

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FRIDAY, 13th JUNE, 1947.

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., President, in the Chair.

PRESENT :

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Charles Campbell Woolley K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Mr. W. L. Heape, C.M.G.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. W. Holder, K.C.

The Hon. Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., K.C. (New Amsterdam).

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, C.B.E. (Georgetown North).

The Hon. J. I. de Augiar (Central Demerara).

The Hon. H. N. Critchlow (Nominated).

The Hon. J. B. Singh, O.B.E. (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves, O.B.E. (Georgetown South).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

The Hon. C. R. Jacob (North Western District)

The Hon. A. G. King (Demerara River).

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. A. M. Edun (Nominated).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. T. T. Thompson (Nominated).

The Hon. W. J. Raatgever (Nominated).

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 2nd May, 1947, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

W.I. CLOSER UNION CONFERENCE.

The PRESIDENT : There is one announcement I should like to make. Papers have been circulated to every hon. Member, and they are being laid on the table today, on the subject of the Conference to be held in Jamaica towards the middle of September to discuss Closer Union among the British possessions in the Caribbean. I think the Council will recollect that on the 19th of October, 1945, the Council passed the following Resolution:

"Be it resolved that this hon. Legislative Council express its appreciation of the far-sighted recommendations of the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies in his despatch of the 14th March, 1945, on Federation of these Colonies, and declare its readiness that the Colony of British Guiana should enter into discussion of the question in any conference with other British Colonies in the Caribbean which may be called for the purpose."

The question therefore immediately arises of selecting representatives of British Guiana to attend the Conference, and I propose in the first instance to discuss the matter informally with Unofficial Members on the adjournment of Council today. It is a question of procedure for selecting our representatives, so I propose, if the Council agrees that we should adjourn at 4 o'clock this afternoon, to discuss the matter informally then, unless the business of the day is concluded earlier.

DIRECTION OF NEW QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY communicated the following Message:—

MESSAGE No. 16

Honourable Members of Legislative Council,

I have the honour to refer to the announcement which was made by the Officer Administering the Government on the 20th of March, 1947, on the subject of the building of a new Queen's College to accommodate 500 pupils at a cost not exceeding 400,000 dollars, and informing you that an application had been submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to meet the cost

2. The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, has now informed me that he feels unable to support the application for so large a grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act in advance of the submission of the Colony's Ten Year Development Plan, but adds that, if it is altogether impracticable to furnish at any rate the main outline of a definite overall plan in the near future and local public opinion is so strongly in favour of the immediate commencement of the work, then he will be prepared to agree to the necessary expenditure being met from the funds of the Colony.

3. While every endeavour is being made to complete the Ten Year Development Plan and seek your approval thereto, it will, I fear, be some months before that can be accomplished, and in view of the pressing need for a new College, I think that Honourable Members will agree that in all the circumstances the rebuilding should not be further delayed. It is now some fifteen years since a new College was first mooted, and in so far as I am able to judge there would be a very strong and justifiable complaint from all sections of the community if any further delay occurs. I accordingly invite Honourable Members to approve of provision of \$400,000 being made from loan funds or surplus balances, as may be most convenient. Such provision will be a strain on our limited resources, but it will at the same time permit of an equal sum of money out of the grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act being devoted to other most urgently needed development work which, otherwise, we should not be able to undertake.

4. A plan of the proposed building prepared by the Public Works Department, is available, and will be laid on the table for the inspection of Honourable Members.

C. C. WOOLLEY,
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
British Guiana,
6th June, 1947.

PAPERS LAID.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following documents:—

The Annual Report on British Guiana for the year 1946 transmitted to the Secretary of State on the 31st of March, 1947, under cover of Despatch No. 46,

The Report of the Headmaster of the Essequibo Boys' School for the year 1946.

The Report of the Commissioner of Police for the year 1946.

The Report of the Conservator of Forests for the year 1946.

The Report of the Director, Geological Survey Department, for the year 1946.

Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies dated 14th February, 1947, on "Closer Association of the British West Indian Colonies".

The Report of the Fire Advisory Committee.

The Report of the Committee appointed to consider Profit Margins and Price Control.

The Telephone (Amendment) Regulations, 1947, No. 8 of 1947.

The Legislative Council (Special Provisions) Regulations, 1947, No. 10 of 1947.

The Report of the Commissioners of Currency for the year 1946.

The Report of the Rice Marketing Board for the half-year 1st April to 30th September, 1946.

The Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council held on the 22nd of May, 1947.

