

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 3]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION OF
THE FIRST LEGISLATURE CONSTITUTED UNDER THE BRITISH
GUIANA (CONSTITUTION) ORDER IN COUNCIL, 1961.

24th Sitting

Monday, 27th January, 1964.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

The Assembly met at 2 p.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair].

Present:

His Honour the Deputy Speaker, Mr. W. O. R. Kendall

Members of the Government

People's Progressive Party

Ministers

The Honourable B. H. Benn	- Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands (Member for Demerara Coast - West)
The Honourable Ram Karrañ	- Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Member for Mahaica)
The Honourable R. Chandisingh	- Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Member for Lower Demerara River)
Dr. the Honourable Charles Jacob, Jr.	- Minister of Finance (Member for Vreed-en-Hoop)
Dr. the Honourable F. H. W. Ramsahoye	- Attorney-General (Member for Canals (Polder))
The Honourable E. M. G. Wilson	- Minister of Communications (Member for Boerasirie)

Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. G. Bowman	- Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs (Member for Corentyne Central)
Mr. L. E. Mann	- Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development (Member for Mahaicony)
Mr. S. M. Saffee	- Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Lands (Member for Berbice West)

Other Members

Mr. G. L. Robertson	- (Member for Leonora)
Mr. M. Bhagwan	- (Member for Essequibo Islands)
Mr. J. B. Caldeira	- (Member for Pomeroon)
Mr. V. Downer	(Member for Berbice - East)
Mr. M. Hamid	(Member for Demerara - Central)
Mr. D. C. Jagan	- (Member for Suddie)
Mr. H. Lall	(Member for Corentyne - West)
Mr. M. Shakoor	(Member for Corentyne River)

Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, Q.C.	(Member for Ruimveldt)
Mr. J. Carter, Q.C.	(Member for Werk-en-Rust)
Mr. N. J. Bissember	(Member for Campbellville)
Mr. W. A. Blair	(Member for Berbice River)
Mr. R. S. S. Hugh	(Member for Georgetown - South)
Mr. J. G. Joaquin	(Member for Kitty)
Mr. R. J. Jordan	- (Member for Upper Demerara River)
Mr. C. A. Merriman	(Member for La Penitence - Lodge)
Mr. H. M. S. Wharton	(Member for Abary)

(ii) United Force

Mr. P. S. d'Aguiar	(Member for Georgetown - Central)
Mr. S. Campbell	(Member for North West)
Mr. R. E. Cheeks	(Member for Georgetown - North)
Mr. E. E. Melville	(Member for Ruprununi).

Mr. E. V. Viapree - Clerk of the Legislature (Ag.)

Mr. F. A. Narain - Assistant Clerk of the Legislature (Ag.)

Absent:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. R. B. Gajraj - excused.

Dr. the Hon. C. B. Jagan (Premier and Minister of Development and Planning) on leave

Mr. E. F. Correia (Member for Mazaruni - Potaro)

Mr. B. S. Rai (Member for Demerara Coast - East).

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, His Honour the Speaker has asked to be excused from today's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

The following Papers were laid:

- (a) British Guiana Report on the Financial Position by K.C. Jacobs, Esq., C.B.E.
- (b) Statement by the Government of British Guiana on the Jacobs Report and on the Insolvency Allegation by the Secretary of State for the Colonies - Sessional Paper No. 1/1964. [The Minister of Finance.]

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

DAVSON CENTENARY FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mr. Chardisingh): Mr. Speaker, I introduce the Davson Centenary Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1964.

Bill read the First time.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

APPROPRIATION BILL

BUDGET DEBATE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the Assembly will resume consideration of the Bill intitled: "An Ordinance to appropriate the supplies granted in the current Session of the Legislature.", in Committee.

2.20 p.m.

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Chairman: When we adjourned on Friday last, we were dealing with Head 42 - Ministry of Education and Social Development.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Grants to Voluntary Youth Organisations

Mr. Jordan (Upper Demerara River): I note that the grants to the following Organisations: Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Methodist Church, Clubland, Children's Dorcas Club, Catholic Youth Organisation and the Boys' Brigade and Girl Guides have been struck out, and that the grants to Voluntary Youth Organisations are \$10,450. The Organisations other than the Voluntary Youth Organisations formerly received \$8,950, but the new sum proposed for all Organisations under Sub-head 38 is \$10,450. I should be

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very much obliged if the hon. Parliamentary Secretary would let us know whether all of the Organisations that formerly received these grants would automatically receive them, or whether it is proposed to increase the grants to them, or whether it is proposed to introduce new Organisations.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development (Mr. Mann):

On Friday when the House last met, I had dealt with the question of the removal or seeming removal of these Heads and the grouping together of them under Head 38 - Grants to Voluntary Youth Organisations. This vote is now being administered by the National Youth Council, which has the power *inter alia* to make disbursements. The National Youth Council has the power to make such disbursements under Subhead 38 on the application of any organisation or institution, and I take it that, in the ordinary run of things, grants will be given to these philanthropic bodies ~~almost automatically~~. I do not know that it is for me to say categorically whether or not any organisation on presenting an application will get a grant or a vote. I do not know. The reason for the increase in the provision is to give the National Youth Council some financial leeway.

Mr. Jordan: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary's answer is incomplete. What I want to know is this: Are these bodies going

to get the money that was formerly given to them, or is this a subtle way of depriving them of the money? I take it that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is here to speak with some authority! Some time ago we were very anxious to have, in this House, someone who could answer for this particular Ministry. For the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development to tell us that "he takes it" means that it may be, or may not be so.

Mr. Mann: I do not understand these people. When the funds were allocated directly by the Ministry, it was said that they were given to certain institutions for political purposes. Now that the funds are given to the National Youth Council, the hon. Member wants me to assert whether a certain body will be given a grant! I do not sit on the National Youth Council, and I cannot answer his question because the National Youth Council is in charge of other people.

Mr. Cheeks (Georgetown North): The National Youth Council is either the creature of the Government, or of the P.P.P. What we are entitled to know is whether the Government is giving instructions to the National Youth Council. The Council cannot do other than what it is instructed to do. We are entitled to know what instructions have been given to the National Youth Council in respect of the distribution of this money. Can organisations like the P.Y.O. benefit from this fund?

Mr. Bhagwan (Essequibo Islands): I am particularly in-

interested in certain items placed here in relation to youth work. I am asking the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development to tell me what is the relation between Subhead 7 - Promotion of Youth Work - \$7,200; Subhead 8 - Training Expenses - \$1,000, and Subhead 38 - Grants to Voluntary Youth Organisations - \$10,450. I am asking these questions not merely because I am a member of the National Youth Council -- [Interruption.] If hon. Members will be quiet, they will be able to follow what I am saying. The members of the National Youth Council are drawn from every single organisation in this country. We have found that it is impossible for us to plan and to do any work on a national scale because of the limitation of funds. We have often thought of setting up a Cultural Centre in the centre in the City-

Some time ago somebody carried out a very comprehensive survey in relation to the needs of young people throughout the country, and pointed out that this was one particular field in which the young people were lacking. I want to suggest that the Government should consider increasing this amount of \$10,450, so that the National Youth Council could really get down to some concrete work. This amount does not allow the National Youth Council to do anything on a very wide scale. It is therefore not logical that the moneys that were previously allocated to different Youth Organisations, many of whom were of a very localised nature and did not command wide support, should continue to be so allocated. Indeed some of them were sectional organisations.

2.30 p.m.

Indeed it is much better that this money should be allocated to and dispensed by a national organisation which is representative of all organisations, and I can assure hon. Members of the Opposition that none of the members has ever thought of dispensing funds allocated to the National Youth Council for any sectional interest, and may I inform the hon. Member that the P.Y.O. has been able to raise money on its own - [An hon. Member: "We know that."] - and has absolutely no cause to ask the National Youth Council for any assistance. This amount is too small to do any concrete work on behalf of the young people, as the hon. the Attorney-General the Chairman of the Council, can point out.

The Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Ram Karran): I merely rise to ask the hon. Member for Georgetown North why he has pulled in the P.Y.O. Obviously he has not read the papers dealing with the functions of the National Youth Council. Why didn't he drag in the Guy Fawkeses, the real arsonists in the country?

Mr. Jordan: The Parliamentary Secretary has definitely evaded the question. We want to know whether organisations like the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Boy Scouts, Clubland and the Boys' Brigade have not automatically qualified. I had an open mind in the matter, but from the way in which the Parliamentary Secretary has evaded the point I am led to suspect that there is

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something sinister about it. Now what he has mentioned that the Attorney-General is the Chairman of the Council, perhaps he can tell the House whether those organisations will automatically receive these funds.

Mr. Mann: The subtleties of the English language seem to have irked my friend. He wants me to give a categorical assertion, but I took care to exercise some delicacy in framing my reply. I say that this vote is being administered by the National Youth Council and therefore it is not possible for anybody in the Ministry to say whether a given organisation will get a grant. All I can say is that it seems to me that in the ordinary run of things it would be extremely odd if organisations such as the Y.M.C.A., the Girl Guides' Association, the Boy Scouts' Association, the Red Cross, etc. were to be disqualified on any ground whatever. Therefore it is likely and probably true that those organisations will continue to get grants, but a categorical assurance I cannot give, because I have not the power. This does not lie within the prerogative of anyone in the Ministry.

Mr. Jordan: In another place I would call this high rascality, but here I will not. The previous vote was \$8,950 while the allocation for this year is \$10,450, an increase of \$1,500. It can either mean that more funds are going to be allocated to the same organisations, or more organisations are going to be allocated funds.

The Chairman: I think the Parliamentary Secretary has indi-

cated that the vote has been increased because other organisations have made application for grants.

Mr. Jordan: What are the organisations the Parliamentary Secretary has in mind?

