

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

33 —

[VOLUME 2]

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

8th Sitting

Monday 28th August, 1967

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met at 2.15 p.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

Present

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. R.C. Tello

Members of the Government

Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.,

Prime Minister.

Dr. the Honourable P. A. Reid,

Minister of Trade.

The Honourable P. S. d'Aguiar,

Minister of Finance.

The Honourable N. J. Bissember,

*Minister for Parliamentary Affairs
(Leader of the House)*

The Honourable R.E. Cheeks,

Minister of Local Government.

The Honourable E. F. Correia,

Minister of Communications.

The Honourable Mrs. W. Gaskin,

Minister of Education.

The Honourable C. M. L. John,

Minister of Home Affairs.

The Honourable R. J. Jordan,

Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Honourable W. O. R. Kendall, C. B. E., J. P.,

Minister of Health and Housing.

The Honourable C. A. Merriman, J. P.,
Minister of Labour and Social Security.

The Honourable M. F. Singh,
Minister of Works and Hydraulics.

The Honourable S. S. Ramphal, C.M.G., Q.C.,
Attorney-General and Minister of State.

The Honourable M. W. Carter,
Minister of Information.

Parliamentary Secretaries:

Mr. D.B. DeGroot,
Parliamentary Secretary, Prime Minister's Office.

Mr. G. Bowman,
*Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
and Natural Resources.*

Mr. O.E. Clarke,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education.

Mr. P. Duncan,
*Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local
Government.*

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. J. Budhoo

Mr. M. Kasim

Mr. W. G. Carrington (On Leave)

Mr. R. Ford-Ridley (Absent)

Mr. D. Mahraj

Mr. H. Prashad

Mr. T. A. Sancho

Mr. R. Tello *Deputy Speaker* (Absent)

Mr. J. H. Thomas

Rev. A.B. Trotman

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

Members of the Opposition

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

Mr. A. Chase
Mr. B.H. Benn (Absent)

Mr. Ram Karran.

Mr. R. Chandisingh

Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard

Dr. Charles Jacob, Jr.

Mr. C.V. Nunes

Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye (Absent)

Mr. E. M. G. Wilson (Absent)

Mr. M. Hamid, J.P.,

Mr. J.R.S. Luck (Absent)

Mr. D.C. Jagan

Mr. H. J. Lall

Mr. Mooneer Khan, J.P. (Absent)
Mr. Y. Ally

Mr. L. Linde

Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P. (Absent)

Mr. M.N. Poonai

Dr. S. A. Ramjohn (Absent)

Mr. E. M. Stoby

Mr. S. M. Saffee (Absent)

Mr. M. Bhagwan

(Absent)

Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. F. A. Narain

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Mr. M. B. Henry

Absent

The Honourable P.S. d'Aguiar,
Minister of Finance (On Leave)

Mr. W. G. Carrington (On Leave)

Mr. R.G.B. Field-Ridley

Mr. A. Chase

Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye

Mr. E.M.G. Wilson

Mr. J.R.S. Luck

Mr. M. Khan, J.P. (On Leave)

Mr. R.D. Persaud, J.P.

Dr. S. A. Ramjohn

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Mr. M. Bhagwan

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to Member

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member Mr. Khan is excused from today's sitting.

Letter of Thanks

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I also have a letter from the Senior Official Reporter dated 28th August, 1967.

"Sir,

As you are no doubt aware, I will be proceeding on pre-retirement leave from tomorrow and will be returning to Barbados.

In the circumstances, I wish to thank you, sir, and all members of the National Assembly most sincerely for the co-operation I have received in the performance of my duties as an Official Reporter.

Yours respectfully,
V. Augustus Alleyne
Senior Official Reporter."

I am sure that hon. Members would like to thank him on our behalf.

Hon. Members, Mr. Alleyne arrived in Guyana from Barbados ten years ago and since that time has been serving Parliament, first as an Official Reporter and then as Senior Official Reporter from last year.

I am sure that hon. Members will wish to join with me in thanking Mr. Alleyne, who is here with us today, for his kind letter and for the services he rendered to us. We are sorry to lose him, but we all wish him a very happy retirement in Barbados. *[Applause]*

Mr. Alleyne bowed to the House.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS
AND REPORTS**

The following Report was laid:

Report of the Ombudsman for the period 26th May, 1966 to 31st December, 1966.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE
BUSINESS OR SITTING OF THE
ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A
MINISTER**

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER

The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs (Mr. Bissemer): I move that today's sitting

of the House be exempted from Standing Order 9 (2).

Question put, and agreed to.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS
MOTION**

**SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES
FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4 OF 1967**

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Minister of Trade (Dr. P.A. Reid): I beg to lay on the Table the Cabinet's recommendation in accordance with Article 80 (2) of the Constitution to enable this Motion to be proceeded with.

I beg to move:

"That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4 of 1967, Schedule of Additional Provision on the Capital and Current Estimates for the period ending August, 1967, totalling \$13,654,884."

Mr. Ram Karran: I thought the Acting Minister of Finance would have given us some idea of what these amounts are for. It is true that we go through them Head by Head and we are then able to find out. Unfortunately, the behaviour of the hon. Ministers who have charge of these Heads sit idly by and are very reluctant to inform the House of the details of this expenditure. I should have thought that the hon. Minister of Finance Acting would have given us a rough idea., first of all, why additional provision is being sought especially for the large sums of money and also for that very controversial item which appears at the end of these Estimates. I refer to the item in relation to the Rice Development Company and the Rice Marketing Board.

'2.25 p.m.

Since the hon. Minister has taken his seat, we have no alternative but to go through the Paper item by item, hoping that other Ministers would be willing to assist the Members on this side of the House, and perhaps their own colleagues, with details

[MR. RAMKARAAN]

which this House should obtain before the passing of this Paper. May I, before I take my seat, compliment the Government on this occasion because I think this is the first time that we are discussing a Paper such as this without having to suspend the Standing Order.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 1.

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND
CABINET PERSONAL EMOLUMENTS**

Mr. Ram Karran: Item No. 3 — \$3,000. I notice in the legend that you are creating a post of "Supernumerary Youth Organiser," and that you are regrading the post of "Permanent Secretary" from scale F2a to F6. Is it a case of one Permanent Secretary having his personal emoluments increased, or is it that they get the same pay in every case? Is it a Senior Permanent Secretary or is it the Specialist Permanent Secretary for Youth?

If you read lower down you will see that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is mentioned. I think it is unrealistic to have a Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. I think it is the third Deputy Prime Minister whose head is being rolled again. He is going to come under the Prime Minister to be treated like a Junior Minister. I think the hon. Minister ought to do something about it. Perhaps the hon. Minister of Finance (acting) would tell us why he is treating the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs so crudely.

The Prime Minister: In so far as the appointment of Supernumerary Youth Organiser is concerned, the proposal was made so as to strengthen the youth section of the Prime Minister's Ministry and also in anticipation of having someone to understudy and work along with the present Youth Organiser who is due for retirement shortly; and further, because of the amount of work and organisation that will be

involved in the launching of the Youth Corps.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Ram Karran, someone who is familiar with the estimates, should not have asked the question about the Permanent Secretary because, if he looks carefully he will recognise that this is a reduction of the emoluments of the Prime Minister's Permanent Secretary from F2a to F6. The Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office was put on Scale F2a at the beginning of this year. But when it was decided that the Public Service Ministry, though the responsibility of the Prime Minister, should not operate from the Prime Minister's Ministry or Office, the higher salary was given to the Permanent Secretary to the Public Service Ministry as head of the Civil Service consequently, an adjustment had to be made. The two Permanent Secretaries at the top are the Permanent Secretary to the Public Service Ministry and the Secretary to the Treasury. All other Permanent Secretaries are paid the same stipend on the basis of Scale Fc.

Mr. Hubbard: Would the Prime Minister be good enough to tell us whether the selection for this post of Supernumerary Youth Organiser has already been made, and if so, whether this Supernumerary Youth Organiser is also likely to retire soon or is he someone who is a little closer in touch with youth?

Mr. Prime Minister: No appointment has been made and this would be a public Service Commission appointment. I would imagine that it would be creating the Government with too much ignorance to suggest that we are going to appoint someone who is near the end of this period of active service in the Public Service, to participate in the establishment of a Youth Corps.

Mr. Hubbard: I appreciate the Prime Minister's remark. I was not laying any

responsibility on the Government knowing that it is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission which has been subjected to a great deal of criticism. I was merely voicing fear.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 2.

Travelling Expenses and remuneration of Ministerial Private Secretaries.

Mr. Ram Karran: Would the hon. Prime Minister kindly indicate to us whether this is a case of additional personnel? Would he give us a further explanation to the notes: "To provide for increased salaries to Ministerial Private Secretaries."

The Prime Minister: It is not additional personnel. First of all, the salaries vary from \$200 to \$300. But the Government thought, after looking at it, that it is hardly fair to have people working for the same salary for 4 years – unless they are Parliamentarians to be stuck at one salary forever – and certain increases were granted as a result of which this additional amount now becomes necessary.

Mr. Ram Karran: So the maximum is \$300?

The Prime Minister: At the moment.

Mr. Ram Karran: The hon. Prime Minister referred to the fairness of paying people who are not Parliamentarians. It appears to me that almost all the civil servants are put into the category of Ministerial Private Secretaries who will have to go when Governments change.

The Prime Minister: Sir, all the civil servants will not be put into that category at all because the Constitution will be honoured to the spirit and the letter. I heard my hon. Friend talking about a certain gentleman who used to be Clerk of the Legislature. But then, it requires a certain literacy to understand the Constitution. The Constitution provides that it is the Speaker who has to appoint the Clerk. It also provides that if a public servant is in that office, and the Speaker does not appoint him, as long as he suffers no loss of stipend everything is all right. I do not understand the purpose of this cheap electioneering because

the gentlemen has not lost a cent, and so far as I am informed, he is not doing more work.

2.35 p.m.

**GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE
Personal Emoluments**

Mr. Ram Karran: I don't know whether the hon. Minister of Finance is mountain-climbing again, but he gave us the assurance, when Estimates were being discussed some time ago, that the items, entertainment allowance and travelling allowance, would cease to appear in the Estimates under Personal Emoluments and yet we see, under item 7 on this page, the sum of \$1 is being provided for "Entertainment Allowance" under the sub-head "Personal Emoluments."

In questioning this, I had pointed out that persons who have to foot the bill are always suspicious about entertainment and travelling allowances because they can be manoeuvred, especially when everything seems to be manoeuvrable. [Interruption.] I wonder what amount is anticipated as an allowance to be spent by the Chief of Staff of the Guyana Defence Force. Will this gentleman be expected to spend \$50 or \$100 a month to entertain his friends the Ministers or Members of Parliament? Can the Government give us some guide as to what amount is to be spent?

