: With respect to Item 17, the voted provision for Sub-head 2, Loans to Students is \$250,000, and now additional provision is being sought. It is common knowledge that the administration of this vote leaves much to be desired.

The Chairman (to Press Reporters): Will you please stop talking. I see you attempting to speak.

Mr. Luck: Someone complained to me that the machinery for the processing of these loans appeared to be stuck and needed a

[MR. LUCK]

little oil to "unstick" it. A Minister sitting opposite complained to me that for the last six months his application for a loan in proper form, for his son or daughter, had not been attended to.

The Prime Minister: Which Minister is this?

Mr. Luck: This reminds me that a loan duly granted to a sister of another higher Minister was maliciously and spitefully stopped.

The Prime Minister: Which loan?

Mr. Luck: It was a most discreditable act to stop the loan of a sister of a Minister who wanted to study. [Hon. Members: "Shame!"] I hope that this large sum of \$68,100 will be better administered. I wish to know how many students are involved in this sum of \$68,100?

4.30 p.m.

If information is not to be forthcoming before this House, I would also ask the Minister of Finance himself to withdraw this item until the Minister of Education and Race Relations (Mrs. Gaskin) can explain to this House what is to be done with this money and all the circumstances which would lead to an intelligent decision on this matter. Surely, this is most unsatisfactory. We are discussing items involving all the Ministries, and a mere handful of Min-

isters remain, and those who remain only make noise. It is an insult to this House for us to be debating expenditure and no Minister is here, either competent or able, to answer inquiries which are necessary for determining whether or not the expenses should be allowed.

Mr. d'Aguiar: I will give an answer relating to the financial implications. The sum of \$250,000 which was voted was voted in relation to loans for overseas students. The sum of \$68,100 is required to provide for loans to students at the Government Training College. This expenditure was unforeseen.

Mr. Luck: How many students are involved?

Mr. d'Aguiar: That is a question for the Minister of Education and Race Relations and one which I could not presume to answer.

Mr. Nunes: I think the hon. Minister is misleading the House when he says he has no knowledge of this situation. Certainly, in previous years, such provision was made in the Estimates.

Dr. Jacob: I should like to add to what my hon. Friend has said. Here again we have a clear case of the Minister of Finance deliberately underestimating expenditure. He knew that this amount would be needed for the students at the Government Training College. The legend states: "Provision was not made for this expenditure." Why was

provision not made? Provision was not made because the Minister of Finance, in his 1966 Budget - which we have described as an interim Budget - deliberately did this fiddling. But let him continue with all these token provisions here. At the end of this fiscal year, we shall see what we shall see.

Mr. d'Aguiar: May I remind the hon. Member that in 1964, when this Government assumed office, I was faced with the task of asking for approval of supplementary provisions in respect of three years past. I have insisted, as Minister of Finance, that supplementary provisions be voted as and when the money is required. The members of the previous Government used to wait for years to authorise unauthorised expenditure and they made a farce of the whole thing. At least we are asking for approval of supplementary provisions before the money is spent, not after.

Dr. Jacob: That is a deliberate falsehood. Supplementary provision — [**The Prime Minister:** "Sit down!"] The Prime Minister is behaving in a disreputable manner; he ought to show a better example. When the P.P.P. was in office, supplementary provision was voted only when the money was actually required or immediately after it was required. What the hon. Minister is referring to are the unauthorised excesses which occurred because of the manner in which the Civil Service functioned.

it is untrue for the Minister to say that, when he became Minister, he was required to vote supplementary provision in respect of three years past. He had to vote unauthorised excesses, which is quite a different matter.

Mr. Nunes: The hon. Minister has failed to make a satisfactory explanation. I want to know exactly what has happened to those students who were being boarded and lodged from January to July, 1966. Let us assume that the Minister is asking for this provision to cover the period from August to December 1966. What about the period from January to July? The Minister told this House that the amount of \$250,000, which was previously voted, refers to overseas students only. What about the local ones that had to be boarded and lodged from January to July? The hon. Minister has admitted that no provision was made for this.