Mr. Mann: The Ministry let it be known that the amount was to be increased, therefore other organisations could apply for grants. My information is that since they do not apply to the Ministry of Education any longer they apply to the National Youth Council for grants. I do not know, nor does anybody else in the Ministry know, the names of the organisations which wish to apply. The Chairman is here, and if he wishes to explain I have no objection.

Mr. Jordan: That could hardly be satisfactory. The Ministry should have a list of the organisations they have in mind to get grants. Having increased the vote they must have some new organisations in mind, unless they are madmen.

Mr. Mann: If that is the way the hon. Member would run a Ministry then God help us. All that was necessary was for the Chairman of the Council to indicate that there were applications, and on the basis of last year's allocation we provided some more funds. Within the resources available to the Ministry we made an additional allocation.

Mr. Bhagwan: Are the amounts provided in subheads 7 and 8 - Promotion of Youth Work, \$7,200; Training Expenses, \$1,000 - related to subhead 38 - Grants to

Voluntary Youth Organisations, \$10,450 - in terms of control? Are all three votes to be controlled by the National Youth Council?

The Chairman: Have you read the legend with respect to subhead 7?

Mr. Bhagwan: I am asking about control, sir.

Mr. Mann: The funds under subhead 7 are directly controlled by the Ministry, and as the note on page 77 explains, it is to provide for maintenance of camp site and for training courses and equipment.

Mr. Cheeks: The Minister of Works and Hydraulics (Mr. Ram Karran) wanted to know why I mentioned the P.Y.O. My reason is that everybody knows that the P.Y.O. is a most lawless and vicious organisation, and it is protected by the governing party.

Mr. Bhagwan: To a point of order! I think what the hon. Member has been saying is totally irrelevant to what transpired.

2.40 p.m.

Museum and Zoological Gardens

Mr. Hugh (Georgetown South): I intend to ask a question under subhead 37 but before I do that I want to say something on subhead 31 -- [Interruption.]

The Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Hugh: Subhead 31, Museum and Zoological Gardens: I notice that we are spending £8,200 more

this year. Actually, I have no quarrel with this because perhaps I would be enlightened by the Minister concerned. I hope that this year the Government is thinking of preparing or passing legislation with respect to the protection of our wild life. If my memory serves me right, some years ago a previous Legislature had made an attempt and had put forward a proposed draft about the protection of wild life but I think a bottle-neck came about when some sportsmen in this country said that they must be allowed to shoot all animals, all birds, willy-nilly, whenever they want. The position was contended by the then honourable Mr. Roth - I think he was honourable then. He put forward the argument that tigers should not be shot because they are not dangerous.

What bothers me is that the Gardens could never wholly preserve our wild life. We have our traditional labba that is disappearing. We have ducks and birds like the maroudi and the powis that are disappearing. We have our animals like the mairipuri and the tapir that are disappearing and we have a tremendous amount of wild life that is disappearing. Not only are our animals and birds disappearing but also our floras. Sometimes it bleeds my heart when I see expeditions go into the interior, take away our floras and wild life and destroy what they do not want. I have had the disgusting experience of importing a particular orchid that is indigenous to British Guiana.

There are some people, including supporters of the People's Progressive Party; who

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are getting extremely rich as a result of the wild exportation of our tropical fishes. What I want is legislation that will fall in line with reasonable preservation of our wild life. It is no use quarrelling over the P.Y.O. and the "B.Y.O." I am not really concerned because we can match fire with fire, but we have something of which we can be proud.

We are talking about the independence of British Guiana, this dear land of ours, and we should not get stupid remarks from the other side. I am serious about this and I am surprised that the Ministers do not seem to understand what I am saying. They have archives. What are they keeping in there?

I am suggesting that the Government should pay urgent attention to this matter because it has been hanging too long, and from what is happening on the Government Benches, it seems as if many Government Members do not seem to understand how important it is to preserve wild life. In many countries you cannot shoot deer as you like at all seasons.

[An hon. Member (Government): "Because they do not have."]

[Laughter.] I said before that from the behaviour over there it seems as if I am wasting my time but I think that the wise ones, those who know something about pride in one's country, understand what it is to protect our wild life and will see, during this year, the necessity to introduce the proper legislation.

Conditional Scholarships and Training Courses

Now, sir, I said I was going to ask a question under subhead 37. I gathered from the Parliamentary Secretary's reply to the Member for La Penitence-Lodge (Mr. Merriman) that these Conditional Scholarships and Training Courses apply to foreign students - I hope I heard him correctly - in foreign countries.

Mr. Mann: I want to reply to all three speakers at once. I want to give Members the assurance that, in so far as the Ministry of Education is concerned, if the administration of the funds provided for the National Youth Council is done on a discriminatory basis, if institutions or organisations are, as the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Cheeks) suggested, required to reject religion, character, or otherwise, in order to qualify for grants from this fund, then the Ministry would sack the entire National Youth Council and see to it that the control of funds reverts to the Ministry of Education. In other words, I am giving public assurance that the funds to be administered by the National Youth Council will be administered on a fair and equitable basis without any reference to discrimination of any kind.

The question of wild life raised by the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Hugh) is quite an interesting and pleasant topic which was dealt with at great length. Unfortunately, however, it has one drawback, it is quite irrelevant, because what we are considering is a grant, it is not a question of wild life.

The question of wild life should be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture which has already sought legislation to ensure the preservation of certain types of wild life as specified by the Director of Agriculture.

As regards subhead 37, the amount here indicates that it is for training courses overseas, the results of which we feel would be beneficial to the Public Service and to the community.

Mr. Hugh: This is interesting. Perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary cannot answer the question I will ask now. Is it a fact that Cuban scholarships granted by the People's Progressive Party were, in some instances, paid for by the Treasury?

Mr. Mann: No.

Mr. Hugh: I knew that the Parliamentary Secretary would say that this is not so and I want to say categorically that the Ministry has approved of the grant of loans to these fellows going to East Germany and Cuba. I know this for a fact.

2.50 p.m.

Film Censorship

Mr. Bhagwan: Subhead 21: What are the functions or powers of the Board of Film Censors?

Mr. Mann: In reply to the hon. Member for Georgetown - South (Mr. Hugh), two students were given loans to assist them with their passages to East Germany, but their scholarships were free. These loans to

passages and courses, and in addition to their boarding and lodging expenses. This is nothing new. As you may probably know, many students overseas apply and get loans to cover their passages and the cost of the courses they undertake. Two students were given loans for passages when they were going to Germany, but these loans were given at 5 per cent interest and will have to be repaid in the normal way.

With regard to the powers of the Board of Film Censors, I would have thought that that was self-evident. The power of the Board is to review films and cut out anything that is considered to be harmful to the community.

Mr. Bhagwan: I am a cinema fan, and it takes me quite a long time to see a good film in this country. I do not know why we are indulging in importing certain films from the U.S.A. In the first place most of the films we see in this country are of a highly sensational nature that can lead young people to a great deal of delinquency, and many of them actually have no value whatsoever. What is most striking about this also is that the Press and other agencies that have an opportunity to comment have never seriously reviewed with a critical eye the films that are being shown in this country. I want to ask those who review these films to endeavour to live up to a certain standard. I would have thought

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more analytic in order to see that good films are shown in this country.

Another point to be noted is that through these films a great deal of politics is injected into the affairs of this country. I remember that the hon. Member for Riumveldt (Mr. Burnham) spoke a lot about neutrality - whether genuinely or superficially is not the point at the moment. If we want to become a neutralist State and we want to preserve our independence, then I think it would be of great benefit to this country if all films coming from other countries - be they from the U.S.A., Britain, France or the Socialist Bloc - did not have in them anything that might be political or would tend to denigrate social and political systems of people of other countries. Films which interfere with the political neutrality of British Guiana should be banned from entering the country. The films shown here are of a low standard, highly sensational, and inclined to promote publicity. Let us have films that will preserve the political independence of this country.

Hon. Members obviously have lost all sense of objectivity, and they seem to have no aesthetic views. Why should we allow films from the U.S.A. to carry out ruthless attacks against Khrushchev who has done us nothing? Why should we allow films from the Soviet countries,

or the Socialist Bloc, to involve us in the political battle of the socialist countries and the capitalist countries? The hon. Minister of Education should lay down the lines on which the Board of Film Censors should operate and such films, wherever they come from, should be banned. Let us have films that have a positive value to our community so that we can advance ourselves.

I hope that the Board of Film Censors will be assisted by people who should know things and not by these idiotic characters who know nothing whatsoever about films. I remember very recently that there was a loud outburst when the Board of Film Censors attempted to ban the film called "The Manchurian Candidate". Whether the Board was right is immaterial, but my argument is that we should not allow films from outside to interfere with our political independence.

The Chairman: He is that the Ministry has made a note of your observations.

In-Service Teacher Training Programme

Mr. Wharton: (Abar): Sub-section 41: When this In-Service Teacher Training Programme was instituted, there was very much confusion in that it was difficult for the Government to provide tutors and a sufficient number of textbooks for candidatee at the various centres. I would like the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to say whether all of the areas

in the country are now provided with facilities for such training?

Mr. Mann: We have bought books for all the areas throughout the country, but we cannot claim that we have achieved anything like sufficiency.

Mr. Wharton: I am not sure that I heard everything the hon. Parliamentary Secretary said. I should like to know whether all of the areas have been supplied with textbooks.

The Chairman: He said that all of the areas have been supplied, but the supplies were inadequate. They have ordered more books, and when they arrive they will be distributed to the areas to bring them up to a level of sufficiency.

3 p.m.

Mr. Wharton: There should have been a centre for training on the West Coast of Berbice, but for some reason it has been called off. Many teachers were prepared, but as a result of the Government's dilatory action they have not been able to come in. I would like to know what arrangements have been made for that area and all such areas.

Mr. Mann: That is hardly the fault of the Ministry. The fact is that we could not find a sufficient number of teachers to provide an institution of that kind in West Coast, Berbice. Now that we have an all-age school we

expect and firmly believe that next year we will be able to establish a centre in that area and will be able to recruit staff from the all-age school.