ANNUAL REPORT ON BRITISH GUIANA, 1946.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: If Your Excellency will permit, I would just like to make a few brief comments. If hon. Members would look at the First Schedule they would see that the Annual Report on British Guiana for the year 1946 is being laid. That Report, as is customary, is printed by H.M. Stationers in England, and I have not yet got copies to give you individually, but I would like Members to know that that Report, which includes the year 1946 and also an account of the activities of this Government throughout the War, was completed and sent to the Secretary of State on the 31st of March, and I got a letter from the Colonial Office saying that the British Guiana Annual Report, based on new lines advised by the Secretary of State, is one of the very first Reports that have been submitted throughout the British Empire.

I mention that because at times there have been criticisms of Government that our Reports have been unduly delayed. If Members look through the Schedule they will see that there are many other Departmental Reports, and actually this year Heads of Departments have done their very best to send in their Departmental Reports by the 31st of March.

The Annual Report on British Guiana is one of particular interest, and the B.P.I. are going to issue a *communiqué* on it. A typed copy will be laid on the table and another will be with the B.P.I. I really hope hon. Members will take the opportunity to have a look at it. It is a very good Report. Credit for its preparation goes to Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Collier and Mr. Seymour of my office, and when Members have read it, I think, they will agree that it is a very good bit of work indeed.

FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The other comment I have to make is on item (g), the Report of the Fire Advisory Committee, a copy of which has been laid on the table. It is a very lengthy Report. A copy will be with the B.P.I. Government has taken several immediate steps on the Report. I will not burden the Council with details of what those steps are, but the most important of them is the selection of a Fire Prevention Officer. This officer has again been selected. That sounds rather Irish, but what I mean is that an officer was previously selected and withdrew, and another has now been selected in his place. By arrangement with the Secretary of State he will get in touch with Major Matthey who is now in England, and we have sent to Major Matthey a list of equipment which we think is needed, and when Major Matthey and the new officer have gone through it we have authorized them to place the necessary orders at once with the Crown Agents. Incidentally, I may mention that an 800 gallons per minute self-propelled pump was ordered in February this year and the Secretary of State has promised to do his best to have it delivered before the end of this year.

A Fire Prevention Advisory Board has also been appointed. As a matter of public interest I may mention that the Hon.

F. J. Seaford is Chairman, and the other members are two Government Officers — the Commissioner of Police and the Director of Public Works — one representative from each of the two Fire Insurance Companies, and two members of the Town Council. The other actions taken by Government are fairly numerous, but I think I have given the most important of them.

PROFIT MARGINS AND PRICE CONTROL.

The final item upon which I wish to comment is the Report of the Committee appointed to consider profit margins and price control. Hon. Members have got copies of that Report which has been released for publication. Members of the public can get copies at the price of 3 shillings each. Again I would like to emphasize that that Report is dated 12th May. Government considered the matter in Executive Council on the 13th of May and decided then on what the action would be. There were two recommendations to which further consideration had to be given, but the main action was taken on the Report on the 31st of May. A Revised Prices Control Order will be out on the 30th June. (I have the Controller's assurance for that). It would have been out earlier if the Controller had not been burdened with the acute emergency of petrol rationing to which he had to direct all his attention.

As regards the other recommendations, action has been taken already to strengthen the staff of the Commodity Control and to deal with the price of bread, etc. I would like hon. Members to realize that quite unusual speed was used in dealing with this Report. I mention it because I did see some reference somewhere that Government was in the habit of pigeon-holing reports, so I thought I would make it quite clear that in this case no Government could have acted more swiftly.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

NEW QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice of the following motion and of his intention to move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to permit him to proceed with the motion at a later stage:—

"That, with reference to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 16 of the 6th of June, 1947, this Council approves the recommendations of the Development Committee for the erection of a new building to house Queen's College at an estimated cost of \$400,000 and undertakes to provide the necessary funds either from loan account or surplus balance as may be determined to be most convenient."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bills intituled :—

"An Ordinance to regulate and control prospecting and mining for radio-active minerals and the export thereof and for purposes connected therewith."

"An Ordinance to confer on the Supreme Court of British Guiana temporary jurisdiction in certain matrimonial causes where the relevant marriage took place on or after the third day of September, Nineteen Hundred and Thirty-nine."

CONGRATULATIONS TO SIR EUSTACE WOOLFORD.

The PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, before we proceed to the Order of the Day I feel sure that all Members of this Council would wish to join with me in warmly congratulating Sir Eustace Woolford, Deputy President of this Council, on the signal honour which His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon him (applause) in recognition of his public service to the Colony extending over a period of nearly 50 years. We are proud, Sir Eustace, that the Deputy President should be so honoured and we, all of us, trust that you will long be spared to enjoy the well merited recognition as well as the continued esteem and affection of the people of this Colony. (Applause).