The Prime Minister: Under the terms of secondment which were agreed between the Government of Guyana and the Government of the United Kingdom, when an officer attains a certain rank he gets a personal entertainment allowance. The Chief of Staff has attained the rank of full Colonel and gets an allowance. I think it is about \$36. It is nothing unusual for officers of that rank in all armies to get an entertainment allowance. It is necessary for them to have such, in execution of their duties.

Mr. Ram Karran: Is it proposed that the policy will continue when a Guyanese Chief

N. Ramkarran

of Staff is appointed? I understand that this gentleman is not here for all time.

The Prime Minister: I can't say Yes; I can't say No. What I am saying is that this was one of the terms of secondment agreed on between the two Governments. When, as will happen not so long from now, there is a Guyanese Chief of Staff, we will look at it and see. I have my own personal views, but I cannot give them before the question arises. The hon. Member ought to have recognised what my views are when I said it is normal for all the head of the Defence Force to have certain facilities.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Government Entertainment

Mr. Ally: Under item 5, I notice that there is the sum of \$9,600 voted for Government entertainment. Will the hon. Minister please tell us if the additional requirement is an indirect effect of the rise in the cost of living? Is that the reason for asking for something more?

The Prime Minister: My problem is that I cannot understand why the Constitution does not have literacy in English prescribed as a prerequisite to entering this House, because if my hon. Friend would look he would see \$9,600 is the sum that was voted. The vote in the beginning was \$9,600. What, I ask, has that to do with the cost of living? The legend reads:

“Voted provision inadequate owing to a substantial increase in the number of official visitors to Guyana.”

What has that to do with the cost of living? What has \$9,600 to do with what we are voting today? I should advise him that the first column represents what was voted in the Estimates. He will find that in the green book. The second column represents what was added after the publication of the green book and the third column represents what is now

being sought. The fourth column explains the purpose of our seeking an increased amount.

The Deputy Chairman: Page three.

Mr. Ram Karran: I thought that the hon. Prime Minister would have indicated to us whether the assurance given by the substantive Minister of Finance would have been observed.

Mr. Deputy Chairman: I did not want to interrupt you when you were referring earlier to the Minister of Finance, but you must have some authority to refer to.

Mr. Ram Karran: The only authority I have is Hansard.

The Deputy Chairman: You can see a copy.

Mr. Ram Karran: I don't think I have seen a Hansard for the year.

The Deputy Chairman: The Hansard as published is an official record.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Transport and Travelling

Mr. Ram Karran: Perhaps I can raise the question anew and ask the Government, through the hon. Prime Minister, whether things like travelling and entertainment allowances should not be shown separately in the Estimates. I think you should turn to page 3. On page 3 there are items concerning the Ministry of External Affairs. I am sure that the Government will agree with the Opposition when it observes an item like Transport and Travelling here. One appreciates that the Ministry of External Affairs is a new Ministry and that the Government is a new Government, in the sense that it has just attained its Independence, and that it would not have all the particulars that an old Government, with experience in dealing with foreign countries, would have, but I am still shocked despite all that, at what the hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues have said.

It is shocking to see that the provision sought in these Supplementary Estimates is even more than the original provision voted

and shown in the green book, that is, \$22,730 for transport and travelling. We are told some cock and bull story about "increased cost of travelling in connection with the Diplomatic bag service." Is it that fares have gone up and the amount is double? I cannot understand it. If a reasonable explanation had been given to the effect that the Government did not expect to have so many bags and the number has increased because the Americans demand to know more about what is going on, or more instructions are forthcoming, I would understand. This explanation does not seem reasonable. In any case Americans fly down here all the time to tell my friend the Minister what to do.

In the case of sub-head 3, Miscellaneous, there is a very important thing, Bank Charges, mentioned under this item and there is a large sum of money, \$7,500, to be voted. \$7,500 for this and toilet paper is a bit high. These are the observations I wish to make.

The sum originally voted was \$22,000 and now you are asking for an additional provision of \$31,000. Guyana has been independent for a long time. This is something that should happen very rarely; there must be some catastrophe, some plane crash or something like that. Unless this is as a result of the charges to be made originally when the Estimates were provided, we accuse the substantive Minister of Finance of deliberately underestimating in order to balance the Budget and my friend seems to be having the dirty end of the stick. [Mr. Benn: "He likes it."] Yes, he likes it; he has to come back to the House to make it look right.

Mr. Hubbard: I consider that something more than just a blanket statement, as was put down here, is necessary to justify this additional provision. The Government had some experience of the diplomatic service last year and, having estimated \$22,730 as being adequate for the whole of 1967, it is most unsatisfactory for it to come now and say that it requires an additional provision of \$31,300. I think a more detailed explanation than is

stated in the note is necessary to justify this large amount which is now being asked for.

BANK CHARGES

Under Item 10 – I will take the Items together – the sum of \$7,500 is required: "To provide for the payment of Bank Charges payable on the numerous Imprest recoupments . . ." Surely, you must have a system of Imprest recoupments. How can they become so numerous? This legend suggests that you have been dealing in terms of days. It seems to me that you are dealing with Imprests on a daily basis rather than on a weekly basis. Then we have to pay the cost of cleaning services. We must have our offices clean; we must also have our consciences clean. We also have to pay for "paintings and other gifts given on a reciprocal basis to Foreign Diplomatic Missions, and outstanding accounts for 1966." Can we get an indication of how much, out of this amount of \$7,500, is involved in Bank Charges?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply].

The Deputy Chairman: Page 4

EXPENSES FOR PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING OF INFORMATION MATERIAL'

Mr. Lall: I should like to speak on Item 15. The voted provision was \$1,000 and the Government is now asking for an additional provision of \$1,500. The note states: "Increase in the amount of information to be printed and distributed to overseas missions, and also for the payment of an outstanding account for 1965." At the end of 1966 didn't the Government know that there was this outstanding amount to pay? Why didn't the Government estimate for this amount? Why is the Government now asking for this additional amount? What is the amount outstanding for 1965 and how much of this amount is required as an additional provision for this year? What is the Government prepared to do with this amount? [The Prime Minister: "Spend it."] How? To publicise to foreign countries that we are now handing

[MR. LALL]

over a piece of Ankoko to the Venezuelans, or to tell them that our Minister of Finance is over in Brazil — [The Prime Minister: “Brazil?”] — in Venezuela climbing mountains. I should like an explanation from the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister: In so far as the amount for 1965 is concerned, it is \$365 and the amount was not received until during this year. The balance, therefore, of \$1,135 represents additional expenditure for additional publications which have become necessary as a result of demands and interest shown not only by Guyanese abroad but by other persons who are interested in information and news about Guyana.

Stationery and Office Supplies

Mr. Hubbard: I should like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs what I consider to be a very serious situation in regard to stationery in the Police Force. It appears that there is so acute a shortage of note-paper in the Police Department that constables often have to ask people outside the Service to give them a piece of paper to write on, or they have to buy paper out of their own emoluments. At the same time, I am informed that there are large quantities of printed forms of one sort or another which have been in stock for a long time and which are going discoloured with age. If you are short of stationery, at least you can use up those old forms by writing on the back of them, or something like that, so that they are not entirely wasted.

I should like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs to ensure that the Police Department is — [The Prime Minister: “Under which Head are you speaking?”] You are providing \$6,828 for Stationery and Office Supplies. [The Prime Minister: “That is for the Ministry of External Affairs. It is a different set of affairs.”] I think we should look at both.

2.55 p.m.

Contribution to United Nations Organisation

Mr. Ram Karran: There is an interesting item, No. 16, Contribution to the United Nations Organisation. Then we have on the other page, United Nations Local Office. We are contributing this money in United States dollars. I do not know whether we could pay it in Guyanese dollars. [The Prime Minister: “Russia pays it in United States dollars.”]

We pay a large sum in relation to our national income. Would the Government attempt to tell us whether Rhodesian gold has been devalued or there is reduced production as a result of all these killings of Rhodesian patriots? What is the Government doing about Rhodesia? The Government is telling us that it is paying this large sum of money to the United Nations but this Government is not raising the matter in the United Nations. This Government is trying to set up a police state in Anguilla although it cannot get agreement with its colleagues.

The Deputy Chairman: I shall ask you to deal with monetary matters.

Mr. Ram Karran: Unless the Government makes a progressive step on issues in the United Nations, one cannot tolerate this expenditure. It would be useless unless the Government is prepared to denounce Harold Wilson and the British Government in the United Nations about what is happening in Rhodesia. This Government is sending reinforcements to Anguilla. These two matters appear to be the same but this Government's policy in treating them appears to be different. We on this Side of the House and the nation would like to know why we put all this money in the United Nations when our stand in the United Nations is so unproductive. I have heard the representative of Guyana say nothing about the British handling of the Rhodesian question.

These hon. Members had their representative in the United Nations voting with the Latin Americans in the matter of the Arab-Israeli conflict and we read in the newspapers that that aggressive state, we all agree, will not go back to the original line. Israel is now exploiting the Egyptian oilfields in order to stop the Arab blockade which the Arab nations have successfully applied. The only way they can stop it is by using these means, and our Government, which talks of consultative democracy, seems to be sitting here complacently and in agreement with what is taking place in that country. This Government should agree that Israel ought to withdraw to the 1948 line. We on this Side did not express our view in this Parliament.

The Deputy Chairman: I cannot allow you to speak on policy in Committee.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
Cleaning of Attorney-General's Office.

Mr. Ram Karran: With regard to Item 19, do not mind spending \$500 allegedly to meet the increased cost of cleaning and stationery, consequent on the expansion of the Attorney-General's office. The Attorney-General, I imagine, would use more toilet paper in that office judging from his continued absence from this Parliament. He is supposed to appear here and enlighten us. We heard very distinctly and clearly, when the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was introducing the Guyana Citizenship Bill, that the Attorney-General was using all his time going to Jamaica and Trinidad.

The Prime Minister: I protest. We are considering a specific item and this is only a waste of time. I shall ask that the hon. Member be restricted in his comments to the item whether the sum of \$500 is to be approved for the additional cost of cleaning, stationery, etc.

Mr. Ram Karran: What one would have thought about was the sort of extension done to the Attorney-General's Office. I was merely saying that the Attorney-General could hardly be said to be doing anything original. The sum asked for is \$400 less than the voted provision. I do not know the size of the extension, but in comparison with the Attorney-General's Office as it was, the extension is not as large as that. There is some difference unless the Miscellaneous votes have something to do with the heads of the departments. One can understand that in this case because the Attorney-General is the highest paid man in the country – 4,000 plus. I do not know whether the Miscellaneous vote has something to do with this Officer's salary. Is it that there is additional staff? Perhaps the hon. Minister would like to enlighten us.

[The hon. Minister offered no reply.]

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Transport and Travelling

Mr. Lall: Item 22, Head 16 – the voted provision for this item was \$8,100 and the additional now sought is \$500 to meet the increased cost of travelling consequent on the need to have the field staff very active. I want to emphasise the words "very active in order to promote the free flow of information."

I want to know if the last Minister was inactive and that is the reason the field staff was not very active. Is it because there is another Goebbels – he was the Minister of Information in Germany during the war – who will make his fellows very active?