Mr. Wharton: May I ask about what time Government hopes to start in the West Coast, Berbice area? I can assure the Parliamentary Secretary that the teachers there are most anxious to get started.

Mr. Mann: The course starts in September.

Mr. Cheeks: I would like in all humility to ask whether the in-service teacher training programme includes teachers who have begun their teaching career and have broken it off to go there, or whether it consists of teachers who are doing their normal work during the day, going for training after school hours in the afternoon, or at some time other than during school hours.

Mr. Mann: While I appreciate the hon. Member's humility I must say that I do not understand exactly what he means by "breaking off" in the service of teachers. There are two courses, one a pre-service course which lasts for two years; and then there is an in-service training course which lasts for one year, and which teachers attend after school in the afternoon. In neither case is there a break in service, except, I suppose, in a physical sense.

Mr. Cheeks: I do not want to know about the pre-service course. In the in-service course do the teachers work during the day and attend the course after school?

Mr. Mann: Yes.

Mr. Wharton: It is my information that some teachers who have to go after school to the point where they receive in-service training, have to take a boat or bus. I would like to know whether Government is prepared to provide travelling facilities for those teachers.

Mr. Mann: For next year's course we hope to have new arrangements whereby the teachers could be placed in schools close to the in-service training centre. The hardship which has occurred to many teachers is appreciated and sympathized with but, unfortunately, it is unavoidable.

Mr. Wharton: It is my information that some of the teachers who have to leave school before closing time are being penalized. I should like to know if that is true, and what Government is prepared to do about it.

Mr. Mann: There is no question of any penalty attached so far as I am aware. I do not quite understand the hon. Member's question. Teachers are not being penalized by us. If the hon. Member means that they are

said that I grant that, but there is no question of penalizing anybody.

Mr. Cheeks: In view of the desirability of the integration of the teacher training courses I would like the Parliamentary Secretary to tell the House what advantage would be derived or is expected to be derived from having this in-service training course separate and apart from the normal pre-service training course.

Mr. Mann: The in-service training course is recommended to the Government by the U.N.E.S.C.O. expert who visited this country at the invitation of this Government. This in-service training programme, as distinct and apart from the pre-service training programme, is geared to cater for a large number of teachers. The number of teachers who are being trained in the in-service training programme is about 500, whereas the number of teachers for the pre-service programme is in the vicinity of 180. Therefore one course embraces a far wider number of teachers, and to such an extent that we hope by 1970 every teacher now teaching will have had at least one year's training, and by 1975 no teacher will be untrained. So that the in-service training course commends itself on this ground.

Mr. Cheeks: The Parliamentary Secretary apparently possesses super-intelligence. I do not see how the number of stu-

greater than the number in another can interfere with the integration. Incidentally, I had the honour of meeting the U.N. expert and having talks with him, and I believe he is one of the ablest experts ever brought here. I was speaking of the integration of the courses. It seems to me that the Parliamentary Secretary does not understand. The in-service course is being run by the Ministry of Education and has different curricula and different lecturers. I want to know what benefit is expected from this course being kept separate and apart from the pre-service course. The U.N. expert did not have this in mind when I spoke with him. Do the in-service teachers and the pre-service teachers receive the same certificates on the completion of their training? I do not think the Government intends to issue different certificates to persons who graduate from these courses.

Mr. Mann: I have already outlined the benefits which the in-service programme engenders. I said then for the benefit of the hon. Member, that it is hoped that the in-service programme is so fashioned that by 1970 every teacher will have had at least one year's training. The in-service training is designed for those who are teaching, and the pre-service course is designed for those who have never taught.

3.10 p.m.

The in-service training programme is designed for teachers

who are teaching, whereas the pre-service training programme is designed for teachers who have never taught. These are two different courses and even though the recognition which is given to the pre-service training programme is extended to the in-service training programme in terms of the Final Certificate or Diploma, the techniques are different. I do not know what puzzles the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Cheeks); it seems to me that the answer suggests itself.

The Chairman: What the hon. Member was inquiring was whether at the end of the in-service and the pre-service training, the same certificates would be issued.

Mr. Mann: Yes, sir.

'Grant To Salvation Army For Social Work

Mr. Jordan: With your permission, I should like for a very short time to revert to subhead 34. I should like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary if Government has informed the organisations that used to receive grants, for example, the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. that they will no longer receive them.

The Chairman: I think the Parliamentary Secretary said that these organisations were invited to apply.

Mr. Mann: That is right, sir.

Mr. Merriman (La Penitence-Lodge): Mr. Chairman, on this same point, you said that the Parliamentary Secretary said that the organisations were invited to apply. Am I to take it that the Government informed them that the contributions which were given in the past have come to an end and, as a result of that, they will have to apply?

Mr. Mann: The funds are no longer being directed by the Ministry of Education, therefore, those institutions which have in the past received grants direct from the Ministry will now have to apply to the National Sports Council. In other words, since the money is not going to be given directly by the Ministry of Education, institutions like the Y.M.C.A. were told that they would have to apply to the National Sports Council for grants.

Mr. Merriman: Can the Parliamentary Secretary tell us whether the machinery for these applications has already been laid down?

The Chairman: You would like to know if forms are available?

Mr. Merriman: You mean they have to use forms? [Laughter.]

Mr. Mann: The hon. Member for La Penitence-Lodge (Mr. Merriman) seems to be labouring under some delusion. Neither the organisations nor the Ministry was under any contract. The organisations apply to the Ministry and they get grants from year to year. The Ministry was not permitted by law, or anything, to

give grants to any given organisation. It is the practice for these organisations to receive grants from year to year. All they have to do is to get application forms and apply. Notice has already been given since late last year.

Mr. Merriman: It seems as if the hon. Minister is getting hot. Let it be clearly understood that this Government owes an obligation to the community. Let it be clearly understood that this Government must recognise that these voluntary bodies have served for hundreds of years. They are not begging the members of the Government for their personal property. We want it to be clearly understood what they are doing with our money. The Government has been committed in the past to the maintenance of these public and voluntary organisations. Do not come now and tell us that you are not committed and that these organisations have to go begging at your feet for grants. Up to the present date there is nothing in currency, nobody knows on what basis these allocations would be given, there is no form in currency.

Mr. Mann: These institutions were in receipt of these funds from year to year. Each year they applied and each year they received grants. The same procedure will be continued, that is to say, from year to year they will make application to the National Youth Council. The hon. Member need not substitute vehemence for intelligence. That is a poor substitute. Forms are already in currency, contrary to

whatever information the hon. Member may have. I am saying so and I must know. I have said previously that if the National Youth Council were guilty of discrimination in the allocation of these funds, we would disband the Council and the control of the funds would revert to the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Merriman: May I ask the Parliamentary Secretary from what date these forms were placed in currency?

Mr. Mann: I am afraid that even my advisers do not know exactly but we think it was from December last year.

Mr. Merriman: Now let us get it clear. The Parliamentary Secretary said that, previously, they made their applications in writing each year but now they are told, "Look here, you cannot come direct to the Ministry" or, "The Government will not vote this money directly, you have to go through the National Youth Council."

3.20 p.m.

There will be a specific form, but the nature of that form is not known. Applications were made as recently as the 28th December, 1963, and Mr. Smith said that there was no form available! It is a simple matter; if forms are available, let us know what is on the form to show the basis on which acceptance or rejection is arrived at. It is known that if one mentions any Christian religious back-

ground, or if a name savours of the Christian religion, that application will not be entertained. If that is merely a question of rumour, please let us have a copy of the form that is available. Up to the 28th December, 1963, no form was available. If these statements are incorrect, you must submit evidence to refute them. His Officers from the Ministry ought to be able to tell him about this matter.

These organisations have been operating for several years, and the administration was geared to handle these matters. I should like the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to state whether these organisations will suffer a reduction in the contributions made to them in the past. I want to have the assurance that all of the organisations listed here will be accepted automatically, and that there will be no reduction in the contributions previously made to them. As a matter of fact, I feel that the contributions should be increased, if possible. I want to be able to tell the people that this Government has so organised things that they can make an application and obtain loans. I want to be in a position to explain things to these organisations.

Mr. Mann: I have already stated publicly that these funds will be administered on a fair basis. I am not going to enter into any polemics with one whom I have treated as an hon. Member, even though he does not extend the same courtesy to me.

Mr. Cheeks: The Government is suspect in these matters. It is believed that the Members of the Government are dedicated to the establishment of atheistic communism. It is for that reason we feel that, since this National Youth Council or Sports Council is the creature of the Government, it must obey the wishes of the Government. The hon. Attorney-General (Dr. Ramsahoye) is its Chairman, and the hon. Member for Essequibo Islands (Mr. Bhagwan) is a member. The hon. Member for Essequibo Islands is also the Chairman of a certain organisation which has a bad name. Since the members of the National Youth Council are suspect, we want to get an assurance from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary that these organisations will not be deprived of the contributions previously given to them. They are using this provision as a lever to throw religion out of an important section of the life of this country's youth. This must be exposed in this House and elsewhere. Why cannot the Government commit itself, and tell us how it intends to distribute this money?

Mr. Bhagwan: The only expose the hon. Member for Georgetown-North (Mr. Cheeks) has brought forth is a big mouse. Previously these allocations were distributed by the Ministry concerned. The Government has, to its credit, set up national bodies including the National Council for Culture, the National Sports Development Council, and the National Youth Council. The National Youth Council is composed of 31 members drawn from representatives all over the country: Bartica, Essequibo Islands, Georgetown, the Amerin-

dians, and so on. Members of the Council are drawn from various organisations including the B.G. Youth Council which, as hon. Members know, was never sympathetic to the P.P.P. Members are drawn from Political Parties: the P.N.C. and the U.F. are represented as well as those people who are considered neutral.