Mr. Ram Karran: Here is another case of "Mr. Flip-Flop." When we were in the Government Mr. Burnham used to say that the poor underpaid teachers at the Government Training College, who were given loans, were unable to repay them when they were qualified. Here it is we find "Mr. Flip-Flop" doing exactly the same thing that he very strongly criticised when he was on this side of the House. May I humbly appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues to act on the advice that they gave to

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others. I wish to move formally that this amount of \$68,100 be made available as a grant to the students so that they can benefit from the advice which the Prime Minister gave when he was in the Opposition.

Loans to Guyana Electricity Corporation

Dr. Jacob: May I ask the Minister of Finance to tell the House whether he did not know, at the time he framed the 1966 Budget, that a sum of about \$½ million was required as a loan to the Electricity Corporation for the purpose of paying interest on the debentures issued to Government and also for income tax payments?

Mr. d'Aguiar: The answer is "no", but I should perhaps explain, as an explanation is desired. First of all, this expenditure is offset by corresponding revenue items. Secondly, the voted provision of \$200,000, was anticipated to be the amount required, according to the agreement which was made by the previous Government, to enable the Electricity Corporation to issue debentures in payment of its income tax. The second payment of \$507,000 relates really to the additional amount which has to be issued by way of debentures to meet debenture interest payments over a period of years.

4.40 p.m.

Now, I cannot remember the year that the Electricity Corporation was taken over. If it was

taken over in 1960, there should have been a provision in 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963 and 1964. What was the former Minister of Finance doing? We had to calculate all the years, from 1960 to 1965, and make one provision to bring the whole thing up to date. It is absolutely unfair for the former Minister of Finance to complain when he failed to do anything about it for four years, and we have had to analyse figures going back to 1961, and complete the terms of the Agreement which the former Government made.

Dr. Jacob: My point is that the Minister ought to have included this amount in his 1966 Estimates.

Purchase of Equipment

I should be grateful if the Minister could give me some information concerning this protectograph machine. Would he kindly tell us what this machine is supposed to do in the Treasury?

Mr. d'Aguiar: The protectograph is a machine to protect the writing of cheques. If we had one we would not be faced with the danger of forged cheques.

The Chairman: Page 5.
[Pause.] Page 6.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Veterinary Preventive Measures

Mr. Benn: Item 11, Ministry of Agriculture, Sub-head 16 - Veterinary Preventive Measures,

\$10,000. I wish to find out if the vaccines given to animals are being given free?

Mr. John: The answer to that is that they always benefit and where a sudden outbreak takes place the supply is free.

Mr. Benn: Is this a new principle that Government has embarked upon? I am aware that in the past people did not have to pay for the vaccines.

Mr. John: My instructions are that that was always the case.

**Subvention to Cane Farming
Development Corporation**

Mr. Benn: Item 13. (New) Subvention to Cane Farming Development Corporation, \$50,000. Would the Minister give us an idea how large this Corporation is? Has the Manager of the Corporation been appointed?

Mr. John: The Manager of the Corporation has not been appointed. [Mr. Chase: "Has the Chairman been appointed?"] No. The Corporation has four sets of twenty-five A ordinary shares Government, B.O.D.C., Royal Bank of Canada, and C.D.C. Then there are also B ordinary shares. The size of the Board will be six persons.

Mr. Linde: Is the Minister aware that no provision is made for the transportation of an Agricultural Officer on the Berbice River?

Mr. John: Mr. Chairman, This is done from New Amsterdam and Mara when boats are available.

The Chairman: Page 7.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE, SHIPPING
AND CIVIL AVIATION**

**Air Registration Board and
Surveys**

Mr. Ram Karran: I do not know if any other Member wishes to ask a question before I do so. Item 17, Ministry of Trade, Shipping and Civil Aviation, Sub-head 14 - Air Registration Board and Surveys, \$21,600. I should like to ask how much of this \$21,600 is recoverable from Aircraft Companies.