3.05 p.m.

I see no need for this increase because, when this amount was voted, we had in mind that these officers would be active, that they would do their duty. But I want the Minister to tell us now if this is an incentive to give the fellows more pep to go and spread information. There is a lot of

[MR. LALL]

unemployment in this country. I want to know if this is an amount voted as an incentive for these good officers to go and spread false information. Tell us!

The Minister of Information (Mr. Carter): My hon. Friend on the other side wants to find out if the provision is an incentive. I think that the head describes itself. You will see that the amount of money being asked for is for transport and travelling. This is self-explanatory. The second question he has asked is whether the officers in the field are going to spread false information. This is a philosophical problem and one which I do not think we should discuss at the moment because I am sure the hon. Member on the other side will not be able to follow the argument.

Mr. Ally: Supplementary! I should like to know if the Minister could tell us if information pertaining to national events should include the selling of Ankoko –

Mr. Deputy Chairman: On what Head are you speaking?

Mr. Ally: Item No.22, page 5. I should like to know if this is not a national event – Guyana losing the whole of Ankoko?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply].

Mr. Hubbard: The total provision required by the Ministry of Information seems to be \$21,400; \$19,662 as supplementary provision and \$1,738 for what the substantive Minister of Finance would describe as unlawful expenditure. The item that I am particularly concerned about is item No. 26 – increased provision required to meet expenditure in connection with the acceleration of our current publicity campaign on the Development Programme. The Development Programme, so far as I understand from certain statements made by members of the Government, is being modified in certain respects, and I wonder

whether this acceleration of current publicity is to notify the public of particulars concerning the modification of the Development Programme. Is it to explain why the Government is taking \$21½ thousand roughly, to spend on the Information Services when it is cutting down staff from the Ministry of Agriculture? Let us have some explanation on this publicity campaign.

Mr. Carter: It is a well established fact that any Development Programme must rely, to a great extent, on the supply of information to the people who take part in it. The techniques used here are the techniques of words and images, and as you know, this Ministry is a new one and this is a new country.

The point I want to make here, in answer to the hon. Member's question is that we must expand the Information Services if we intend to generate interest, and to make the people aware of what is going on so far as the Development Programme is concerned.

As I said before, this is a new Ministry and it obviously could not have been imagined before what amount of money would have been required for the year. This is not a case of using money just for the sake of using it, but it is a case of using it for providing adequate services for the country.

Mr. Hubbard: I have listened very carefully to the hon. Minister of Information. He has not told us anything at all about the nature of the acceleration of the publicity. The Development Programme is being modified. I asked: "Could you tell us something about this?" I think the person who merits my deep sympathy out of this discourse is the third Deputy Prime Minister who was head of the Information Ministry when it was new, and who apparently, did not know enough about information to frame Estimates that were realistic.

Mr. Lall: I should like to speak on the same item – item No. 26. I should like to know if it is not true that this provision is now being sought before there is dissatisfaction with the second Minister of Information, who is in charge of giving out propaganda from the Ministry?

3.15 p.m.

Who is the person in charge of giving out propaganda from the Ministry? Is it not true that there is some dissatisfaction with the junior partner in the Coalition? The sum of \$6,500 is now being sought for this Ministry and it is logical to believe that when the provision of \$12,000 was sought the Government had in mind that there would be additional propaganda. The members of the Government must have had in mind what was the Development Programme for the year; they must have had in mind what information they wanted to disseminate to the public. Let the Minister tell us if it is not true that this provision is sought to satisfy the Minister of Information for the United Force.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS Security Precautions

Mr. Linde: Under item 29, I should like to know whether another invasion is expected. If not, what is this amount for?

Mr. John: It is for security precautions for the Police Force.

Special Constabulary

Mr. Ram Karran: I notice that the Government is voting \$78,000 for the Special Constabulary. The legend says that it had been proposed to reduce the strength of the Special Constabulary and then it was found necessary to retain a stronger force. What sort of thing is that? Are the members of the Government not going to make up their minds before coming to us? Or is this one of the ruses to cut the votes up at the beginning of the year? It was proposed to

reduce the Special Constabulary, then in the same year, perhaps in the same month, it was decided to retain a stronger force than was originally anticipated.

We are told that the Government wants \$78,000. Surely this requires some sort of explanation. Why did the Government say it would reduce the Constabulary? This is like the bush, rum story.

Mr. John: There was a change of decision and then a number of matters came into play, the number of men to be trained and the fact that training takes much longer than was anticipated. That is responsible for this position. It has been found necessary to retain a stronger force than was anticipated.

Mr. Ram Karran: Is that an explanation? You take in a number of men because others retire or resign. Then you decide to increase the number. What about the people in the Berbice country areas. Cattle rustling is going on; cows are being carried away. The same thing is happening in the Mahaica-Mahaicony area. The people cannot get a single coconut from their trees. What is happening at Bachelor's Adventure? The Prime Minister was there. They asked whether they were going to get drainage and irrigation. He said, "Yes; we are going to arrange it through Enmore Estate". He said those who help themselves, the Lord will help them. They will receive, those who help themselves. What was he referring to? Was he referring to the people who steal? The Government does nothing about it. You can't keep a fowl but the thieves go with it. If you walk in Georgetown, they choke and rob you.

I am not suggesting that the vote should be cut down. Perhaps it should be increased, but let us know. Some people are harrassed by the police. I see that the acting Commissioner of Police is making on the spot promotions. Perhaps the Prime Minister should promote some of his colleagues so that they should do some work. It is a

[MR. RAM KARRAN]

matter of concern to see what is going on and at the same time to have no proper explanation.

The sum of \$8,000 is being spent and are we going to get any assurance from the Minister of Home Affairs that some of these rackets are going to stop? I do not say that these people should be locked up. They need work; they need education. Perhaps some of this money could be spent arranging for proper treatment rather than having them run around Georgetown. Mr. Hari Prashad had to leave Georgetown and live in the suburbs because he was afraid. The very members of the Government are worried.

Mr. John: The hon. Member has talked a lot about those who help themselves. I am sure he misconstrued the statement.

This deals not merely with employment of police. It has a great deal to do with training and changing of attitudes. Some of these are a hang-over from the years of bad Government, 1963 and 1964. I can assure my hon. Friend that we, like everyone else, are concerned about the incidence of crime and the Police Force is trying to do its best in the circumstances. We have to get some assistance from the public. Also, I think that gradually we are going to get over this.

With reference to the Special Constabulary, about which point he made quite a lot of play, I suppose he does recognise that members of the Special Constabulary are used in a number of ancillary duties. They give quite a lot of assistance as escorts and things of that sort. Their usefulness is there. Many of the Special Constabulary are working in the areas in which hon. Members said that police protection is necessary.

Mr. Ram Karran: This is not a hang-over. What is the crime expert, Dr. Jones, saying. This is a clipping from the Government newspaper. [Mr. Bowman: "What paper is that?"] I quote, "Violent Crime up by 40%

25% Hike in Choke 'N Rob; Wounding jumps by 40%". It must be clear to the Government and to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that the problem in this country requires a different sort of treatment to the type that has been given. If the Police Force is increased by 100 per cent it is not going to be helpful. People are not going to be able to behave themselves unless and until employment is available to them. The system the Government has introduced of helping its friends only at the Employment Exchange – I see my friend Mr. Merriman walking out – is a backward and undesirable step. All their friends cannot be helped.

3.25 p.m.

Those of their friends who are not helped, or who are helped partially – that is they get something to do one half-day and the rest of the half-days in the year they get nothing to do – will be forced to crime. Only the stupid ones put an end to their lives. Those who are determined to live – and the majority of mankind, despite the difficulties, are determined to live – will be forced to crime. Dr. Jones tells us very clearly that violent crime has gone up by 40%, wounding jumps by 40% and \$1¼ million has been stolen in property. No wonder my friend has gone to live in Campbellville.

I am appealing to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs not to bother with the philosophy of the Prime Minister. He seems to think that I misinterpreted the Prime Minister. Maybe I did, but those people at Golden Grove whom the hon. Prime Minister told the other day that God help those who help themselves, took words to mean that the Prime Minister does not care a bit about them. The Prime Minister cannot maintain his position as Prime Minister of this country. Some of his colleagues say: "We must have him". The solution to the problems in this country lies in the direction

The Deputy Chairman: I think you have lectured enough on political philosophy.

Mr. Ram Karran: This is a serious matter. You will find it very difficult to walk on the road if this state of affairs continues.

The Deputy Chairman: But the hon. Minister answered you..

Mr. Ram Karran: All right.

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Personal Emoluments**

Mr. Hubbard: Page 7, Item 34. The note states: "To provide for the creation with effect from 1st August 1967 of a post of Supernumerary Chief Agricultural Officer." Now the Minister was good enough to present us very early with the Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1966. I should like to quote from page 70 of that Report under the heading "The Extension Service":

"ORGANISATION

The Extension Division suffered from acute personnel problems. The majority of Agricultural Officers in the districts, even the Principal Agricultural Officer in charge of the Division, held acting appointments, and when the latter officer left on vacation study leave on the 1st August, the duties were assigned to a specialist officer. In early November, the Agricultural Officer, Land Development, went on a short assignment with the F.A.O. outside the country.

At the Field Assistants' level, after various resignations and frequent transfers within the Division and between other Technical Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and the recruitment of seven graduates from the Guyana School of Agriculture, the complement still remained below normal, numerically, as well as in experience, and in facilities and equipment to assist in the bare performance of their functions."

I understand that the Chief Agricultural Officer has been recruited to work in the new corporation — the R.M.B. and the R.D.C. — and having been recruited for this special knowledge, he has just been sent off to acquire that special knowledge. I should like to learn from the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources what the position is in the Extension Division, which I consider is part of any programme to diversify and expand agriculture, and whether he can now report that the staffing position in the Extension Division is better than it was at the end of 1966, the year to which this Report refers.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Mr. Jordan): The Extension Division is in a better position now because we have an officer who is shortly to be appointed and we have two officers who have recently graduated — one has already returned and one will be here shortly. In addition to that we also have two officers who were away on a course. I understand that they will be available at the beginning of the new month.

Mr. Hubbard: Will the Minister say whether the expectations will allow the Division to function effectively in the areas where efficiency is most required?

Mr. Jordan: I expect they will, because we are taking steps to broaden the middle management of the Extension Division. One of the things we have suffered from is that we only had graduate staff without the supporting middle management staff. We are providing that now.

Mr. Hubbard: Is there provision for that in the current Estimates which we passed?

Mr. Jordan: Provision will be made in next year's Estimates.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 8.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Grant to University of Guyana**

Mr. Nunes: Item 44: I should like the Minister to state the item or items that are

[MR. NUNES]

referred to in connection with the increased grant to the University of Guyana. I should also like to make an inquiry. In 1963/1964 the Ministry of Education, through the Ministry of Finance, requested the University to provide a budget statement of the current needs of the University of Guyana. The then Permanent Secretary who is now in this Chamber can confirm that this was done. I know that up to the time we left, there was no satisfactory progress in this matter. I wish to know whether any progress has since been made in getting the University to provide a budget statement of its needs either for the current year or for a period of years. or of five years.