Despite the mouthings of the hon. Member for Georgetown-North, he cannot say one thing that can indict the National Youth Council as being sectional. No money has been given out by the National Youth Council; but if the hon. Member will lay specific charges in this House we will lend an ear. In his usual idiocy he attacks the integrity of hon. Members in this House, but I know that the distribution of these funds is far more democratic today than before. Previously only a few bodies would get money from the Government for the promotion of certain types of work. There can be no doubt that certain principles will be established in this National Youth Council. The hon. Member for Georgetown - North has been supported by the hon. Member for Ruimyeldt in his absolute, total nonsense.

3.30 p.m.

Mr. Merriman: I had asked the Parliamentary Secretary about these conditional scholarships.

The Chairman: A question was asked and an answer given when you were not present.

Mr. Merriman: I would be grateful if the Parliamentary Secretary would indicate what is the mode of intimation to interested bodies of the availabil-

ity of these scholarships. I do not know if that aspect was dealt with.

The Chairman: It was dealt with, but if you desire to be reminded perhaps the Parliamentary Secretary might repeat what he said.

Mr. Mann: I said on Friday that scholarships which relate to training for duty in the Public Service were intimated through the usual channels of the Civil Service. Courses which are not applicable to public servants are made public through the normal channels - the newspapers and the radio - and members of the public are invited to apply. Those which are specific in character to trade unionism are communicated direct to institutions and organisations most likely to be interested in scholarships and courses

Mr. Merriman: As far as I am aware, in the case of the Georgetown Town Council they have to write to the Ministry or some Department intimating that they would like some officer to get training in personnel management or finance, and usually have to wait a long time to get a reply. What I would like to know is whether, when such scholarships are offered, say from East Germany, the Ministry would consider it advisable to send statutory bodies like the Town Council full particulars of whatever scholarships are available. I do not know if the Parliamentary Secretary is able to say from what countries scholarships are offered.

Mr. Mann: These scholarships are offered by many of the Commonwealth countries, and indeed we have had offers of scholar-

ships from two countries that are not in the Commonwealth - the United Arab Republic and Israel. They are advertised in the Press. [Mr. Burnham: "Which Press? Why in the *Mirror* and not in the *New Nation*?"] I say, in the daily newspapers.

Mr. Merriman: Have we been offered scholarships by East Germany and West Germany? If so, what were the scholarships?

Mr. Mann: My advisers are not *au fait* with all the technical details, but I can say that some of the scholarships offered by East Germany were in medicine and others in agriculture.

Mr. Merriman: We have never had any scholarships by West Germany?

Mr. Mann: Not scholarships.

Mr. Burnham (Ruimveldt): May I ask whether the scholarships from East Germany were advertised and made available to all applicants in the community?

Mr. Mann: The first set of scholarships from the German Democratic Republic were offered to the Government of British Guiana and were advertised. The second set was given to the Party.

Mr. Merriman: It is rather illuminating, because I have done a bit of travelling recently, and I am told that scholarships are offered by Government to Government. But I am told now that scholarships are offered by Government to Parties. However, I shall note that. [Mr. Wilson: "The United States gave scholarships to individuals."] I think I will conclude this phase on the

[MR. MERRIMAN]

happy note that I hope the Government will make available to the public, scholarships offered by the East or the West, and we are glad to hear that scholarships may be offered to political parties.

Mr. Burnham: May I ask two questions? I would like to know whether there has been an offer of Government to Government scholarships from the Government of Cuba to the Government of British Guiana, and (2) whether the West German Government did not indicate to the British Guiana Government its willingness to make certain scholarships available to the Government of British Guiana.

3.40 p.m.

Mr. Mann: There was never any Government to Government offer in respect of scholarships *vis-a-vis* the Cuban and British Guiana Governments. The West German Government indicated its willingness to offer technical assistance and this Government accepted and asked it to send down details of teacher training as well as engineering.

Mr. Burnham: What has happened to the acceptance?

Mr. Mann: We have not yet heard from the West German Government, but we have accepted its offer and have written to indicate the fields we prefer to accept.

Mr. Burnham: I do not want to prolong this matter but I would suggest, with the greatest respect and humility to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, that the letter of

acceptance to the West German Government be traced.

Mr. Cheeks: I would just like to ask two questions as a result of comments made by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary and the Member for Essequibo Islands (Mr. Bhagwan). I would like to know if they regard the religious organisations as being sectional. This is vitally important because the inference is that this money would be shared on a national basis and not on a sectional basis, and, seeing that most of these organisations are mainly religious in character, Government must state if it regards a religious organisation as being sectional.

The Chairman: On Friday the Parliamentary Secretary said so.

Mr. Cheeks: We have had it then. It means, therefore, that the Government is using this as a lever.

Mr. Mann: With all due deference, sir, I never attempted a definition of "sectional." In the first place, it does not lie within my duty to determine religious organisations since these funds would be administered by the National Youth Council. In the second place, if I had to offer, I would have thought that the religious character of the organisation ought to be distinct from its aims or the scope of social activities at Universities.

The Chairman: I am sorry if I misunderstood. In giving your first answer to the question under Subhead 37, you indicated that these grants will be given on a national and not sectional basis.

Mr. Mann: Yes, sir, but I did not undertake any definition of "sectional".

Mr. Cheeks: I am seeking that now.

The Chairman: There are certain things which you do not need to pursue, about which you can form your own conclusions.

In-Service Teacher Training Programme

Mr. Cheeks: I would like to ask the hon. Minister if it is intended any time in the future to surrender the control of this In-Service Teacher Training Programme to the University of Guyana?

Mr. Mann: Without meaning to be impolite, I would have thought that this would have been undoubtedly concluded since I said that, by 1970, all teachers now teaching would have had at least one year's training - [Mr. Cheeks: "That is not an answer.""] Let me finish - on account of the scope of the in-service training programme. I further said that, by 1975, there can be no teacher unless he or she can be trained. The in-service training programme, which caters for teachers who are teaching now who have not been trained, will fulfil this task and, therefore, only the pre-service training programme will be left. I do not think there was any necessity for the question, just as there is no necessity for the answer.

Mr. Cheeks: The Parliamentary Secretary might have said that by 1975 this course will not exist. What I will ask now is if it is intended, at any time between now and the time when this in-service course is to be dissolved, to hand over control to the University of Guyana?

Mr. Mann: It is not contemplated.

Statue of Mr. H.N. Critchlow

Mr. Hugh: Subhead 39: This is in relation to the statue of the late honourable Mr. Critchlow. May I inquire if this statue is already ordered? If so, when is it expected to arrive, and where does the Government intend to erect it?

Mr. Mann: The organisational aspects of the construction of the Critchlow Statue are being handled by the National History and Culture Council under the chairmanship of Mr. Allan Young. The preliminary investigations, for example, with respect to the type of material which will be used in the construction of the statue are in train and it is to aid these preliminary investigations that this token amount has been provided.

Mr. Hugh: If I am to make a comment, this thing has been hanging fire for nearly two years and I wish that the Minister, his Government, or his advisers, will make some definite inquiry of Mr. Allan Young as to what is being done about this most important statue. It means a lot to us; it is not mere propaganda. How long are we going to go on with summary investigations? I

[MR. HUGH]

should like to get an undertaking from the Parliamentary Secretary, on behalf of the Minister, that immediate and vigorous investigations will be carried out and that an announcement will be made very shortly so that the working-class people can have something to look forward to. We do not vote money for fashion.

3.50 p.m.

Mr. Mann: The Government recognizes the importance of the construction of some monument to the late Mr. Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow. I do not think Mr. Young would claim omnipotence, but he will certainly claim intelligence, which I will deny the hon. Member for Georgetown South. This matter requires a lot of preliminary work, and my information is that it took a lot of practical work to determine the type of material which should be used. Cement fond is the type of material to be used in the construction of the monument, and I understand that it took some time to determine. I know that Mr. Young and the Committee are working on the matter as assiduously as possible. The statue will be erected at Bourda Green.

Mr. Burnham: Have you received the permission of the Mayor and the Town Council?

Mr. Mann: I have every confidence that such permission will not be withheld.

Mr. Hugh: I will not have to blame Mr. Young for this one. When the Queen Victoria statue was destroyed, it was dismantled, sent away, repaired and sent back with full speed. What is wrong

with Mr. Critchlow's statue? Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary say whether there will be any attempt at the acceleration of the erection of this statue?

[The hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development offered no reply.]

Head 42, Ministry of Education & Social Development - \$2,101,248, as amended, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT -
EDUCATION - SCHOOLS, INSTITU-
TIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS

The Minister of Finance (Dr. Jacob): I beg to move the following amendments:

- (i) Insertion of the figure "2" in the column "Establishment 1964" in subhead 38(12);
- (ii) Substitution of "\$90" for "\$10" in the column "Estimate 1964" in subhead 59(16);
- (iii) Substitution of "\$10" for "\$90" in the column "Estimate 1964" in Subhead 59(17).

Amendments agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Schedule.

Grants to Aided Schools -

Mr. Cheeks: Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary state whether the \$156,000 mentioned at Subhead 2, under the Revised

Estimates for 1963, includes the money which was supposed to have been paid last year for Equipment to Primary Schools but which was not paid until a few days ago?

Mr. Mann: I am unaware of this. I assume that last year's accounts would have been paid last year.

Mr. Cheeks: It is rather unfortunate that I have the information, and the hon. Parliamentary Secretary does not know about it! The equipment grant to the primary schools used to be paid in one sum early during the year. It is now being paid in two parts: one part is paid around March, and the other part around September or October. Last year only one part of that grant was paid. I do not want to call names to give the Government a chance to victimize certain persons. The other half was not paid in certain cases until last week. I want to know whether this amount includes what was paid a few days ago.

Mr. Mann: I would prefer to have some notice of a question of this nature, so that I can obtain the necessary information. It is an extremely trivial question, considering the importance of the Estimates. My information is that many of these accounts are submitted quite late in the year when they should, in fact, be submitted in September. It is quite possible that an account in respect of 1963 is left unpaid to as late as January, 1964.