Mr. Kendall: The amount has been paid to the Air Registration Board for two years' service, that is, for seeing that aircraft are kept in a manner whereby we could keep a record of no mishaps.

Mr. Ram Karran: I asked how much money is recoverable by the Government, or is this the sum that will be paid by the Government for its fleet? The Government has a certain number of aircraft and it pays that sum to the Air Registration Board. But there are private operators in the country, many of whom are Americans. Do they contribute to the Registration Board? How much do they pay? It has been suggested, and I am sure the hon. Minister is aware of it, that these private opera-

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tors do not get certificates of air worthiness from the Air Registration Board, and that has been the reason for near mishaps in many instances.

What I should like to hear from the Minister is whether this amount is for the Guyana Airways Corporation alone or whether private operators in this territory make their contributions to the Air Registration Board? If they do not, and they make their own arrangements, then I think that is a step that is not observed anywhere except in the United States where they fly aircraft. I should like the hon. Minister to study this question and, possibly, with the assistance of this House formulate a policy for the proper operation of aircraft.

4.50 p.m.

I wish the hon. Minister would take this point into consideration: many aircraft spray insecticides with dangerous poisons on crops, and I would like him to do something to prevent the lives of people on the road from being endangered. While doing this type of work these aircraft fly over populated areas of the country, and the lives of other people are involved in this matter.

Mr. Kendall: I shall make a note of the observations made by the last speaker.

The Chairman: Page 9.

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE -
ACCOUNTANT GENERAL**

Special Visits and Representation at External Conferences

Mr. Ram Karran: With reference to Item 30, Sub-head 16 - Special Visits and Representation at External Conferences - \$50,000, I notice that \$75,000 was voted at the time when this Head was discussed in the House; the amount was doubled when additional provision was sought, and very serious comments were made by others on this side of the House at the time. I recall that many hon. Ministers were convinced that we were talking unnecessarily, but I am now very surprised to find that the Government is asking for an additional \$50,000. The legend states: "Voted provision inadequate owing to the increase in the number of conferences to be attended consequent on Independence." Can the hon. Minister give us some idea of what has changed so much outside of this territory lately? Are the Ministers afraid to remain in this country and see the results of their backward programme?

There is unemployment all over this country; the cost of living is going up daily; there is perversity all over the place, and attacks on the working class have been made by certain hon. Ministers. Mr. Hari Prashad has

not yet been sent on a trip! Is this not a question of squandering taxpayers' money? There is a lot of unemployment in this country, but this Government is wasting money by sending Ministers and others to attend all sorts of conferences.

What benefits have we received from attending all these conferences? Has anything constructive been done at these conferences? Since British Guiana became Guyana, since we are now free, what has happened outside this country to require our sending people to attend all of these conferences? This is something that is becoming nauseating to the people in this country who have to pay for these trips abroad. The money has to be paid by the poor people of this country, the same poor people whom the members of the Government were so solicitous about when they were sitting on this side of the House. The hon. Ministers should realise that Santa Clause will not give us money.

These hon. Ministers are going abroad to enjoy themselves and masquerade as people attending external conferences, while pursuing their impecunious policy. The hon. Minister of Local Government says that he is unable to hold elections for Local Government at the moment.

Mr. d'Aguiar: There cannot be any doubt that with the arrival of its Independence any country will get an enormous number of invitations to attend conferences. We have received invita-

tions to attend conferences. Many of them related to the United Nations organisations, such as the I.L.O.; many of them related to special problems such as border disputes and so on. We could not possibly refuse invitations to conferences such as the recent conference in Canada, which was attended by all of the Caribbean Governments.

I feel that, in the course of time, one will begin to find out which conferences are worth attending and which are not. I would also excuse those who seek to attend all of the conferences in the early stages, because it may be an important invitation and Guyana may benefit from it. With sophistication, over a period of time, one will decide to attend only those conferences which have been proved successful in the past.