Courses of Teachers

Dealing with Item 46, I wish to say that the Opposition supports the principle of training courses for teachers of infants and would wish to see this current Item in succeeding years.

3.35 p.m.

The Minister of Education (Mrs. Gaskin): As regards the University of Guyana, the \$36,000 set down here is to provide for the establishment of the Department of Education which came into being this year and which is at this moment embarking on its first course. It is also to provide for the expenses that result from a fifty per cent increase in the enrolment at the University.

On the subject of budgeting, I wish to inform the hon. Member that we have taken pains to place the University on a budget from the 1967 period onwards.

As regards Item 46, I am happy to find that there is some area in the Ministry of Education with which he could find agreement. May I say that it is the intention of the Government to continue training.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Post Offices — Lighting

Mr. Ram Karran: I notice that the sum of \$16,625 is required to meet increased charges due to the extension of the rural electrification scheme. I presume that every post office in the country is now lit by electricity, but are there more post offices in the rural areas today than at the beginning of the year, having regard to the fact that \$13,000 was asked for at the beginning of the year? Assuming that the annual requirement for the last year was around \$13,000, this means that more post offices should now be lit by electricity.

How many are being lit and if it cost \$16,625, I assume the cost of kerosene and any other type of lighting is deducted. It seems to me that the Government is asking for double the amount of \$13,000 originally voted and this is for additional post offices. How many post offices? If there are forty or fifty post offices in Georgetown, are there three times that number in the new zones?

The Minister of Communications (Mr. Correia) In the past, all the post offices in the rural areas were lit by small lighting plants erected by the Telecommunications Department and the full charge came under that Head of lighting. Since the rural areas have been electrified, post offices in those areas have been wired and connected, hence the increased cost and the need for this supplementary amount.

Mr. Ram Karran: What I was trying to get was this. Does this sum of \$16,625 represent a light bill, to put it crudely? Electricity is supplied on the East Coast, on the West Coast, West Coast Berbice and perhaps in some parts of Essequibo. Has electricity overtaken such a large number of post offices in these areas to warrant a double of the original vote? I cannot imagine that there are post offices now w being supplied. In 1965, there was electricity right up to Belfield or Ann's Grove, and on the

West Coast and in Essequibo. Will the hon. Minister say how many more post offices have been supplied?

Mr. Correia: I am not in a position to say how many more post offices have been wired. The increased cost is for lighting rural post offices.

Mr. Hubbard: I should like to assist my hon. Friend Mr. Correia. We have a total of \$29,000 to pay for the cost of lighting post offices throughout the country, and when these Estimates, which the hon. Minister of Finance (substantive) presented, were prepared, the post offices on the West Bank and the West Coast were already getting or due to get electricity from the Corporation. The only area that is new, is the West Coast Berbice area now being serviced, and this, I would expect, would have been taken into account when they were preparing the estimates because they would have known beforehand, that the Electricity Corporation would have been supplying in the area.

If we take this \$29,000 and say that twenty-nine post offices are concerned, we get a total bill for twenty-nine post offices of \$1,000 a year or roughly \$80 a month. If we double it and we get fifty-eight post offices, it would be \$40 a month for electricity. Even at that, it is a very costly figure for lighting post offices. Perhaps the hon. Minister would do a quick calculation.

3.45 p.m.

Mr. Correia: If the questions are put in writing I will answer them.

Mr. Ram Karran: I will put a long question to my friend the Minister of Communications and I hope that it will not find its way to the waste-paper basket as so many other questions have done. Item 27. I merely want to ask a question of the hon. Minister of Works and Hydraulics.

The Deputy Chairman: When did we recommit item No. 27?

**MINISTRY OF WORKS & HYDRAULICS
– ESTABLISHMENT
Personal Emoluments**

Mr. Ram Karran: I am sorry. Item No. 41. Where is this Plant? [The Prime Minister: "Atkinson."] The Prime Minister knows more than the Minister

Annually Recurrent – Roads

I wish to deal with item No. 42 as I am on my feet. This is a very bold explanation. The hon. Minister is asking for \$100,000, thanks be to God; his predecessor had asked for a million and we know the fate of that million. Wages are the same, as far as I am aware. Retrenchments are the order of the day. What is the reason for this?

The Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Singh): I am sure my friends on the other side would be naive if they were not to admit that for this year the rains have been very heavy and very protracted. During this period maintenance of the roads had to be intensified in order to make these roads passable. It is also true to say that the technical staff – the expert people – had to be kept on the payroll while, in fact, they were not producing. All these things would account for the increased cost of maintenance.

But this sum is particularly referable to the Essequibo Road, the stretch between Anna Regina and Charity. This stretch is very bad. It has deteriorated during the last rainy season, and the sum of \$100,000 will be used to improve this road so that when the next rainy season comes along, it would, in fact, be passable.

My friend on the other side talks about 'so many' things being the same and about there being no increase. But I should like to point out to him that in 1964 the amount of money that they voted for maintenance was \$1,890,346, whereas in the 1967 Estimates

[MR. M. F. SINGH]

it is reflected as \$1,400,000. We are asking for this extra hundred thousand dollars principally for that at Anna Regina.

Mr. Ram Karran: May I compliment the hon. Minister of Works and Hydraulics for observing the amount that was voted in 1964. But I wish to inform the Minister that larger sums have, in fact, been voted prior to that year. There were improvements on the East Coast Road and elsewhere, and the cost came out of maintenance rather than additional.

The Minister wants the Essequibo Road to be merely passable when the next rainy season comes. Perhaps we will have to live with that standard for some time to come, or the Minister will probably wake up and realise that the people in Essequibo and elsewhere want good roads. But what has the sum for additional watchmen got to do with rainfall?

Mr. Hubbard: I wish to refer to a remark made by the hon. Minister of Works and Hydraulics. He told us that contributory to the requirement for this extra hundred thousand dollars was the fact that the experts, the personnel who are supervising, the engineers, had to be maintained in their offices while no work was being done on the roads due to the heavy rainfall. I am sure that if the Minister thought before he spoke, he would have realised that the experts are paid out of a different Head. He is new and he has considerable battery of circumlocution officers behind him. They should have sent him –

Mr. Singh: I need no battery of gentlemen to advise me that the English Language is a simple thing. I am surprised that my hon. Friend does not appreciate that we cannot retrench, for example, an operator of the Woods machine and allow him to go to

McCormick or some other firm to get work. We cannot allow the technical staff to go, we have got to keep them.

Mr. Chandisingh: I should like to inquire from the hon. Minister whether the hundred thousand dollars makes provision for the maintenance of the roads in Black Bush Polder. I made the observation only about a week ago that some of the holes were being filled with burnt earth and sand. The road has deteriorated and has become almost impassable. Right now there are many big holes in certain spots in the Polder, and it would make a great difference if some effort is made to fill those holes. I should like the Minister to give us the assurance, if he can, that some of this money will be used to continue what little work I have seen being done in that area.

Mr. Singh: Temporary maintenance work is being done on this road, but I am happy to announce to the hon. Member that later on in the supplementary provisions, when we come to the Capital Head, it will be noted that it is anticipated next year to resurface completely the roads in Black Bush Polder. In the meantime, the usual maintenance work will be carried out.

The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. Jagan) I noticed, on reading the organ of the P.N.C. that there was a great deal of corruption taking place in the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics. I would therefore, attempt to ask how much of this money which is being voted is to meet losses due to corruption and not to satisfy the needs of the people?

3.55 p.m.

What investigations have been carried out by the Minister, personally, to deal with this question of corruption in the Public Works Department in the Ministry of Works and Hydraulics? What investigations have been

carried out by the Minister of Works and Hydraulics personally on this question of corruption in his Ministry.

The Minister (Mr. Singh) did say something on the Essequibo Road, which is a matter I want to raise. I feel somewhat sorry for him because his colleagues on one side of the Government are attacking him. I was told only this morning that on his recent visit to Pomeroon and Charity he threatened to resign. He told the people in that district that he was mad about the road. He said, "I came from Cameron and Shepherd and I can go back. I don't have to have this job."

Prime Minister: "What question are you asking? We are a little bit happy to hear that. The "Pomeroonians" will now know that something will be done. The excuse was always given that the past Government was responsible for this kind of thing. I heard the other day that when members of the Government were giving this excuse, somebody said that the past Government introduced an air service to the Pomeroon district which is no longer carried on. There should be no excuses; he should get down to the business of doing what is necessary to be done so that those of us who have to travel on the roads and not by air, meet the people can conveniently do so.

The Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Singh): I should like to clarify this point, the question of propagating erroneous information. I am amazed at the fact that so often erroneous information is propagated in this House. The purpose of my last visit was to inspect the road. I inspected the road; I came out of the vehicle and looked at it. Then I proceeded along the river. I should like my hon. Friend (Dr. Jagan) to tell us of the cases of corruption which he so broadly alleged.

Dr. Jagan: I did not allege it; the P.N.C. General Secretary did.

Mr. Hubbard: We must draw the conclusion from the Minister's silence that he has made no personal investigation of the charges of corruption, which have been alleged.

Dr. Jagan: I hope that the charges are not directed against the Minister himself.

Assembly resumed.

Sitting suspended at 4 p.m.

On resumption —

Assembly in Committee.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Members, let us conclude the discussion on page 9.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Post of Psychiatrist

Mr. Chandisingh: Under item 49 I notice that another post of Psychiatrist is being created. The Government already has, I presume, two other Psychiatrists. I should like to know why it is that for some time now there has been no qualified medical superintendent stationed at the Mental Hospital. Why is it that two Psychiatrists who are employed by Government only visit the Mental Hospital twice a week? Does the Government believe that these very brief periodic visits, that last a couple of hours at the most, are sufficient to take care of the cases at that hospital?

It is surprising that this institution, which caters for several hundreds of mental patients, has not on its staff a competent Psychiatrist or Medical Superintendent. Now there is not even a doctor in the institution. My information is that the position is very serious. The hospital staff and the public are complaining bitterly over the absence of a doctor at one of the largest medical institutions in the country.

The Minister of Health and Housing (Mr. Kendall): After the resignation of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Chandra, it was decided to have a new approach to mental health. People are treated in Georgetown

[MR. KENDALL]

instead of being sent to New Amsterdam, so that the population remains static. We are carrying out this exercise and have two Psychiatrists at the Georgetown Hospital.

In order to have better supervision of the patients the attendants will be trained by the Psychiatrists and the nation.

Mr. Chandisingh: On a point made by the Minister with respect to the proposal to subdivide the ward, I understand this has been causing some dissatisfaction among the staff. Is the Minister saying that, on the basis of new mental health findings, this is a new policy, arrived at by the Government, not to have in residence at the Mental Hospital a qualified doctor, or is this merely a short-term expedient because of the absence of some qualified person? If it is the latter, what prevents the Government from sending one of the existing Psychiatrists to live at the Institution and to take care of these cases?