Mr. Burnham: May I inquire from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary if it is possible, and we know it is a fact, that some of these accounts were not paid on the 31st December, 1963? Why then did the hon. Minister of

Finance say that "all debts were paid on the proper days"? The hon. Minister of Finance used to go to Queen's College with the hon. Member for Werk-en-Rust, and they were in the same form. He said that all debts had been paid. Was he right then, if there are still debts to be paid? **[Interruption.]** I note that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Social Development (Mr. Mann) is more audible when sitting than standing! The hon. Parliamentary Secretary used to be in the Ministry of Finance before he was kicked out!

Mr. Ram Karran: You were also in the Communist Party once.

Mr. Burnham: Come outside and say that.

Teaching of East Indian Languages

Mr. Campbell (North West): Subhead 2: I have read and have been told that the Indian language is made up of over 100 dialects and tongues. I want to know how many are going to be taught here under this Head. Are you going to teach Urdu, Hindi, or the 101 other languages?

Mr. Mann: Hindi and Urdu are the languages contemplated.

Mr. Campbell: I did not hear the hon. Parliamentary Secretary! I heard a guttural sound, but I do not understand what was said. **[An hon. Member:** "Hindi and Urdu will be taught."] Since they will be teaching two languages, then I ask that the Amerindian language be taught in schools. **[An hon. Member (Government):** "You have no textbooks."] The books will always come as long as you give

[MR. CAMPBELL]

the allocations which were promised in this House. We were promised that the matter would have been gone into. I understand that the Vice-Chancellor of the University went to the North West District to study the Amerindian language with a view to establishing it on the curriculum in the schools. I feel that that should be done.

Mr. Mann: Looking at it as a philosophical proposition, the Ministry of Education and Social Development has no objection to the teaching of the aboriginal or Amerindian dialects in schools. As a matter of fact the University of Guyana is starting an institute for Amerindian Affairs and the teaching of Amerindian languages and dialects, but it does not have the teachers at the moment.

Assembly resumed.

Sitting suspended at 4 p.m.

4.42 p.m.

On resumption

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

Primary and All-Age Schools

Mr. Burnham: I should like to ask a question which, of course, may be referred to sub-head 1, that is, what has happened to the Government's proposal to institute a Teachers' Service Commission?

Mr. Mann: Negotiations with the governing bodies as well as the B.G.T.A. are still in train; it is a very complicated matter.

Station Allowances

Mr. Bissember (Campbellville): Station Allowances - \$70,980: What is this station allowance referred to here?

Mr. Mann: Teachers who are recruited on the coastal areas to work in the remote areas are paid Station Allowances.

Mr. Bissember: I am happy to get that answer. I should like to know if teachers who have been in Rupununi for the last year or so have been given any Station Allowances whatsoever?

Mr. Mann: Yes. As long as a teacher lives five miles or more away from home, he or she is given an allowance.

Mr. Bissember: May I inquire what allowance is given to the teachers in the Rupununi, and from when was it given?

Mr. Mann: My information is that the amount varies but it is usually in the vicinity of \$40 per month. It depends on things like one's salary.

Mr. Bissember: This is what I was trying to get at. I remember personally making recommendations to the Ministry of Education in connection with teachers in the Rupununi who were promised house allowances and certain allowances. I have been promised that the Ministry would go into that to see whether it could make such allowances available. Up to now nothing has been done. Can I find out whether Station Allowances and other allowances have been made available for last year?

Mr. Mann: No house allowance is granted, we give Station Allowances. I am afraid, therefore, that the hon. Member's representations would not have met with success.

Mr. Bissember: The reason why I brought this up is that the assurance was given to me that teachers who have to go in the rural areas, especially in the Rupununi and interior, remote areas, have suffered great inconveniences. In fact, some of them did not want to go, but they were told that certain house allowances would be afforded them. My good friend was not attached to the Ministry at the time. These Station Allowances amount to \$70,000. I should like to know whether Government intends to allocate any part of these Station Allowances to those teachers who have to obtain houses, living accommodation, in the remote areas. Is it the intention of Government to assist them by way of making house allowances?

I am concerned over this matter because there was a delegation of teachers who saw the Minister, I think in 1962 or early 1963, and as far as my memory goes, the assurance was given that the teachers in Rupununi do need certain house allowances and the Ministry would be favourably disposed to make such allowances available to them when funds are available. I do not know if this amount of \$70,000 could be utilised to give assistance to those teachers who teach in schools in remote areas and who have to undergo more difficult conditions, comparatively speaking, than teachers who live in the urban areas.

4.50 p.m.

Mr. Mann: The Ministry of Education has never and does not intend to start a house allowance policy. Station Allowances are intended to assist teachers in overcoming the disparity in the cost of living in remote areas. The Ministry tries to obtain houses for teachers in remote areas for which they pay rent. The Station Allowances help to defray the cost of the rent. No official of the Ministry has any recollection whatever of a house allowance being paid to any member of the teaching community. I am sorry to say that, if an officer in the Department gave my hon. Friend that impression, he would have been remiss.

Mr. Bissember: May I be told whether a house allowance is given to any teacher in any other area in the country? Do I understand that it is Government's general policy not to make houses available to every teacher, or is it only given in certain areas?

Mr. Mann: Only Station Allowances are given.

Mr. Campbell: I should like to ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to give this Committee and me, in particular, an explanation of the words "Primary and All Age Schools". Are we dealing with two kinds of schools, or one school? I cannot understand it.

Mr. Mann: I thought that this Ministry had set out a clear definition of All Age Schools. I remember seeing laid a Government White Paper on Primary Education in this House. There are two categories of Primary Schools: one is exclusively confined to teaching primary school subjects, and the children in

[MR. MANN]

these schools receive instruction up to the age of 12; in other schools instruction is given in secondary school subjects, and the children receive instruction up to the age of 16.

Mr. Campbell: Are these two kinds of schools to be carried on under the same roof, or in separate buildings? Will secondary education be given along with elementary teaching in the same building?

Mr. Mann: I am afraid that the hon. Member has me there. Primary school-teaching in this country extends from the age of 6 to 16; it follows therefore that some types of All Age Schools must embrace both types.

Mr. Campbell: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary ought to have known his job.

Mr. Cheeks: I am under the impression that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is under some misapprehension. A child moves from the Primary School and goes to the Secondary School.

The Chairman: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has explained that already.

Mr. Cheeks: I thought that all of the Primary Schools had been re-named All Age Schools. If the Government intends to keep some schools as Primary Schools only, I should like to be told that. I thought it was intended that all were to be changed over.

Mr. Campbell: I am not satisfied with the answer given to me. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that I had him, and he did not know exactly what to say.

Mr. Burnham: May I inquire whether the Station Allowances are taxable?

Mr. Mann: Yes.

Mr. Burnham: I knew that, but I wanted to get an official admission. When you find in an area like the Rupununi a teacher from the coastal area getting a Station Allowance of \$40 which is taxable, he is in fact getting less than \$40, unless he has a big family. When one compares the cost of food and accommodation, when one has to pay 9¢ per pound to get food stuffs in, then it means that this Government must either be the lineal descendant of Shylock, or it does not know what it is doing. It gives a man \$40, which puts him in a higher bracket sometimes, and then taxes him. I have never heard of an allowance like that being taxable. For instance, the Entertainment Allowance of the hon. Premier is not taxable!

Mr. Mann: I must confess that there does seem to be some validity in the contention of the hon. Member for Ruimveldt. I myself was not aware of the fact that these allowances were taxable. I shall undertake, personally, to conduct an inquiry to find out why this was done, and whether anything can be done in the matter.

School Feeding Scheme

Mr. Hugh: I observe in the Notes that there is a reduction in subhead 12 this year because there is a reduction in the number of recipients for this snack meal. Are there fewer children to get this snack meal, or fewer children in need of this meal?

Is it a question of children who do not need this meal, or children who cannot receive the meal?

Mr. Mann: UNICEF supplies commodities with which children are fed snack meals. There has been, I understand, a reduction in the volume of these commodities, and as a concomitant there is also a reduction in the number of people to be fed.

5 p.m.

Mr. Hugh: This Government is very dishonest in giving the impression that there are less children to receive the snacks.

Mr. Mann: The footnote says just that. It is another way of saying what I said just now.

Mr. Burnham: May I inquire whether milk is distributed to school children and, if so, in what geographical areas?

Mr. Mann: In the ordinary run of things the School Feeding Programme applies to the country generally, but because of the reduction of supplies it is now concentrated in the remote and riverain areas.

Mr. Burnham: I knew that was the answer: May I inquire whether there are any available free supplies of milk for school children in this country?

Mr. Mann: The answer is no, sir.

Mr. Burnham: I am wondering whether Government is not aware of the fact that there is an unlimited supply of skimmed milk from the U.S.A.I.D. available free of cost, which the Red Cross has not been able to take up.

Mr. Mann: The position is that U.N.I.C.E.F. has been the sole supplier of milk for the School Feeding Programme, and this arrangement is now to be altered so that U.S.A.I.D. will be the sole supplier. This new arrangement is expected to come into operation some time about mid-year.

Mr. Burnham: I am appreciative of the difficulty of the Parliamentary Secretary, but is he not aware of the fact that we can get milk free of cost? My information is that the would-be donors of this milk are very anxious to get rid of it. If we could take advantage of it I think we should.

Mr. Mann: U.S.A.I.D. channels its supplies through U.N.I.C.E.F., and it is U.N.I.C.E.F. which says that supplies are not unlimited. U.S.A.I.D. was not in a position to increase its supplies. But I shall have the matter investigated.

Mr. Burnham: I am grateful to the Parliamentary Secretary.

Examinations

Mr. Campbell: I would like to know just what is meant by "Examinations".