It would probably not be desirable to cut out, at this stage, attending conferences. A great number of these conferences are rather expensive, but we cannot avoid attending some of them. The Prime Ministers' Conference in London is coming up, and no one would suggest that the Prime Minister of an independent Guyana should not attend the Commonwealth Conference. Then there is a Conference of Ministers of Finance in connection with the International Monetary Fund. You cannot avoid these things. There is also the I.L.O. Conference in Canada in addition to the one recently held in Geneva. There are Parliamentary Conferences in other countries and these will

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have to be attended. When invitations to attend these conferences are received by this Government, it is usual to appoint members of the Opposition to go on external visits and we vote the necessary expenditure to cover the trips.

5 p.m.

The answer is that Government is looking carefully into this expenditure. It was impossible to foresee how many of these invitations would arise after Independence. I do think that experience will teach us how we can best limit our future attendance.

Dr. Jagan: It is very strange that the Minister of Finance, who is leader of the United Force, speaks with one voice in the Legislature and with another voice in his weekly organ, just as members of the youth arm of the P.N.C. spoke against the Budget at street-corners and kept quiet when they came into the Assembly.

Matters have deteriorated to such an extent that even the *Evening Post*, which is a staunch supporter of the Government - [Interruptions.] - is talking about one of the trips which is being taken to look at the most modern aircraft in England, while decrepit aircraft, which cannot fly, and decrepit railways, which add to the taxpayers' burden, are purchased.

Reference is also made in an editorial in today's *Evening Post* to unemployment. I quote from it:

"Twenty thousand bread-winners represent 100,000 persons; so that the figure of 20,793, quoted as being employed for a maximum of three months, only reveals one-fifth the tale of poverty and starvation."

When such people begin to grumble it is time for the Government to take note.

This Government is callous and continues to waste taxpayers' money, which the *Sun* calls "squandermania". Then the Minister of Finance says "we have to have experience". The Minister of Labour goes to the I.L.O. Conference. What for? What can he do? He cannot settle simple labour disputes that arise every day in this country. Right now we hear the Minister and the Prime Minister talking at cross purposes about representation for G.A.W.U. on the Sugar Commission. It is almost a year since the Commission was to be appointed, but the Ministers are so busy flying here and there that they do not even have the time to work out the terms of reference and to appoint a Commission.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. Speaker: I suspend this sitting for 15 minutes.

Sitting suspended at 5.03 p.m.

5.15 p.m.

On resumption --

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: Dr. Jagan was on the Floor when the suspension was taken.

Refunds of Revenue

Mr. Ram Karran: I should like to refer to Item 32, Refunds of Revenue, which was underestimated by \$40,000. Would the hon. Minister indicate to this Assembly what were these refunds? The Minister says that this vote is unpredictable. Is it unpredictable because of the prodding being done by the former Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue, who practically lives in the Income Tax office - [Interruptions.] - and who virtually directs the Income Tax Department as to which persons should be "eased up on" and which should be pressed.

I make that allegation and I want it to be denied. It is being said all over the country that the former Deputy Commissioner of Inland Revenue, now Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, does not stay in his office but goes to the Inland Revenue Department. The members of this Government must behave themselves and must stop meddling with the officers of the Inland Revenue Department

whose duties are laid down by law and who must be allowed to do their duty according to their consciences and according to the oath which each has taken. Spiteful and perverse members of this Government ought not to go to the Inland Revenue Department and intimidate the officers.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Finance (Mr. Too-Chung): I rise to ask the hon. Member whether he has any proof and, if so, would he mention it.

Mr. Ram Karran: I have proof, but with the things that are happening in this country one has to be very careful how one attempts to disclose information which one obtains. It is no secret. Let the hon. Minister and his Parliamentary Secretary deny it. I can take pictures; I can even get recordings of what is said, not only in the Department of Inland Revenue, but elsewhere, and that would be the best proof of all that is being done by these hon. Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries.

Mr. d'Aguiar: The question is irrelevant. It does not relate to this item at all. The hon. Member is thinking of another item which comes under Inland Revenue. We are now considering refunds of revenue in general under Sub-head 19. It refers to refunds in the Lands and Mines Department, such as refunds of royalties, and to refunds of hospital fees and things of that nature. It has no

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bearing whatever on Inland Revenue.