I should like to know whether this is just an expedient devised because the Government is unable or unwilling to place one of the two Psychiatrists at the Mental Hospital? Is there some conflict with the persons concerned?

4.45. p.m.

Mr. Kendall: To my knowledge there is no conflict. When Dr. Panday left – and that was about a month or two ago – there was also need for a doctor. We are attempting new approach to mental health and with the advance in mental science there is no need to have the type of exercise which existed previously.

Mr. Chandisingh: The comment I should like to make on that is that perhaps we should expect that, with the new mental science or medical science which the Government is foisting upon us, several medical institutions in Guyana will be without doctors. At present the Mental Hospital with several hundred patients is without a doctor; the Leprosy Hospital at

Mahaica is without a qualified doctor and the Leguan Hospital is without a doctor. I congratulate the Minister on discovering new techniques in science to cure people without doctors.

Mr. Kendall: I can assure the hon. Member that within a week Dr. Musaphir will be stationed at Leguan. There is a Phillipino at Mahaica, a bone surgeon, who is doing a marvellous job there. I think it is a credit to this country to have such a doctor there.

Mr. Hubbard: I had occasion to compliment the Ministry of Finance on its dexterity in the use of abracadabra. It seems to me that I must extend a similar compliment to the Ministry of Health.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 10

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Public Utility Undertaking and

Public Health Services

Arbitration Ordinance Expenses

Mr. Lall: Item 54: I notice that an additional provision of \$8,000 is now being sought: "To meet expenses of the Arbitration Tribunal set up under the Public Utility and Public Health Ordinance No. 44 of 1956 re dispute between Guyana Electricity Corporation and the M.P.C.A." I should like to ask what purpose this Tribunal will serve when Government already took a decision to have a wage freeze at the Corporation for two years. Further, I should like to know how much of this \$8,000 will be expended as cost for that Tribunal to inquire into this dispute. I should also like to know if it is a one-man Tribunal or whether the Government is going to bring foreigners again, like those it brought for the high-powered Commission. Let the Minister answer what amount of this money would be expended, since the voted

provision for 1967 was \$300. Now we are being asked to provide \$8,000.

Mr. Merriman: My friend who is an experienced trade unionist ought to know that this is a statutory tribunal which is set up, as the legend states, under the Public Utility and Public Health Ordinance No. 44 of 1956. If he was familiar with that Ordinance he would be aware of the nature of the composition: a Chairman, a member for the employers' panel and a member for the workers' panel. This has been in operation since 1956. We are just invoking what is really there. The previous Government never used the machinery which was set up and very small provisions were made. The sum of \$300 is just a token amount. This Tribunal started in June and it is a continuing exercise. We have had about 20 sessions and they are not included here. Therefore, this sum is to take care of these specific cases. This is one area over which we have no control because it is a statutory judicial exercise.

Mr. Hubbard: Would the Minister be kind enough to indicate what remuneration is paid to the members of the Tribunal? How much does the Chairman get? How much does the employers' representative get? How much does the workers' representative get? I should also like to know whether the official who serves the Tribunal as a secretary is provided with additional remuneration for his services, seeing that most of the sittings occur outside of the normal working hours. We would like to get some idea of how much it is costing us per session.

I should also like to ask the hon. Minister to bear in mind, when considering the Arbitration Tribunal which he is going to come up with later on, the kind of machine that emerges when you put disputes to arbitration. An arbitration matter started in June is not completed until the end of August, so that if we are going to take three months on every issue that goes before the

Tribunal, then we are going to get very little arbitration. Indeed, we are going to have not a two-year wage freeze as is being imposed on the workers at the Electricity Corporation, but we are going to have one for a much longer period.

Mr. Merriman: I would not comment on the last statement because it would be a waste of time. I can only, for the benefit of my friend, quote Section 8 of the Ordinance to which I referred:

"8. The Governor shall appoint a secretary to the Tribunal and such other officers and servants of the Tribunal as he may consider necessary for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as he may determine."

This has already been determined and I think it was facetious to ask what was the general composition. [Interruption by the hon. Member Mr. Hubbard.] Shut up and let me talk!

4.55 p.m.

I was saying that the tribunal was set up under this Ordinance and it can easily be translated to say this is the amount charged. No sensible person would have asked the question. There is nothing extraordinary about this.

Mr. Hubbard: The Minister does not know and cannot answer.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE Expenses of Commissions

Mr. Harry Lall: I have seen that the voted provision under Item 56 Head 61 was \$25,000. An amount of \$4,000 has been advanced to this Head to meet expenses incurred in investigating the profitability of the sugar industry. The ratepayers have to pay \$65,000 to conserve the profits of the imperialists. Would the Minister tell us how much this commission will cost the people of Guyana?

[The hon. Minister offered no reply]

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Conveyance of sick persons from
Interior to Hospital

Mr. Stoby: I should like to know whether the provision voted for transportation of sick persons was for the Rupununi area or the North West.

I have observed that in the North West, the dispenser has put aside his boat and engine and he hires private boats which cost about \$2,000. In the 1967 estimates, no provision was made for such expenditure and I believe that this amount of \$20,000 is intended to pay off those expenses.

Mr. Kendall: The voted provision proved inadequate owing to the unanticipated increase in the number of sick persons to be conveyed from the Interior to the Georgetown Hospital.

Mr. Stoby: In the statement of excess and additional covering provision required, Item 3 Head 52 shows the same \$20,000. The hon. Minister has not identified those as the same persons who had to be conveyed.

[The hon. Minister offered no reply].

Mr. Lall: I should like to repeat my question to the hon. Minister.

Dr. Reid: As the legend explains, several conferences were held in the country and consequently provision was inadequate, but the specific question concerning the commission to enquire into the sugar industry, we are happy to inform our friends on the other side that the allocation for that commission is \$65,000.

Mr. Lall: What would be the purpose of this commission when the Prime Minister and the Government have the final say? I should like to know whether it is not a waste of the tax-payers' money to appoint a commission like this when the Government and the Prime Minister have the last say.

[The Prime Minister: "All over the world when there are commissions of enquiry, the Government has the final say because the Government has to be advised."]

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Refunds of Revenue

Mr. Hubbard: I wonder whether the Minister of Finance would be helpful under Item 59. We can appreciate what the legend says is correct. The Government cannot always anticipate the correct sums which it will be called upon to pay, but I wonder if the Minister can indicate to us some of the revenue departments which are involved in this particular item.

Dr. Reid: My hon Friend will agree that this unpredictable additional provision is mainly for agriculture.

Mr. Hubbard: Are they refunds of the duties that they pay or what particular items are they under?

Dr. Reid: It has to do with land..

Mr. Ram Karran: Under this same Head should be included amounts mainly to casual workers whose tax deductions are made, in the case of sugar workers, not on the calculations suggested by the Commissioner of Income Tax, but on a shorter period, as a result of which large sums of money are deducted from their wage packets and sent to the Commissioner of Inland Revenue.

A large number of people cannot get their refunds because the Commissioner of Inland Revenue is not in a position to pay. If this amount has something to do with that, some people could expect payment.

I wonder whether the Government would consider the advisability of putting the names of the people in the newspapers so that they could submit their claims at the end of the year or early next year so that the amount deducted could be refunded to them.
5.05 p.m.

The pawnbrokers are required to make such a statement and I cannot see why

the Government should be an exception, especially since this affects people who are mainly seasonal workers.

In the case of ordinary regular workers, the sums deducted bear some relation to their annual income, but in the case of the casual workers, their deductions are anticipated on their annual pay. I am sure that the Minister will advise his colleagues that such a notice is published at the end of the year by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue, without all the fuss that is going on at the moment. You can go to the income tax office and see literally hundreds of people storming the place, trying to get what is really theirs.

Dr. Reid: I said before that it has nothing whatever to do with income tax.

Mr. Ram Karran: I merely want to know

The Deputy Chairman: You cannot go back. You have had your answer.

Customs and Excise - Revenue Protection Manufacture of Bush Rum

Mr. Lall: Item No. 62. If I remember correctly, an increased provision of \$60,000 was sought last year. This year the voted provision is \$40,000. The Government was saying that on account of the success of last year's operation, it saw it fit to reduce this provision to \$40,000 this year. Now members of the Government have come here to ask us for \$80,000 of the taxpayers' money to suppress the manufacture of bush rum. I am very sorry that the Minister of Finance is not in his Chair, but I would ask the hon. Minister of Trade if he does not think it is unwise to expend this sum on people who are already provided with jobs. For those jobless people who are barely eking out a living legally or illegally, provision is now sought to suppress the manufacture of bush rum. These people have

gone in the jungle where there are snakes and tigers to risk their lives to eke out a living. The Minister should have voted this amount to open new avenue of employment whereby the workers or those unemployed people could have got some jobs to feed themselves and their children. I would advise the hon. Minister of Finance - maybe he has shares now because Banks and "XM" have merged - to withdraw this request for \$80,000 in the interest of the unemployed people of Guyana.

Dr. Reid: I would merely say that I am surprised to hear what the hon. Member has just said. But from that side of the House we get no real surprise. I am more distressed at hearing support of the illegal exercise and activity in this country. It might have been all right to do it at the street corners, but it is a little distressing to hear support of an illegal activity in this hon. House.

We thought that with the exercise that was carried on last year people would have ceased to engage in this illegal activity. Perhaps, it is because we have Members of that type in this House that it is a little difficult for our community to adhere to law and order, and hence, we find it necessary to ask for an additional provision so that we can maintain the rate of prevention that we maintained last year. During 1966, 515 stills were destroyed, and 37,370 gallons of wash destroyed. There were 532 court cases and the fines amounted to \$84,700. I hope my friend does not associate himself with this type of activity.

Mr. Lall: For the information of the hon. Minister, the Police Force was increased, the Choke-and-Rob Squad was in Georgetown, but what happened? We have a greater increase in crime now than we have ever had before. This is what I am trying to tell the Minister. We have this increase in crime because of unemployment. You said that you employ 10,000 but you did not employ 1,000 so you have to seek the cure. The Chief

[MR. LALL]

Justice said the other day that soon we would not have place in the goal for choke and rob offenders. These boys don't want to do this type of job if you can provide other jobs for them. This is what I am trying to tell the Minister. The provision should be utilised in another direction to create employment.

5.15 p.m.

These boys don't want to do this type of job if you can provide other jobs for them. This is what I am trying to tell the Minister. This provision should be utilised in another direction to create employment.

Dr. Jagan: I should like to assure the hon. Minister that we are not giving support to this, nor do we condone it, but from the figures which the hon. Minister gave just now it is clear that this is a major industry. At least the people are showing more initiative than the Government in establishing industries in the country! Let us hope that the members of the Government will not only use measures mainly for suppression and thus wasting taxpayers money. They are in the seats of Government now; they must initiate things; nobody can stop them now. They have power. Where are the industries? Where are the places where people can get jobs? Now, people are making bush rum, they are making guns; soon we will hear they are making other things.