The Chairman: Will you read the legend? It says:

"Increased number of entries for examinations necessitating more invigilators, etc."

Mr. Campbell: Even that explanation does not enlighten me much. I would like to know whether it is the Preliminary Examination or the College of Preceptors Examination, or other examinations, and in what month it is held. I think it is usually held in July. The whole educational system is in such a topsy-turvy condition that one does not know what is an all-age school. Last year I think the examination was held towards the end of the year, in December. I have been written to by teachers in the interior, and by school managers too, who say they have the greatest difficulty in getting the syllabus for these examinations. It takes about a month to reach them. I complained about this some years ago and we were told that it was a question of staffing. I suppose there is the same difficulty today.

Mr. Mann: I will answer two questions at once. The question by the hon. Member for Riumveldt ~~(Mr. Burnham)~~ with respect to the taxability of station allowances, I understand, was resolved in Whitley Council, and it was agreed that those allowances should be taxable.

The other question was by the hon. Member for the North West (Mr. Campbell). The simple answer is this: This amount is for all examinations. There are greater number of candidates

and this necessitates increased expenditure. The time-tables for the examinations are available in any part of the country to anyone who is interested.

5.10 p.m.

Mr. Burnham: Since the hon. Parliamentary Secretary has come up with allegedly more up-to-date information on my early question, may I ask two questions? What was the date - by that I would mean the year; that would be sufficient for me - of the Whitley Council's decision? Secondly, are these Station Allowances pensionable?

Mr. Mann: The year of the Whitley Council's decision was 1960; and these Station Allowances are not pensionable.

Mr. Burnham: Do I understand that this Whitley Council consisted of representatives of staff and employers and the B.G.T.A.? I am talking of Station Allowances for teachers. I do not know what the other Government employees or public servants might have agreed to. I am talking about teachers. Have they representatives on this Whitley Council? I am really interested.

Mr. Mann: My information is that the B.G.T.A., as such, is not represented on the Whitley Council. The C.S.A. deals with these matters and the criteria are the same for teachers and civil servants. The C.S.A.

agreed to this in the normal way and the B.G.T.A. gave the C.S.A. its brief. I myself have not studied the rationality.

Mr. Burnham: All I can say until I prosecute further inquiries - and my prosecution of inquiries is competent - is that I do not have to accept the answer which the Parliamentary Secretary has given. But I should like to comment that I know most of the teachers who are in receipt of a station allowance and there is not one who does not object to the fact that that allowance is taxable. If I find out subsequently that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is wrong, I shall not blame him I shall blame those who advise him because you do not expect political spokesmen in this House to know these details.

Mr. Mann: I have been able to obtain a little more information on this matter. This agreement between the C.S.A. and the Government side of Whitley Council was in force before the extension of benefits to teachers took place. Therefore, the extensions were handed down on the same basis. In other words, before accepting the Station Allowances, the B.G.T.A. was well aware that it was taxable and non-pensionable and I do not think my hon. Friend stands on good ground when he says that he knows of no teacher who agrees that the Station Allowances should be taxable. I know that there are a few teachers who even agree that income tax is permissible.

Mr. Burnham: I did not give qualitatively, I gave quantitatively. I stated a fact. I know of no teacher who does not object to the taxability of Station Allowances. I want to congratulate the hon. Parliamentary Secretary upon the skill with which he has manoeuvred himself out of the position. What happened was this: Teachers did not get Station Allowances and when the Government decided to give Station Allowances it said, "You can have Station Allowances but they would be taxable." It is not a question of teachers agreeing that they should be taxable, but they are told, "The C.S.A. says you can have this." But I will ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to have this matter investigated. Perhaps he will revise his views and advise his Government if he comes to the conclusion to which I have come, because I know he is not without any degree of influence in his Government.

Libraries for Teachers and Schools

Mr. Wharton: When first the Education Department saw the necessity for establishing libraries for schools there was a condition attached that the schools should provide a part of the money and the Education Department another part. I notice that this year the vote has increased by \$7,500. I should like the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to say whether or not the old custom of the school paying a part still prevails.

The Chairman: Have you read the legend? Are you satisfied with the explanation given there?

5.20 p.m.

Mr. Burnham: I do not quite understand this. You see you have Primary and All Age Schools, then you have Queen's Collège. Now, if you transfer \$1,000 from Queen's College here, are we to understand that these library facilities would cover Queen's College? Queen's College is under a separate Subhead, so if you take \$1,000 from the Subhead for Queen's college and put it here, does that mean that Queen's College library suffers to the extent of \$1,000? I would contend that it does, but I would prefer to await the answer of the hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Mann: This is badly indicated here and it does not mean that Queen's College library suffers by \$1,000. The increased vote, on the contrary, is intended to enhance the library of Queen's College but it is a little confusing as noted here.

Mr. Burnham: I am interested in this statement. Now Queen's College used to have \$1,000 for a library; Bishops' High School used to have \$1,000 for a library, making a total of \$2,000. You take this off, you put on \$500 more and you have eight secondary schools, and the hon. Premier stands up here, talks about equality, and says that every school must have the same facilities. I agree with this completely. So you add eight schools and you add \$500. Therefore, you say eight into \$500 and you get about \$62 per school.

Mr. Mann: Within the financial limitations of this Government, we still have the loftiest intentions and aspirations. We would wish that equal provision could be made for each school, but, obviously, the fact that financial stringency limits the provision for each school does not destroy our lofty aim of equality between schools.

Scholarships And Exhibition To Secondary Schools

Mr. Campbell: I notice that in 1963 provision was made for 7 Awards of Scholarships to Amerindians. I want to know how many of these 7 Scholarships have been awarded during last year. I also want to know how many Amerindian Scholarships are provided in 1964.

Mr. Mann: The hon. Member for the North West was quite right when he said that there were 7 Scholarships for Amerindians last year. Unfortunately, however, only one Amerindian reached the standard, and we now have to solicit the co-operation of the Interior Department to help our officers to investigate the circumstances which prevent them from being qualified.

Mr. Campbell: Did the hon. Parliamentary Secretary say that only one has been awarded for last year, and that an investigation is to be made to find out why all seven have not been awarded?

Mr. Mann: Only one Amerindian child reached the required standard last year, and the Ministry is hard put this year to find more Amerindian children who could benefit from Secondary Education.

Mr. Campbell: Therein lies the problem. I would ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to go into the question of Amerindian Scholarships. One hears a lot about how many scholarships are given to the Amerindians; that is good for propaganda, but in reality one finds only one single scholarship being granted last year. It was merely because that child was under the control of a Missionary that it succeeded in getting a scholarship. One of the difficulties in Amerindians getting to Secondary Schools is the expensive boarding and lodging in Georgetown. It is a waste of time giving scholarships, unless the Government can solve the problem of boarding and lodging for the children.

Education of Blind Children in Trinidad

Mr. Hugh: How many blind children do we have in Trinidad? In what year were the children sent, and how soon are they expected back in British Guiana?

Mr. Mann: The different categories of information I am not now in a position to supply.

Grants To Aided Secondary Schools

Mr. Cheeks: Will the hon. Parliamentary Secretary tell us if this sum includes the normal increments for teachers?

Mr. Mann: As usual, it does

History and Culture

Mr. Bhagwan: I wish to commend the Government, first of all, on the 50 per cent increase in its allocation, and to commend it, also, for taking the initiative to set up a History and Culture Council to promote these two aspects of Guianese life. I am particularly aware of the need for these things in this country, and the Government should lay a great deal of emphasis on the promotion of Guianese history and culture. I should like to ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary what, precisely, has been done by this Council, and how the money has been spent during last year.

5.30 p.m.

Mr. Mann: The details of expenditure under this Head are not available at the moment, but the money is spent in promoting Guianese history and culture. We had a Guiana Festival last year which was a countrywide affair, the success of which I think is above reproach or suspicion. The increased allocation this year is indicative of our efforts to sustain this kind of thing and to bring Guianese history and culture to the forefront of the Guianese mind.

Mr. Bbagwan: If the Parliamentary Secretary would allow me, I think the Ministry would do well to go in more detail into this question of Guianese history and culture and take some more initiative. I know it is very much concerned about this aspect, but I am thinking that perhaps there should be some effort by the Government, and indeed the Opposition can play its part to ensure that the people of the country as a whole become fully conscious of the need for all of us to know more about our own history and to study our own culture so that the people of this country might sooner or later inculcate some spirit of nationalism and togetherness instead of indulging in too many prejudices that seem to abound in our society. It would be very good, I think, if the G.I.S., the Press, the University, the schools and the many vehicles that are available could be utilized to promote history and culture, and that this money be used not merely to sponsor festivals and parades, because these hand-outs do not solve the basic problems of the community so far as a knowledge of the past is concerned.

We should start thinking about setting up, for example, cultural centres, music schools and such things which would help to promote a Guianese culture. I must commend the Government for taking steps, for example, to place our steel bands on a pedestal never before attained, and we

know that the steel bands have been snobbed by the very people who are now opening their mouths. The National History and Culture Council should award prizes for the encouragement of the steel bands. I also suggest that money should be spent for the purpose of assisting the G.I.S. to produce films which would go back into our past and help our people who go to the cinemas to see themselves on the screen in some historical perspective. The University of Guyana should also make a study of the social patterns in an effort to remove some of the prejudice in the minds of people who seem to feel that there is a great gap in cultural heritage, language and cultural patterns between the various groups, some of them out of sheer ignorance, and some because of political necessity.

I may also point out that a serious effort should be made to promote Guianese art. I observe that under subhead 30 an amount of \$1,500 is allocated for the promotion of art. I think there should be some co-ordination of all these allocations to be spent by the same body. I also urge that the Theatre Guild and other dramatic groups should be impressed with the need to concentrate on plays and drama of local nature and not to worry too much with plays like the "Mousetrap", so that whether it is music or art the Guianese people could begin to understand themselves. Our problems are not only those of poverty, economics, imperial-

- ism or the power struggle, but there is also the problem of historical understanding. I wish again to congratulate the Government and hope that the points I have made will engage the attention of the Ministry.