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: Sir, on behalf of the Unofficial Members of this Council I crave your indulgence to add a few words to those you have said in reference to the honour which has been conferred on our Deputy President. The whole Council appreciates what the hon. Member has done for us here, and those of us who have been here for a very long time know still better the value he has been to this community and to this Council. He has been of invaluable assistance, and I am sure there

is not a single Member who is not delighted to know that this honour has been conferred upon him. We cannot fail to remember the very great work the Deputy President did on the Franchise Commission. I think everyone admits that he had a most difficult task as Chairman of that Commission, and he carried it out more efficiently than anybody else could have done. By his usual suave manner and tact he was able to bring the different viewpoints into one focal point, and for that work alone he deserves the thanks and praise of the people of this Colony. On behalf of the Unofficial Members of this Council, Sir, I do most heartily congratulate Sir Eustace on the honour which has been conferred upon him, an honour which I know has been well earned and well deserved. (Applause).

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. F. W. Holder, K.C.): Sir, may I be permitted to add to the congratulations which have been offered to the hon. the Deputy President of this Council on the signal honour which His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon him. I speak not only as a Member of the Legislative Council but also from the point of view of a member of the profession to which my friend has the honour to belong. As hon. Members are aware, the hon. the Deputy President was called to the Bar in 1898, therefore it will be appreciated how long a time he has spent in the practice of his profession in the Courts of this Colony. As has been stated, he has for many years been a Member of this Legislature, and he has also been a member of the Town Council of Georgetown. He has therefore given a long period of service to this Colony—service given without thought of himself, and service which everyone must on analysis fully appreciate.

It is a source of great satisfaction to the Members of this Council, to the members of the legal profession and, I venture to state, to the whole Colony that a son of British Guiana should be so signally honoured. It is an honour which he richly deserves and, I think, it will be an incentive to other West Indians to give of their utmost in the service of their communities, and to place unreservedly at the disposal of those communities any

gifts and talents which they possess. I am sure his work is fully appreciated and the honour richly deserved. (Applause).

Mr. EDUN : He whom His Majesty has been delighted to honour stands today in our midst as an adornment of the hearts of every British Guianese. Sir Eustace will always be considered as a monument to the youth of this country, having served so well in his days and up to this age. This recognition on the part of His Majesty to an elderly statesman like Sir Eustace gives an indication and an urge to every youngster who wishes to serve his country because, if Sir Eustace had wanted, maybe he would have been a very successful man in business, a very successful man in other spheres of life, but he took the road of service to his country, and we stand today to see and to accept what the King has conferred upon him. That does not stand to his credit alone; it stands to the credit of other Guianese. His has been a distinguished career indeed, rising from excellence to excellence, and it has risen to this height which every young man like myself, and probably younger than myself, should take as an example. Sometimes I have listened to him here speaking with an air of dignity, telling the people of this Colony that it is not only well to serve oneself but the best thing a man can achieve is for others to recognize his services. I am sure that in his heart he was actuated by no other motive than to serve his countrymen and his country.

I have had the privilege to be associated with him in many aspects of public life during the four years I have been here, and however much we have differed on principle or on matters affecting the welfare of this country, I have always found him to be steadfast in the resolve that whatever he did he conscientiously believed he was doing it in the interest of British Guiana. I have always bowed to his age and his experience, and I was prepared to learn at his feet. I have indeed learned from him many things, and I am grateful for those lessons. Surely Sir Eustace will live forever in the hearts of everybody. We are proud of him and he stands distinctive as an adornment of the country to which we all belong. (Applause).

Sir EUSTACE WOOLFORD : I need hardly say to you, Sir, and to hon Members how very sincerely I appreciate the kind congratulations which you have tendered to me on the honour and dignity which His Majesty the King has been so graciously pleased to confer on me, and I hope you will also appreciate that at this moment I cannot as adequately as I would like convey to you something of the feelings with which I am possessed at the moment, and have had since this intimation reached me. I am naturally emotional and, I suppose, having exceeded the allotted span of man only last December, I may be affected by some human frailties and the infirmities of old age.

Sir, I brought into public life one distinct advantage, and that is the good fortune of always having been lucky in my associates. As a student, my greatest friend was a young man who had the ambition to enter public life, and both of us shared the common ambition which achieved that distinction. He became a Member of Parliament for Bath and I became a Member of this Legislature for Georgetown, the only lawyer who had been allowed to represent a commercial constituency. It even became my good fortune not to have to woo the electors of New Amsterdam—always a most difficult constituency—but to be sent for by them, and it is a very great pleasure and privilege to me to be able to recall that I have represented that constituency for an unbroken period of 34 years. (Applause). I may be excused, therefore, if at this moment I acknowledge the loyal, faithful, and unwavering support I have always received from that electorate, and I should like also to acknowledge the unstinted support I have had from the Press of this Colony. It is really wonderful to me to reflect that during my entire career I have never received a line of adverse criticism, except of course the lamentations of the Press that I have become inaudible. It is not my fault that I am inaudible at the Press table, because old Members will remember that, knowing my shortcomings, I pressed one of Your Excellency's predecessors to have a loud speaker in this Chamber.