The Government must be careful not to spend more and more money on suppression. Prevention must start at the bottom and the Government must initiate things. All over the country, no matter where one goes, there is this big problem of unemployment. Farmers cannot get good prices for their produce. They cannot get guaranteed minimum prices. Look at the vote for this year! How much was cut out from the vote for irrigation? How much was cut from bonuses? How much from other things that could initiate development? What

should be done to prevent these people from producing bush rum? As one hon. Member said, you are spending more money and you are never going to catch them. The more you catch, the more you will have.

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE —
ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
Expenses of Officers on Transfer,
First Appointment and Termination
of Service.**

Mr. Ram Karran: I wonder if I can speak on item 60, Expenses of officers on transfer, first appointment and termination of service \$80,000, the same amount to be voted for the suppression of bush rum. The original provision was \$30,000 and according to the legend this amount proved "inadequate owing to an increase in the recruitment of officers". I wonder if the Minister would indicate to us how many officers were recruited. Inasmuch as some of this \$110,000 has been allocated for the transfer of officers and termination of service, let him say how much is for recruitment. I am speaking on item 60, sub-head 20 on page 11. I charge the substantive Minister of Finance for trying to fool the Assembly when these figures were originally submitted. *[Interruptions.]*

The Deputy Chairman: Speak on.

Mr. Ram Karran: How many men were recruited? When a man is recruited from the United Kingdom I think you would pay his passage and you would pay passages for his wife and children. I think you would pay passages for as many as three children. \$80,000 in addition to \$30,000 is a lot of money, and \$50,000 of this has already been advanced from the Contingencies Fund. Who are these people? Are they Guyanese? Have you brought them from the United Kingdom or from Wismar? Will the Minister give us an indication of how many officers have come?

Dr. Reid: Several officers were recruited from overseas. I am not in a position to name the places from which they were recruited. The Public Service Commission is responsible for this type of recruitment and will doubtless have a record of the territories from which these officers came.

Mr. Ram Karran: This is not unlike the bush rum situation where a negative attitude is taken. The history of our country is written in the Estimates. A fully qualified officer is appointed to the G.D.C. He is driven out to make room for one of the pets of the Government who has no experience whatever. I have no doubt that all these people are given assisted passages to come down here to replace Guyanese officers. The policy of the Government, insofar as recruitment and dismissal are concerned, ought to be gone into to ensure that money is not wasted as it now is.

At the beginning of the year when these original figures were submitted we made the observation that the Government was deliberately putting down small amounts. Even though it is not easy to anticipate the amount required, we see the original amount was \$30,000 and the additional provision is \$80,000. It seems to me that, in addition to that deliberate miscalculation, the Government is driving out Guyanese. The Government ought to be very careful. Guyanese people are not going to accept this for long.

The Deputy Chairman: All right, leave it to the Guyanese people

Mr. Ram Karran: I represent a large section of the Guyanese people in here. The hon. Minister has told us that several persons were recruited from overseas and, as a result, this large sum of money, \$80,000, was spent to bring them here. If Guyanese are coming back, they should come back and be recruited from Guyana. The Government recruited Abrams and all its friends from

abroad and spent the poor taxpayers' money.

Dr. Jagan: The Government is treating this matter lightly. These figures tell a very serious tale. Clearly something is wrong. The Government estimated \$30,000 which would indicate the normal ebb and flow of recruitment, people leaving and people coming in. If in addition to that normal expenditure, \$80,000 has to be voted now, then clearly something is very seriously and radically wrong with what is going on. *[Interruption..]* The Prime Minister is just being flippant in this House. He would make this Assembly become a farce. Let us be serious for a change. Surely the Government must have explanation for the Assembly, and for the nation. Why must there be a tremendous turnover?

Is it that people are leaving because they are fed up, or because of discrimination, or because they are dissatisfied with salaries? Let us know; perhaps we may be able to help. While talking to the Chairman of the Public Service Commission I gathered that he is fed up. He has put up recommendations to the Government but he has heard nothing. The Government must tell us the reason why it has done nothing. It should take us into its confidence so that we can appreciate the problems which it is confronted with. We can appreciate the problems but the Government is running the place as if it is a fowl coop.

These figures tell a very sad story and the Government is merely being flippant by not trying to answer what is denoted in these figures. We deserve an answer. Why is there this big turnover? How many persons have left the Service this year? Surely, the Government must have the figures. Ask for them and let us have them.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 12

Dr. Jagan: I thought the hon. Minister would have answered.

The Deputy Chairman: The Minister has already spoken. Do you desire to say anything more, hon. Minister?

Dr. Reid: I have already answered.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 12.

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE –
PENSIONS AND GRATUITIES**

Gratuities to Non-Pensionable Officers' etc.

Mr. Ram Karran: Item 63: Here again the amount voted for this year was \$100,000. The approved estimate for last year was \$100,000, and the revised estimate was \$120,000. Surely, having regard to the size of the vote through the years 1964, 1965 and 1966, the Government should have anticipated that it would have been more than \$100,000. The Public Service Commission would know in advance how many people are going into retirement. This is not a question of recruitment. If officers want to get gratuity they cannot retire before they are 50 years, unless a special Resolution is passed, or unless they become medically unfit, or unless they are inefficient. Even then the vote could not be influenced by as much as \$40,000. I repeat that these Estimates were made to make a tom-cat of this National Assembly.

**Pension contribution to seconded
officers**

The same applies to Item 64 – Pension contribution to seconded officers. When you employ somebody from the United Kingdom who I think comes under this National Health Scheme, you have all the information necessary. Do you mean to say that you employ an officer and then you find out a year after that he is employed, or that he enjoys the facilities of the National Health Scheme? The members of this Government are not doing their homework. They are gallivanting all over the place telling the people all sorts of ridiculous

stories. I do not blame the civil servants; it is these hon. Gentlemen who are not doing their homework.

We do not mind coming back and voting additional provisions when they are necessary. In fact, many people are held up but we see things that are wrong. The hon. Minister wants me to call the names but I am not in the mood for that. There is one man who received \$10,000 house allowance, allegedly because he was entitled to a house allowance. The Ministry raised hell about this but the Prime Minister or his satellites said that he must get it. This is the sort of thing that goes on in the Government. [**The Prime Minister:** "Who is this?"]

Dr. Reid: I thought the hon. Member would have known that gratuities to non-pensionable officers cannot be adequately provided for in the provision because these non-pensionable officers come off at any time and they get gratuity according to their years of service. It is not like the pensionable officers who must retire at the age of 55 or 60 years. Non-pensionable officers can come off at the age of 40 years, so the Ministry of Finance pays them whenever they qualify for gratuity. That is the explanation to that.

Item 64 is an entirely different matter. You cannot assess this correctly unless the necessary information is received.

**Gratuities to non-Pensionable
Officers**

Dr. Jagan: I should like to speak on Item 63 – Gratuities to Non-pensionable Officers etc. Am I to understand that this relates to people who work in the Public Works Department on Sea Defences and so on and who get gratuity if they work for seven or eight consecutive years? I wonder whether this is the category which this Item relates to. It seems then that these figures tell another tale because, normally, there would

have been a certain amount of persons, which the Government estimated for, leaving the service in one year. The Government made an estimate of \$100,000 but, having got rid of so many people, it had to come back for an additional provision of \$50,000 because it had to pay pensions and gratuities long in advance of the anticipated time when those persons would have left the service.

I should like to know whether this additional provision of \$50,000 has become necessary because of the retrenchment of about 1,000 persons within the last year. Let us hear what is the explanation: it would be a good thing, on these occasions, for the Minister to get up and give an explanation before we speak. We do not want to hear our voices. Let us hear what he has to say and, if necessary, we will say something. We have to ask, dig and attack, and even then we do not get answers.

The Deputy Chairman: I wonder if I can draw your attention to the fact that pages 12, 13 and 14 must be regarded as one page because each page is a follow-up on the previous one. When you are finished with page 12 you are finished with pages 13 and 14. Hon. Member, are you finished with pages 12, 13 and 14?

Dr. Jagan: No, sir.

The Deputy Chairman: Go ahead

PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY **Training of Civil Servants**

Mr. Ram Karran: Item 67 – Training of Civil Servants. What sort of training is this? The legend does not tell us what it is. How are you going to train civil servants with \$3,000? Nothing was provided originally except, I believe, what was provided in the vote which was handled by the Public Service Commission. What sort of training is this? Is it mental training, or training in making ammunition and so on? Provision is

being transferred from Head 37 – Ministry of Education – and Head 60 – Ministry of Finance. All along training of civil servants came under Mr. McDavid, the training officer at the Ministry of Education. I do not understand all these tortuous paths through which the Government is taking us.

When did the transfer take place? There was no proper explanation by the Minister in spite of these days of consultative democracy, in spite of the releases in the newspapers. I do not see anything about training. I wish to know whether \$3,000 for the training of civil servants minus \$500 for travelling is a transfer.

The Prime Minister: The legend reads that this is a transfer from Head 37, the Ministry of Education. The Public Service Ministry is new. We are transferring the balance of the particular votes that came under a different Ministry. The hon. Member must check the required provision with the relevant Head of Education which was responsible for training. The Public Service Ministry was set up in July. There was a balance of \$3,000 at that date and this is for in-service training.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Members will now go on to Section 'B' "Capital Estimates".

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS **Demerara Ferry Terminals**

Mr. Ram Karran: May I ask whether it is correct to show Transport and Harbours Department, which has a separately written section, under the Ministry of Communications? I refer to Item 7, Section 'B'. It may have been in the Estimates.

The Prime Minister: It has never been so. The Capital Estimates come under the respective Ministries responsible for the departments. For instance the Capital Estimates of the Guyana Development

[MR. BURNHAM]

Corporation would come under a Ministry and not under a Corporation.

Purchase of Equipment

Mr. Hubbard: The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources seems to be very persuasive. He has managed to get into the Capital Estimates, the sum of \$3,300 to enable the purchase of two boats and three engines for the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

At the same time, I understand the Minister of Health has not succeeded in proceeding to put on the Capital Estimates for the Ministry of Health, any provision for boats which are very badly needed, particularly in the Moruka district where the hon. Minister of Works and Hydraulics and the hon. Minister of Local Government have been looking after their particular wards through gift parcels administered by individuals and organisations.

I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Natural Resources whether he would assist the Ministry of Health, by permitting its officers to use these vessels when emergencies arise.

The other day, black tears fell over some person who fell ill and died before he reached the Charity Hospital. There was the Suddie Hospital but there were no means of transportation.

I should imagine the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Works and Hydraulics together would have been able to receive some help in the Estimates for emergencies.

The Minister of Local Government (Mr. Cheeks): I rise just to explain to the hon. Member Item 5. The land rover and the cabin cruiser will provide transportation when it is needed. The cabin cruiser is in the Moruka itself.