5.20 p.m.

Mr. Too-Chung: Although the Minister has explained that that does not come under the Head, in view of the remarks made by the hon. Member, I should like to remind this House that the Department of Inland Revenue and certain other departments come under the control of the Ministry of Finance. As far as I understand, it is part of my duty to see that revenue is collected, certain things are carried out and, in the interest of the Government, to do what I consider right.

Mr. Ram Karran: If I understand him correctly, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has confirmed my fears. I say that everyone in this country ought to stand up and take note of what has been said by the Parliamentary Secretary. As I understand it, the Commissioner of Inland Revenue and his clerks are there under oath to perform certain duties. The Parliamentary Secretary tells us that he is there to direct them whom to press, and we all know --

Mr. Too-Chung: I did not say anything like that and I refute it.

Mr. Ram Karran: Will he tell us what he goes there for? Does he go to release the tax on d'Aguiar?

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Drugs and Medical Appliances

Mr. Chandisingh: Item 36: Can we be told where this expansion of the Health Services will take place? **Mr. Bissember:** "You know exactly what is the position." I should like to know whether the Health Services have actually expanded or whether the original provision was inadequate for the existing Health Services.

Mr. Luck: We are not a Georgetown party. We travel all over the country and we see no evidence whatsoever of any expansion of the Health Services in this country. What we know is that there has been a drastic curtailment of services which the Government previously provided in the rural areas of this country. We take the view that this legend here is misleading. We say that there has been no expansion of the Health Services that we know about and, therefore, we find it difficult - while we will always vote for better and more drugs - to accept this bold statement that this sum of \$120,000, one-fifth of the previously voted provision, is needed owing to the expansion of the Health Services. We know of no expansion of the Health Services.

If we start from Skeldon right on to the North West and go down to the Rupununi, we will find that the health centres previously established are closing down one by one. No new

health centres are being built except, possibly, in the Mackenzie area, the reason for which is well known. Our legislators on this side of the House receive reports from constituencies. We are inundated with complaints that the midwives are not working. They have left the areas, the health centres are closing down. This legend here is totally misleading and some firm information should be placed before this House as to where this money is being spent.

Is it, as the ex-Minister of Health has said, that more drugs are being used in the Public Hospital, or is it that there has been an expansion? These are reasonable questions. We are asked here to believe, contrary to our own knowledge, that there has been an expansion of the Health Services. This comes against all the information we have been receiving from all the areas in this country. I should like to hear something more about this.

Mr. d'Aguiar: It is undoubtedly true - and it is well known to the previous Government because it took certain steps - that the supply of medical stores is, and has been for some years, in total chaos. The previous Government started a survey of stores. The surveyors were appointed but, for reasons which the previous Minister of Health might well be aware of, the job ceased in midstream. It was abandoned, so when we took over, instead of being in a better

condition, the stores were in a worse condition. We waited for the surveyors to start again but they never did, so I took it upon myself to appoint a new board of survey to survey the stores. Having surveyed them we would know what we have in stock, and steps are being taken to introduce a correct system of issuing and controlling stores. New mechanical equipment for this purpose has already been ordered.

It is undoubtedly true that some of these stores have been going astray, but it is more than certain that this state of chaos started two or three years ago and it got worse and worse. It is going to be a difficult job to put these stores in perfect order. The steps that are necessary have been taken, and perhaps if the first board of survey had not abandoned its task, these stores would have been in order long ago.

Mr. Luck: The hon. Minister of Finance is admitting to the House that the note here is totally false. He now explains that this sum of \$120,000 is necessary because of mismanagement of the stores. To say this now is to say something different from what is stated in the legend. The legend states: "Voted provision proved inadequate owing to the expansion of the Health Services resulting in an unanticipated increase in the use of drugs etc." I repeat the words: "owing to the expansion of the Health Services."