Mr. Campbell: History and culture! The hon. Member for the Essequibo Islands (Mr. Bhagwan) waxed very eloquent in explaining his particular culture, but what are the cultures we have? We have the British culture, East Indian culture, the Chinese culture, the African culture, the coloured culture and the Amerindian culture. Which particular culture are we going to foster? [An hon. Member: "Guianese."] When the East Indian section of our population talk about Guianese they mean East Indians. When the African section talk about Guianese they mean Africans, so there is a deadlock. We hear of the major ethnic group and things of that sort, and we are at daggers drawn all the time. So that if we want an impartial judge, take an Amerindian. [Laughter.]

The Minister of Communications (Mr. Wilson): To put the record straight with regard to the point raised by the hon. Member for the North West (Mr. Campbell), I would like to ask the Parliamentary Secretary these questions about the Amerindian Scholarship: (1) whether an amount is not paid as maintenance to children who win a scholarship, (2) what is the amount, and (3) how much was paid as main-

tenance per month to the one child who won the scholarship last year.

Mr. Mann: The allowance was \$25 per month but the Minister of Education has since doubled it.

Mr. Carter (Werk-en-Rust): On the question of Amerindian scholarships may I remind the Government that it is known that teaching facilities in the interior are not on par with those in other parts of the country. It is also known that it is more difficult for children in the interior to go to school, and that they have not the same surroundings which are conducive to quick learning. I would therefore suggest that instead of fixing the scholarship age at 11 or 10 plus (the Buxton Scholarship age is 11 plus), the qualifying age for Amerindians should be above the normal qualifying age.

5.40 p.m.

There is nothing wrong with this because the whole point is to help a section of the community that is cut off from the regular sources of knowledge and the Government will be well advised to consider raising the age limit and lowering the standard slightly. The qualifying standard may be 60 per cent but the child that has 50 per cent can still learn quite a bit and the Parliamentary Secretary knows that the age of 12 is not necessarily the testing age of a child. I have known young people who were quite dull

[MR. CARTER]

at the age of 11, 12 and 13 and have afterwards developed and I strongly recommend that special provision should be made for the Amerindian children.

Mr. Campbell: I beg to associate myself with these remarks and to thank the hon. Member. That is exactly what I wanted to say.

Mr. Mann: The point is well taken. I am very grateful.

Teaching of East Indian Languages

Mr. Hugh: I should like to ask just one question on subhead 2. Could the Minister - in the context of what has been said on the other side - kindly explain to us - I really did not want raise the point - what is the intention, the purpose, of teaching East Indian languages?

Mr. Mann: This has been a traditional grant but it is not to say that its validity has enhanced any by its established provision. The teaching of East Indian languages in schools in the context of the evolution of a national culture is not necessarily exclusive of this evolution. The official language of this country, so far as I am aware, is English, but I do not myself decry the teaching of another language in primary or secondary schools in this country. If, however, the practice of the teaching of this language *ipso facto* creates a feeling of

sectional isolation, the argument of the hon. Member for Georgetown South (Mr. Hugh) will be strengthened. In my view, the teaching of East Indian languages in primary and secondary schools is beneficial but if, as I said, the hon. Member feels that this would create a feeling of cultural separatism, then the Ministry of Education would be willing to look at it from a general philosophical point of view as to its social desirability.

Mr. Hugh: I want to make my point clear. I have absolutely no objection to the teaching of Hindi nor do I have any objection to the teaching of Spanish - I do wish they would try to teach more of the latter - but in view of the fact that a lot of the Government Members would like to propound and expound a lot of nationalism, the Government must have a proper explanation or reason when it does these things. In short, things must not only be right but they must appear to be right. One of the Government Members was very caustic on this question of people's opinion about culture. When you look at this item, the line is left open to persons who probably would not accept my view that nothing is wrong with it and it might cause more disturbances in this country than one would ever wish.

Education of Blind Children in Trinidad

Subhead 23: I am sorry that the Parliamentary Secretary could not tell me for how long these

three children will be educated in Trinidad and how soon they are expected to return. I want to find out if there would be continuity in the selection of blind children. Who selects these children and what type of education are they getting in Trinidad?

Mr. Mann: The Society for the Blind makes the selection and I suppose that the type of education is in line with the Braille reading. One child came back last year and I understand that another child has gone since.

Mr. Hugh: Could the Parliamentary Secretary tell us at what age they are put out of this school in Trinidad?

Mr. Mann: We do not know the answer to that but it would seem that they are teenagers.

Mr. Hugh: I suspect that they would be put out around the age of 15 or 16, but when the blind child, at the age of 16, has finished learning to read and write by the Braille system, what happens next? I would implore this Government to consider a proper type of vocation for these children when they return. These children can make a living for themselves. I have seen it done in other countries and I am very much impressed. The type of training that is being done here by the Society for the Blind is very much restricted and I wish that this Government would take account of the fact that these children are being put out at a peculiar age, a very tender age, and would give serious thought to

establishing a vocational training scheme for them when they return.

5.50 p.m.

Mr. Burnham: With reference to Subhead 24 - Grants to aided Secondary Schools - \$386,000, there is no legend to it. I know that only \$256,000 was expended in 1963, although the estimate was \$356,000; and in 1962 expenditure was estimated at \$313,638. I wonder whether, in the circumstances, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary can explain how the Government got through on the smaller amount.

Mr. Mann: I thought the hon. Member would have known the answer to that. There was a strike and disturbance last year.

Mr. Burnham: I am grateful for the explanation. I did not appreciate that that was the cause. [*Interruption*] I must also congratulate the hon. Minister of Communications for changing his habits. He believes that people should not be paid for work, since he has become an hon. Minister!

Conditional Scholarships And Training Courses For Teachers

There is a reduction of \$17,000 in this Subhead, and the legend says: "No new one-year in-service awards to be made." What is the meaning of this?

Mr. Mann: Before the development of our own In-Service

[MR. MANN]

Training Programme, it was the wont of the Ministry of Education to send at least 10 teachers to the U.W.I. for diplomas, but since we have established our own University it will not be necessary to continue doing so.

Publications Unit - Printing and Publications of Materials

Mr. Burnham: What books were printed for the sum of \$4,000 last year?

Mr. Mann: The intimate details of this expenditure are not known to us off the cuff, but we do know that books relating to Teachers' Science Courses absorbed some of the expenditure. If the hon. Member wants minutiae expenditure, I will undertake to go into the matter.

Mr. Burnham: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary is trusting too much on my generosity. He comes here to explain this Head. There is actually a legend here which states: "Printing and publication of Local Text Books". What are the Local Text Books that were printed and published? I know of some little bits of nonsense which represent essays by certain unlearned gentlemen who have entered the field of authorship.

Mr. Mann: We had intended to use up that sum last year but, unfortunately, during the dislocation of things we spent considerably less. We have in-

creased the provision this year because we hope to spend more.

Mr. Burnham: I still have not received an answer. I find it difficult to understand how failing to spend 80 per cent of what you budgeted to spend is considerably less. I would have accepted an answer like that from the hon. Minister of Works and Hydraulics who cannot add and subtract. On what did you spend considerably less? Where are the Local Text Books? Let the hon. Parliamentary Secretary be serious, as I have been all along. I agree that textbooks should be locally prepared, but I want to know what has happened to the money. It must have been spent, because they show Revised Estimates for 1963 and they were promulgated on the 31st December.

Mr. Mann: It says "Revised Estimates" and not "Revised Expenditure". We spent just over \$400 largely for the preparation of Science Magazines for the use of teachers at school. The dislocation of social and administrative life last year is largely responsible for the under-spending of many a Head. The hon. Member spoke about Subhead 24 just now, and that is merely another example. This year we have a programme, and we have tried to make a realistic provision.

Mr. Burnham: As a social being, I do not believe in destroying a man as a politician, I consider it my bounden duty to do certain things, and I hope the

hon. Parliamentary Secretary will recognize that. He says that \$400 was spent on Local Text Books. It is either that the *New Guiana Company* cannot print, or the particular Minister responsible for the presentation of these Estimates cannot read or write. If you have spent \$400, why put down your Revised Estimates of Expenditure as \$4,000? If I said that my salary is \$400 when it is \$4,000, then I am a fool.

The Chairman: I think a correction was made. A list of corrections was sent to hon. Members.

Mr. Burnham: It is for the hon. Minister to note where it is on his list of corrections.

The Chairman: That correction is not on the list.

Mr. Burnham: I am sure that my colleagues would not have permitted me to commit such a blunder, if it were on the list. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said something about Science Magazines, but they cannot come under the head of Publication of Local Text Books. A magazine is not a textbook. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary ought to know that; he is a University graduate, and he knows the distinction between magazines and textbooks.

6 p. m.

leading. I meant science textbooks.

Mr. Burnham: May we have the title of these books and their authors?

Mr. Mann: There was a series of articles produced by Guianese scientists. We cannot recall their names offhand, but they were Guianese.

Mr. Burnham: I would expect the Parliamentary Secretary, as a scholar, to understand that you cannot make a series of articles a textbook unless you put them together and publish them in one volume.

Mr. Mann: The hon. Member should know that the preliminary step is the publication of a series of articles, and they are compounded subsequently by some scholar who understands the material, to create a textbook.

Mr. Burnham: Even assuming that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is right, can he tell us how a series of articles on science subjects can amount to local textbooks? H:20 is H:20, whether it is in Russia, America or Britain. We do not want to know about its scientific basis; we want local textbooks. Let the Parliamentary Secretary tell us who were the authors, and what were the subjects on which they showed their scholarship and/or erudition.

Mr. Mann: The terminology I employed just now was indeed mis-

Mr. Mann: I promise personally to present the hon. Member

[MR. MANN]

with a copy bound in some form. I shall supervise that myself.