Aided Self-help Projects

Mr. Lall: Item 1 – I notice that voted provision for aided self-help projects was \$80,000, which is very helpful. There is additional provision now sought in the sum of \$50,000 to provide assistance for additional projects. This is very commendable on the part of the Government, but I should like to know where these projects are located and what are the additional projects the Government has in mind.

The Prime Minister: These projects are located all over the country like Blairmont, Strathspey, Grass Hook, Zorg-en-Vlygt, Enmore, Covent Garden, Noitgedacht, Bush Lot, Bath No.2, Letter Kenny, Port Mourant, to name only a few.

5.45 p.m.

Mr. Lall: We do not want to hear about Port Mourant and Letter Kenny. We want to know what projects this money will be allocated to.

The Prime Minister: Kokers, bridges, schools, community centres, roads, co-op farms, health centres.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

**Development Programme –
Publishing and Publicising**

Dr. Jagan: Under this Head – Ministry of Information – an additional provision of \$24,850 is now sought, whereas the voted provision was only \$5,000. It is stated in the legend that this is to provide for increased publicity in connection with the Development Programme. I understood that we were dealing with a Capital Budget. I should like to know from the Minister what piece of equipment this money was intended to buy? Or it is just intended to buy extra duplicating paper? The legend seems to indicate that it is more paper. If it is more paper, surely it should go in the Recurrent

Budget! We know that the Government likes to juggle capital and recurrent so as to make it appear that the Budget is balanced. While the money is to be spent on development, we are not getting development but pure propaganda.

I should like the Minister to tell us what this money is to be spent on. Is it going to be spent on capital equipment or just on paper? Or is it going to be used to pay consultants like Mr. Nascimento big salaries? Mr. Nascimento is now paid \$800 a month. He is paid more than the most expert person in the department, a person whom, I understand, was trained in the United States at the same college that Mr. Nascimento went to, and who got a teaching job at the institution because he was better qualified. Mr. Nascimento was manager of the *Daily Chronicle* but when it folded up, because he was a member of the United Force, a place had to be found for him. He is given a travelling allowance of something like \$120 to go from his home to his office. This is a disgrace! And if all of this is added to arrive at this sum, then the country should rebel against this. This is a racket that is going on! This is not capital expenditure, this is a political racket! It is time that the people start 'raising hell' in this country! I ask the Minister not to give us a philosophic answer, this is material.

Mr. Carter: I will answer the last question first. You claimed that the sum of \$24,000 will be used to pay salaries. This is not true. Secondly, I should point out that in the Development Programme as originally conceived, the sum of \$60,000 was allocated to this Ministry. This was never used but was put under the Ministry of Economic Development. [Mr. Ram Karran: "That was for the whole seven years."] Yes. The money we have asked for is to provide brochures and explanatory material which would serve to inform and to inspire the

people who take part in this Programme of Development.

Dr. Jagan: Clearly, from what the Minister said, this should go into the recurrent programme, this is not development. It does not mean that because something is going to publicise development, it is development. When we talk about development, we want something concrete something which can contribute to the gross domestic product or the national income of the country. This is something to throw away – paper. This expenditure should go in the Recurrent Budget. The Government can spend all the money it wants on information, but put it in the right place. Do not fool the people. Put it in the right place so that at the end of the year the public will know how bankrupt this country is. When you have a deficit do not hide it as you did earlier this year in the Budget by taking grants from the United Kingdom and elsewhere, and putting them in recurrent expenditure when they should have gone to development. You are now taking recurrent expenditure and putting it to development.

5.55 p.m.

I said that money given as a grant or grants for the purpose of development – to buy and produce tangible things – was allocated to the Recurrent Budget. [The Prime Minister: "Which grant are you talking about?"] It was in your Budget Statement for this year. The point I want to make is that the income was inflated and, therefore, the balance which was shown was not a real balance. In other words, what was shown in the Budget as a small surplus should really have been quite a big deficit. If this and other expenditures such as this, had gone to the Recurrent Budget, they would have shown a bigger deficit. But *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* cannot say Guyana is doing well if there is a deficit in Budget.

3
[MR. JAGAN]

5.55 p.m.

The Minister of Information has made a clear statement. I think that the officers who know about this — I know that they are sometimes told what to do about such information — should take it back to the right place. That is all I am saying.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Hubbard: I am interested in item 6.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

Demerara Ferry Terminals

Mr. Ram Karran: I wonder if I can ask the hon. Minister of Communications when the Demerara Ferry Terminals will be completed. We have here a vote for \$50,000 in addition to \$75,000 provided originally. Will the Terminals be completed this year?

The Minister of Communications: (Mr. Correia): This amount will not complete the Demerara Ferry Terminals.

Mr. Ram Karran: What amount will complete the Terminals?

Mr. Correia: I cannot say.

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Development Programme — Publishing and Publicising

Dr. Jagan: I wonder if I can come back to the item dealing with publicity. I should like to ask the Minister whether the sum being asked for is likely to be the sum needed for the whole year. I am concerned about this. We have now created a Ministry of Information and no Minister wants to administer a Ministry that has no money.

I should like to say that once you set up a Ministry, expenditure automatically will grow. This country is too poor to waste a lot of money on information services. We saw this during the time of the Interim

Government. When the period was over there was nothing to show.

The Government had better rethink its whole strategy and tactics for development. Mere publicity is not going to fool people. This is certainly an extraordinary amount. I am not quite sure what the past votes were, but every attempt was made in our time to keep down expenditure. In fact, because the staff was big, we were economising and waiting for people either to retire and go out so that the staff should be further reduced.

We had information under the Prime Minister but having now created a separate Ministry, I am afraid there is going to be more and more expenditure of this kind, which this country cannot afford.

I say that the Government can go ahead and spend this money and do as it likes but this kind of money is going to be wasted it could be spent on producing things that are more necessary.

The Prime Minister: It is about time that this lie be nailed. The previous Government spent \$25,000 on producing a document printed on paper reminiscent of toilet paper. The document was called *Patterns of Progress*, and thousands were left in the Information Services. We had to send them to the incinerator to make space for people. The Leader of the Opposition admits that the printing cost \$25,000 which went into the incinerator because it was the only place where accommodation could be found so that we could put staff in the place. The paper used was blotting paper. [Interruption.] Does the hon. Member think I would like my Government to be disgraced with this toilet paper? The books had to be destroyed.

Secondly, the Leader of the Opposition recruited a number of people. [Dr. Jagan: "Where?" At the G.I.S.] [Dr. Jagan: "Name them."] I don't repeat names. I will tell him outside. Undoubtedly you put out one man,

but in his place you recruited one of your incompetents. There were people to spy; people without qualifications; people who used to write for the *Mirror*. He recruited them and is trying to tell this Assembly that he reduced staff.

Dr. Jagan: The Prime Minister is lying. Let him name them.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
Probation Officers – Housing

Mr. Lall: I should like to deal with item 3 for \$9,000. I should like to know where this house is to be located.

Mr. Kendall: In New Amsterdam.

Mr. Lall: I should like to know whether officers in the country districts and officers working and residing in Georgetown will get the same housing facilities as the officers in New Amsterdam.

The Deputy Chairman: The Minister of Home Affairs is not here. You will have to ask at some other time. Page 2.
Page 2.

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
HYDRAULICS
Bank of Guyana Building

Mr. Hubbard: I am interested in item 13, Bank of Guyana Building, for \$236,300. The Bank of Guyana building is listed among the assets of the Bank of Guyana. I wonder if I could have an explanation as to why this figure of \$236,300, which is connected with the building of the Bank, appears here. Is this a further liability of the Bank or is it already covered in the arrangement made with the Bank for the transfer of the building as a capital item.

Mr. Singh: As I understand it, the Government built the bank and handed it over as part of capital to the Bank of Guyana. The hon. Members on the other side of the House should know all about

what in fact happened with respect to the building of the bank. The Bank of Guyana, which was completed last year, was financed on the basis of contractor finance, something which we all have great reservations about. I do not know whether my hon. friends on the other side are very happy about the situation they entered into with respect to contractor finance.

With regard to the present position, there were two notes which should have been presented last year but were not submitted before the close of the financial year. It is now necessary to make the formal provision in this year's Estimates to complete the financial transaction. This is all tied up with the contractual financing undertaken by the company.

Mr. Hubbard: It is not a complete answer to the question, though I am grateful for what has been said. What I am seeking to find out is whether the Government will now have to transfer this charge to the Bank of Guyana or whether it was included in the charge that has already been made. The Government would have known, even though the notes were not presented, that these sums would become due under the terms of the contract. I just wanted to be apprised as to whether the accounting for this has already been done or whether the Government will now have to show the assets of the Bank of Guyana, in terms of its buildings, as being \$236,000 more than the figure it now has.

Mr. Singh: The answer to that is "No".

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND
HYDRAULICS
East Coast Berbice Roads

Mr. Lall: Item 10 – East Coast Roads. These are the roads that are responsible for the rolling of the head of the former Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Kasim). An additional provision of \$300,000

[MR. LALL]

is hereby sought to provide for increased cost and extra protective work. What is the extra protective work that will be done?

The Deputy Chairman: Are you really speaking on Items 9, 10 and 11?

Mr. Lall: I am speaking on Item 10.

The Deputy Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr. Lall: I should like to know what is the increased cost. When is the construction of these roads going to be finished? We voted \$1½ million and one Minister's head was rolled. Now we are being asked to vote \$300,000. God help this Minister's head! [Laughter] I want to know what is the extra protective work that will be done.

Mr. Singh: As I said before, we had heavy unprecedented and protracted rainfall this year. I think that even the members of the Opposition would agree that it is a long time since we have had rains falling in the month of August. This has in fact resulted in our having to get essential technical staff — I make this abundantly clear to all — and pay salaries to those persons. It was also necessary to expend a certain amount of money to keep this road passable. It is also anticipated that the sum of \$300,000 would be required to complete the construction of the road and also to do extra protective work to the extent that the shoulders of the road will be protected by burnt earth so that when the rains come they would not undermine and wash away certain stretches which had not been surfaced for the last two years and which are showing signs of wear on the surface.

Mr. Lall: May I ask the hon. Minister how much more money will be needed to complete the construction of this road?

Mr. Singh: If my hon. Friend can read he will see the amount that is requested.

Mr. Lall: One time we were told that \$1 million would be needed. Another time we

were told that \$1½ million would be needed. We were told that the construction of the road would be completed in October, then we were told that we would be given a Christmas present. Now we are hearing something else. We do not want to hear these ambiguous totals. You have technical experts and you must know how much more of the taxpayers' money will be needed to complete the construction of the road. There is a lot of unemployment in this country and we can expend this money in other directions.

The Deputy Chairman: You were given an answer.

Essequibo Roads

Mr. Ram Karran: Item 12 — Essequibo Roads. The legend states: "To provide for the cost of construction of additional stretch of road." What measurement does a stretch of road represent? Having accepted the fact that \$300,000 is going to complete the construction of the East Coast Road, I should like to know what is the position with respect to the Essequibo Road. What is a stretch of road? Does a stretch of road run from Adventure to the Suddie Boys' School?