[MR. LUCK]

Surely, the hon. Minister of Finance is guilty, not of a lack of frankness, but of a deliberate attempt to mislead this House and this country when, in seeking to get \$120,000 for drugs, he comes to this House and says that it is necessary because of the expanding Health Services. On investigation of the matter, we now know that not only are the Health Services contracting daily -- [Mr. Bissember: "More patients had to be treated."] — but that the stores are in complete chaos.

5.30 p.m.

Surely, the hon. Minister of Finance who was ever critical of the alleged misdeeds and mismanagement of the finances of the last Government, will not continue to come to this House and state a reason when asking for money, when that reason is not a true one. He should come and say honestly that Government has not been able, up to now, to stop the fiddling at the Public Hospital.

Mr. Wilson: There is no health service provided for people in the interior. It is desired that such a service should be urgently provided for them.

The Chairman: Are you through? I want to put the question.

Mr. Stoby: I should just like to make a speech --

The Chairman: Hon. Members have spoken on the last item. I am not going back.

Mr. Stoby: I wish to make a speech regarding the health services in the North West District. At present, there is an epidemic which has been raging for several months, and I do not know whether the Government is aware of the situation. Last week, a doctor paid a visit there. He had a limited supply of drugs. To make it worse, the radiophone system has not been in operation for the past three weeks. I am reporting this to the House so that Members would know that there have been over 26 deaths for the month of August. On Sunday three persons were buried. And the month has not finished yet! Rather than bring a Motion to this House, I took the opportunity of speaking under this Head because this is a matter of grave importance.

Dr. Jagan: I should like to supplement what the last speaker has said. Over three months ago I was in the area and I found the dispenser of the district could not move around because the engine of his boat was out of order. I understand it is still this way. In Pomeroon, a health centre at Hackney has been closed. I reported not so long ago that the one at Handsome Tree has also been closed. I was there and I saw flags fluttering all over the place; the people were awaiting the arrival of a dispenser. There was no dispenser in the area. No dispenser has been going in the area behind Tapacuma for the last year.

The nurses and midwives used to visit Hog Island once per

month. A dispenser used to visit one part of the island once weekly, and the other part of the island once fortnightly. All these visits have ceased. What is the Government doing? People are dying! Do not tell us it has always been this way. These are services which they were receiving during the regime of the last Government.

Let us say that the last Government did not do "so-and-so." You had seven years in the Opposition. You ought to have been able to say what is wrong with every area in this country. You should have made plans and proposals. We saw all the plans and proposals which were laid out in detail in the *Highways to Happiness*. But instead of now going forward, we see retrogression, and this is leading, as the last speaker said, to the death of people. The people are being denied very vital services. They are reluctant to go to the hospitals because they feel that if they do they are going to "get their death certificates."

I have two questions which one hon. Member gave me. I have not had them typed yet. The Prime Minister will not give me enough staff. A child went to the hospital. The doctor diagnosed that a tracheotomy was necessary. The next day the child died. No tracheotomy was done! When it comes to the health of the poor people, doctors are fleecing them in many parts of the country. [The Prime Minister: "Who are the doctors?"] We are not objecting

to the Prime Minister having a good time, but please look after the poor people.

The Chairman: I am going to put the Question.

Question put, and agreed to.

Assembly resumed.

Mr. d'Aguiar: I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has come to a Resolution, and I now move that this Assembly do agree with the Committee in its Resolution.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Death of Mr. Grimshaw

The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Mr. Bissember): Before I move the adjournment, I crave your indulgence to announce the death of Mr. Grimshaw who has worked as an Official Reporter for some years, I think from 1937 to 1965. Most hon. Members knew him very well when he worked in this Department. We all know the wonderful services he gave to you yourself, Mr. Speaker, previous Speakers and the staff, and hon. Members of the House, and I would suggest that a letter be sent to his relatives expressing our condolences on his death.

Dr. Jagan: I wish to associate myself, as well as the hon. Members on this side of the House, with the remarks made by the hon. Minister.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, "That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed." - [Mr. Bissenber.]

*Adjourned accordingly at
5.43 p.m.*