Mr. Burnham: I would like to have the information now. I do not want any personal presentation. If they have not spent the money, let them say that they have not. [Laughter.]

Mr. Mann: I admitted to the hon. Member that we did not use all of the allocation. I told him that we spent some of the money on the production of these scientific facts.

Mr. Burnham: But they cannot even tell us the titles of some of the articles. If one was entitled "The Baccoo In British Guiana" we would be edified. The Parliamentary Secretary has four advisers behind him.

Mr. Cheeks: Is it possible for the Parliamentary Secretary to give consideration to the possibility that some part of this \$4,000 was spent on award of scholarships given to a member of the Party to study how to write textbooks? I think I met the person who got that award.

Mr. Mann: There are three students in training in the field of textbooks production. This year, when they return, and in subsequent years we hope to be able to see the benefit of the expenditure on textbooks production in this country.

The Chairman: The amount of \$4,000 may have been part of the advance.

Mr. Mann: That is only for the binding. The money being spent on the course is not shown under this Head.

**GOVERNMENT TRAINING COLLEGE
PRE-SERVICE TEACHER
TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Principal

Mr. Cheeks: Will the Parliamentary Secretary tell the House what opportunity for promotion lies open to the Principal of the Government Training College?

Mr. Mann: I really do not understand either the thought which inspired the question or, indeed, what it means. The Principal of the Government Training College, like any other Principal of a Government institution, has the normal avenues of promotion open to him. What I think the hon. Member wants to ask is what is the fate of the present holder of the post? If I am correct I think the hon. Member should address his question to the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Cheeks: I repeat what I said on a previous occasion, that in the past the Principal of the Government Training College moved up in the ordinary way.

The Chairman: Yes, you said that, but we are dealing with his salary here.

Mr. Cheeks: Now that the post of Deputy Chief Education Officer is vacant the Principal of the Government Training Col-

lege should move up in the normal way to act, as was done in the past, but it seems that that avenue is closed now. It appears that the Government is seeking someone other than the Principal of the Training College to act in that post.

St. Ignatius Hostel

Mr. Campbell: Last year's revised estimate with respect to this item was \$10,000. Does this mean that another \$10,000 is required this year?

The Chairman: This is an annual grant of \$10,000 to maintain the hostel.

Maintenance of Students

Mr. Cheeks: With respect to the maintenance of students I observe in the footnote that "serving teachers will suffer no loss of salary while undergoing training ..." I cannot imagine teachers suffering any loss of salary. If they are working they must be paid. I wonder why it is necessary to mention that they will suffer no loss of salary.

6.10 p.m.

Mr. Mann: The in-service training programme was not contemplated to cause any loss of income. Teachers go in the afternoons. As it stands there--

Mr. Cheeks: The problem about the answers being given by the Parliamentary Secretary is that we are not hearing anything

he says. It is impossible to carry on a debate in this way! I want to know the reason for the cessation of the payment of allowances to teachers taking the pre-service course.

Mr. Mann: The hon. Member is obtuse and is really getting me riled. I have troubled to explain that teachers in the past who underwent training at the Government Training College suffered a loss of income and received instead a mere allowance. The present in-service training does not contemplate any loss of income. Teachers in the pre-service training scheme, on the other hand, receive neither income, salary nor allowance, so that they have no income whatever.

Mr. Burnham: It seems to me that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary is attempting to pull wool over the eyes of the hon. Member for Georgetown North who made a valid point. The in-service training consists of the training of persons who work during the day and, therefore, the question of income does not arise. If you are working, you are working! That is just an introduction of the point I want to make. Why are no allowances paid to pre-service trainees? As I understand it, they would be of the level of under-graduates and they should get allowances. They are not little children or young children for whom parents or guardians are responsible, and even children at Queen's College or Bishops' High School get allowances. I want to know why

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no allowances are given to the pre-service trainees.

Mr. Mann: I did not hear the last part of the hon. Member's question.

Mr. Burnham: Why is it that the pre-service trainee will get no allowances? They are not infants for whom parents are responsible. They would obviously be people in their late teens or early twenties and the normal thing is for such persons to have allowances unless they have available private means. That is the point I am making.

Mr. Mann: The pre-service training course, as observed by the hon. Member for Ruimsig (Mr. Burnham), is in fact, tantamount to an under-graduate course and Government is not in the habit of further subsidising such courses. It can hardly be expected to turn around and find allowances. The sum involved, I am persuaded, would be in the vicinity of \$200,000 and we do not feel that such an expenditure should come from public funds. These people who are contemplated in the pre-service training course are people who have not yet assumed service and who are therefore qualifying themselves for a fit and proper service. In the old days, people who were actually serving teachers were recruited to courses in the Government Training College and they were given allowances in lieu of the loss of their salary.

Mr. Burnham: I understand the point being made by the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, but I wish he would understand mine. What he has said there amounts to Government keeping out the impecunious but able would-be trainee. That is what it amounts to. If a particular trainee is poor and does not have private means, can you keep him for two years working for nothing? It is like going to a University. You go to a University either on a scholarship or if you have private means. If you do not have a scholarship or if you do not have private means, you cannot go. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary should know, he went to a University.

Now this pre-service course is tantamount to an under-graduate course, and if the persons have no means, whether they were teachers before or not, they are being trained for something. So it does seem to me that Government should review the situation. I think that the hon. Parliamentary Secretary appreciates my point but is somewhat embarrassed by the advice he is receiving and the policy of his Government and I would be satisfied if he undertook to take up this question with his Government.

It is stated here in the notes that the in-service programme has been transferred to Head 42, subheads 41 - 46.

Personal Emoluments - nil.
So what do you transfer to what? Page 77, Subhead 41.

They say it is transferred to that. There is nothing there. You go to staff and then you reach Subhead 44 - Library; Subhead 45 - Furniture; Subhead 46 - Books and Educational Supplies. It would appear that the most these people can hope to get will be the facilities of the Library and certain limited books and educational supplies which, I repeat, would put the impecunious but able trainee at a disadvantage. He cannot take it, he will have to go and find some other form of employment though he might have the aptitude and ability suited for becoming a trainee.

Mr. Mann: This does not have to be referred to any high-level ministerial conference. It is clear. The same thing can be said of a University. If you are qualified to the level of University entrance requirements and you do not have the cash, you can not go regardless of how cheap the University course is in terms of tuition or board or lodging. It may be a University enabling one to live out. If you cannot afford it, the same thing applies. The hon. Member is only making a propaganda point. We recognise this. Who does not recognise it?

We are providing a course, professional training for young people at no cost to them. They do not pay any fees whatsoever as one would at a University. We say that if you are seventeen and you have a minimum of four G.C.E. subjects, you can enter

the pre-service training course and become a professional man in two years.

6.20 P.M.

If your parents are badly off, you cannot go to the University. While I appreciate the humanitarian instincts which promote the contention of my hon. Friend the Member for Ruimsveldt, he must appreciate that the financial limitation not only of this country, but of other countries would not permit of payment of allowances to students however qualified they may be when attending institutions.

Mr. Burnham: The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that if allowances were granted the expenditure would be in the vicinity of \$200,000. He further argued that a student who had a certificate in 4 G.C.E. subjects would be qualified. [*Interruption.*] This so-called Socialist Government cannot call this claptrap. He should say that the Government is pauperised and bankrupt, as Mr. Jacobs said, and when it becomes solvent it will do certain things.

When scholars went to Secondary Schools, at least in my time, they received free tuition if they could not afford it; they were given a book allowance; or an allowance. I had to take an allowance because my father could not afford to send me there. If the hon. Parliamentary Secretary would say that consideration would be given to a means test

[MR. BURNHAM] -

and that allowances would be given in appropriate cases, then I would understand the limitation of the Budget of this *soi-disant* Socialist Government. To come here and say that you cannot give if you do not have the means is merely eye-wash. That is for capitalist societies. [Mr. Bhagwan made a sotto voce remark.] The difficulty is that I am speaking above the level of the hon. Member for Essequibo Islands. I will not apologize; I have not yet learnt to speak down to the lesser breed.

I am now addressing my remarks to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary. I am asking him to be frank with us, and to consider the revision of Government's policy in this matter. If you are operating under a stringent Budget, you cannot give allowances.

It is quite true that some students may have private means to keep them at an institution for two or three years. Why not operate the allowances on the same basis as scholarships at Queen's College used to be operated?

Mr. Mann: Instead of our being congratulated for providing professional courses for young people - courses which are free of cost - we are being chastised for not paying people to do their courses. I admire the instincts which inspired the comments of the hon. Member for Ruimveldt, but he must be realistic. The

courses cost a lot of money. Can we be expected, in addition, to pay people by way of an allowance, or a salary, to take the courses all at once? Perhaps in the future we may be able to offer loans and provide scholarships, but we cannot do so at the moment. It is foolish to contend that we are deserving of chastisement for adopting this attitude towards students. The hon. Member knows when he is being ridiculous.

Mr. Burnham: I want to ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary --

Offensive Odour In Gallery

The Chairman: Please take your seat. If those in the Gallery cannot come here without allowing unpleasant odours to emanate from it, then we will have to clear the Gallery in future. We are not going to permit you to interfere with the business of this House. I hope that the officers will be more vigilant, and see to it that people do not enter the Gallery with anything that will interfere with the business in this Chamber.

Mr. Burnham: Going back to my question, I should like to ask the hon. Parliamentary Secretary, in the context of his profuse socialism, to answer this question: Does he think it is fair to a citizen of the community that a trainee, who does not have the means to stay for two years, should not be given a course?

Mr. Mann: The answer is self-evident. I have told the hon. Member that his philosophy is not in question, but we are practical politicians. Where are we going to find the money to do what he wants?

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Assembly is adjourned until 12 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 28th January, 1964.

Adjourned accordingly at 6.28 p.m.