Corentyne Roads

I notice that we are going to spend \$235,000 on the Corentyne Road. The Corentyne Road already got a baby and I hope that we will not have a recurrence of that. I am referring to the 1948 period. That is not something that the Government can blame on the P.P.P. Thank God! Are you going to go in for another such excursion, bearing in mind that the Minister has got excellent technical staff who can deal with that?

New Roads, Surveys and Construction

Item 12: New Roads, Surveys and Construction. I notice that the sum of \$20,000 is needed: "To enable additional

surveys to be carried out by Government in terms of the Contract for Feasibility Surveys on Roads." Where are these Feasibility Surveys going to be carried out? I want to know if these Feasibility Surveys relate to roads in the Interior, or roads which the Prime Minister promised the villagers — I understand that the villagers are raising hell. [The Prime Minister: "Which villagers?" I am not talking about Comrade Remington who walked out of the conference. The hon. Minister of Local Government (Mr. Cheeks) wanted to know what Remington was doing there.

The Deputy Chairman: Come to the point.

Mr. Ram Karran: I want to know whether the Feasibility Surveys relate to those roads which the hon. Prime Minister has promised to build. Every Local Authority in this country has been promised one mile of road. The Minister is now talking about self-help; the Lord help those who help themselves. *Perhaps the hon. Minister will indicate what is this \$20,000.*

Mr. Singh: I wish to make it clear that the \$300,000 in respect of the East Coast Road is to complete the road from Mahaica to Rosignol which is under construction.

In respect of the Essequibo road, as my hon. Friends on the other side are aware, capital work is being undertaken between Adventure and Anna Regina to the extent that the road is being constructed into a proper highway. This additional provision is required to do additional and unprogrammed work on this road, which is admittedly a heavily trafficked road.

In respect of the Corentyne road, my hon. Friend is not as knowledgeable as he should have been because the Government made known its plans. We are undertaking the complete reconstruction of the Corentyne road between New Amsterdam and

Crabwood Creek into a proper highway. The Black Bush road is to be repaired too.

This money is a counterpart of A.I.D. funds to buy the equipment and it is our intention to mobilise all equipment so as to start construction work as early as possible.

In respect of construction work on the West Coast, there again, we are undertaking to do that stretch of road between Park and Uitvlugt. This is another road which is heavily trafficked. It is also the worst stretch on the West Coast road.

We have been doing feasibility surveys for preliminary work and design prior to construction work.

Mr. Ram Karran: One does not quarrel with the hon. Minister for doing surveys and construction work. We would have thought that all this construction work would have been done in the trafficked area. He is doing Adventure to Anna Regina. We have no quarrel because Parika to Uitvlugt is just as important, but Vreed-en-Hoop to Uitvlugt is also heavily trafficked. The section surfaced on the West Coast has developed pot holes and nothing is being done. As the hon. Minister and his officers know, as water gets under it, it will be destroyed and it will get back to the old confusion where vehicles go to pieces.

Mr. Singh: As I explained, I myself went over this road. The worst stretch of road is between Vreed-en-Hoop and Uitvlugt. It is only the most naive person who will deny that spending a lot of money on maintenance work during bad weather is throwing money down the drain. If one is going to repair a road, it must be done when the weather is good. This is the way I see it. In addition to that, there is an earth-clay surface between Vreed-en-Hoop and Park and also in Essequibo. There, there is no alternative means of transportation. As soon as the weather is good, we shall attempt it.

Purchase of Books

Mr. Ram Karran: Item 18 – this is propaganda. It says to enable the acquisition of 153,000 books for schools and libraries. I do not know how many are comics, but they are to be posted in schools and libraries. I know this is a gift but perhaps the hon. Minister would tell us whether it is forty per cent American propaganda and what sort of propaganda or whether they are absolutely up-to-date books.

Mrs. Gaskin: The books which are coming in are very expensive text books. Some are university text books, which have gone into the University Library and some are secondary school books. Most are books which have been used and are still in use in our libraries.

6.25 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: Page 4.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE Loans to Rice Development Corporation

Mr. Ram Karran: Loans to Rice Development Corporation.

Dr. Reid: We debated that already.

Mr. Ram Karran: Yes, but only the other day. The hon. Minister had been deceiving the House – and it is clear from the legend – when he said that the Rice Development Corporation and the Rice Marketing Board have been functioning properly. We now find that they are refinancing – [The Prime Minister: “This motion was debated.”]

Loans to Guyana Rice Marketing Board

Mr. Hubbard: The legend here is very confusing. It reads as follows:

“To provide for loans to the Guyana Rice Marketing Board to enable the refinancing of the outstanding debts which have been due to losses

suffered by the Company in the past two years. The Government will be issuing Government debentures to the commercial banks in relation to these loans.”

I am going to be generous and presume that instead of “Company” the Government means “Board”. I know of no company or corporation that has lost \$8 million. But what I would like to learn is whether this exercise of giving Government debentures to the banks, for the monies owed by the Rice Marketing Board and the Rice Development Company, means that those institutions are no longer liable to pay interest on these sums, or whether it is merely a case of clearing their accounts with the banks so that they can get further credit? At the present time they cannot get further credit because they have used up their resources. Is this a case where the Government is taking over these debts for the general taxpayers to shoulder, or is it merely that the rice producers will continue to shoulder them but they will pay the interest to the Government so that the Board can draw money from the banks on further credit?

Dr. Reid: This matter was fully debated some time ago. This is a loan for the industry, and it is expected that the industry will pay the usual interest.

Dr. Jagan: The Minister is not very clear. My colleague asked whether the legend on page 5 is wrong, it states that:

“...due to losses suffered by the Company in the past two years.”

It seems that this should be the “Board”.

Now, I come to the \$2 million for the Rice Development Corporation and the \$8 million for the Rice Marketing Board. In view of the fact that the Government, in the person of the Prime Minister, has announced the proposed merger of the Rice Development Corporation and the Rice Marketing Board, I should like to ask whether it is intended that, when this merger

takes place, the losses which are being sustained now by the Rice Development Corporation will be passed on to the farmers? I am not speaking only of the annual working losses but also of the \$5 million debt which the Corporation owes to the Commonwealth Development Corporation. In other words, I am asking for a clear and unambiguous answer as to whether the losses suffered by this Corporation, or any loans made to this Corporation will now be transferred to the producers who sell their paddy to the Rice Development Corporation, or their rice to the Rice Marketing Board? We would like to know clearly what is the Government's intention on this matter?

Dr. Reid: As I said just now, this matter was debated and it is expected that the Rice Marketing Board and the Rice Development Corporation, when they become viable due to reorganisation, will be capable to repay the loans on interest.

Dr. Jagan: This Government is squandering the taxpayers' money right, left and centre. We have just referred to the case of Nascimento. Now the Government's liability is to be passed on to the farmers in this country. They are on their way to ruining the farmers. All over the country the farmers — even their own supporters in Dartmouth and Hopetown — are now — *[Interruption.]* This is not only a disgrace, it is robbery committed on the poor people by a Government which has assumed power by force and fraud, and with the help of the C.I.A. Do not take on the power to such extreme limits. Do not stretch it so much. Why can you not ask Uncle Sam or the Commonwealth Development Corporation to give you the money? The Commonwealth Development Corporation is a British organisation. Ask it. You want to pass it on to the taxpayers — *[Interruption.]*

Dr. Jagan: If you have to find more revenues by taxation, then you must tax both the "small" people and the "big" people. But you should not pass on all the taxation to the poor people who have already had a fall in take-home pay. Surely the Prime Minister knows that if the Government has this liability it must raise money by way of the Budget or cut down expenses. If you do not want to have additional taxation, then trim the Budget. The Government does not want to do this; it wants to give jobs to its boys, to have a lot of round pegs in square holes, like Nascimento and others. Now it wants to fleece the poor. I warn them.

6.35 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: Any comments on Section "C"?

[No comments.] Section "D" is for the information of hon. Members.

The Question is —

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1967 — Schedule of Additional Provision on the Capital and Current Estimates for the period ending August, 1967, totalling \$13,654,884.

Agreed to.

Assembly resumed.

Dr. Reid: I have to report that the Committee of Supply has come to a resolution on the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1967 — Schedule of Additional Provision on the Capital and Current Estimates for the period ending August, 1967, totalling \$13,654,884 and I now move that this Assembly do agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT
Protest by Leader of the
Opposition

Mr. Bissember: I move that the Assembly do now adjourn —

Dr. Jagan: I should like to make an observation. I do not like the way the Leader of the House is conducting the business of this House. Last week, very early in the week, I got in touch with him and indicated to him that my party had a very important meeting on Friday evening. He gave me, not an undertaking, but the impression that he was going to consider my request to adjourn at 6.30 p.m. On Thursday, in the lobby, he categorically stated if the business was not finished at 6.30 we would go on to seven o'clock. We agreed. I was not here but I understand that we adjourned and he continued after 8 o'clock. Today he wants to stop the proceedings of the House at this time. We must be told what are the wishes of the Leader of the House. I think it is common courtesy, if the members of the Opposition have an important meeting, for the Government to meet the request. While we did not want the Guyana Citizenship Bill to be delayed for any long period, surely from Friday to Monday would not have made that much difference to the passage of that Bill.

It is evidence of non-cooperation, and not only non-cooperation. The House is being handled without consultation and just as the Minister pleases. This is ridiculous. If he wants to adjourn today at 6.30, he should have informed us because the rule says that we should go on until 9 o'clock. I object to the way in which the Leader of the House is

conducting the business of this House. He should have informed us out of courtesy.

Mr. Bissember: I regret very much that the Leader of the Opposition has taken what I told him in the manner he just expressed.

For the record let me say that on Friday afternoon, as you will recall, sir, the Order Paper had three items. We were discussing the Guyana Citizenship Bill in three stages. There was also the Estate Duty Bill and another Bill. I told the Leader of the Opposition I would agree with his request to stop at 6.30 and not to proceed with the other items if we concluded the Guyana Citizenship Bill at 6.30. That is exactly what I told him. I said, "All right, let us see if we finish by 6.30." We did not finish by 6.30; we had two Amendments left in the name of Dr. Ramsahoye. I asked if we could continue until 7 o'clock but the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, "No, let us stop now" although the Mover of the Amendment had agreed. Therefore I said, "If that is your attitude we shall have to meet at 8 o'clock as we had planned if we had not finished the business at 6.30".

I may say that I have always consulted Dr. Jagan, either by telephone or by letter. He was to meet me today at 2 o'clock but did not turn up. I waited. This is the attitude of the Opposition Leader.

Dr. Jagan: We were to meet at 2 o'clock and if there had not been a meeting of the Assembly we would have met at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Bissember: I understand there is no objection to the motion to adjourn. I therefore move that this Assembly do now adjourn until 2 o'clock tomorrow, Tuesday, 29th August, 1967.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.42 p.m.