It seems that some Members had a special distaste for their views expressed in this Chamber being broadcast to their constituencies. I am also under an immense debt of gratitude to those who have been associated with me in this room in the conduct of public affairs in the past and to those who are present today. I am very glad to hear and to know that I, who have been here for so long a period, still enjoy the confidence and respect of my colleagues. I have always endeavoured to uphold the best traditions of public life and, what is more, I have laboured incessantly, whether as an Elected Member or as the Deputy President of this Council, to maintain the prestige and esteem in which this Council is entitled to be held by the general community. I hope that insistence on this will remain a tradition of this and successive Councils.

It will both be indelicate and improper for me to refer to any particular achievement I may have been satisfied with or would like to recall. This is not the proper place to do so. But I would like to be privileged to say that I am under a deep debt of gratitude to your predecessor for the honour he did me in appointing me as Deputy President of this Council, a position which enabled me to enrich the valuable experience I have already gained, and I am glad to know that I have been associated with him both in and out of this Council during the happiest, the most eventful and the most unforgettable period of my public life. I hope, Sir, you will not mind me saying that by his departure this Colony has lost a great friend. He was a man for whom I had the greatest regard which is shared by a large number of persons in the community, including hon. Members of this Council. To know him as a man was a privilege to have served under him.

I can only say that it will be my earnest prayer and hope during the few remaining years of life that are left me, that neither in the conduct of my personal life nor in the discharge of such public duties as may be assigned me, none will ever have the occasion to say, the honour which I have received was conferred on a man who was

unworthy. I ask your assistance to achieve my aim and purpose. I am grateful to you, Sir, for the opportunity you have given me of speaking to the Council. (Applause).

ORDER OF THE DAY.

IMPORTATION OF MERCHANDISE FROM U.K.

Mr. FARNUM asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY laid over replies to the following questions :—

Q. 1.—Is there any restriction on importation of merchandise from the United Kingdom and other sterling areas ?

A. —The only restriction on importation from sterling sources is in respect of certain items still in short supply (e.g. foodstuffs on the reserve list of the International Emergency Food Council, cement, jute, etc.) which are controlled by the Board of Trade in the United Kingdom which allocates quotas to colonial territories.

Q. 2.—If there is not, will Government consider the abolition at an early date of licences deemed necessary by the Control Board before importation can be made ?

A. —As indicated in the answer to Question 1, ultimate control is in the hands not of this Government but of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Q. 3.—When does Government intend to abolish the quota system ?

A. —Quotas have been abolished except in respect of commodities imported from hard currency areas and of foodstuffs still under allocation by the International Emergency Food Council (*vide* answer to Question 1 *supra*).

CITY BUS SERVICE.

Q. 1.—Is it a fact that the Mayor and Town Council invited tenders to operate a 24-passenger bus service in the City of Georgetown and that the tenders received were forwarded to Government with the request that an award be made ?

A. --Yes. The tenders forwarded to Government were carefully considered by a special committee on whose recommendation the Governor-in-Council has

decided to accept the tender submitted by Messrs. Celestine de Freitas, John de Freitas, John Mohamed, Nathaniel Samuels, W. G. Haly and Dr. J. Bissessar for the operation of a bus service in the City of Georgetown and Kitty; and to issue an exclusive licence under section 70 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance, 1940.

This licence will be granted on condition that the parties named form a registered and limited liability company (in whose favour the licence will actually be issued) and that they make satisfactory arrangements for obtaining the required number of buses.

The licence will come into effect on, or as soon as possible after, the 1st of January, 1948, but the actual date cannot be fixed until it is known when the new buses will be available. Government is making every effort to assist the grantees to obtain delivery as soon as possible.

- Q. 2—If the answer is in the affirmative will Government state whether an award has been made?
- Q. 3—If no award has been made, I respectfully ask that Government regard the inauguration of an improved bus service as urgent, and make an award at an early date so that a new service may be commenced during this year or early in 1948.
- A. —See answer to question No. 1.

NEW QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

The PRESIDENT : I wonder if before the hon. the Attorney-General moves his Bill the hon. the Colonial Secretary with the permission of the Council may move on behalf of the hon. the Colonial Treasurer the motion standing in his name relating to Queen's College. It is a matter for the Council. It is not controversial and if we can dispose of it first so much the better. Do hon. Members agree we may do so?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : With the consent of the Council I move the suspension of the Standing Orders in order that I may move this motion :—

“That, with reference to His Excellency the Governor's Message No. 16 of the 6th of June, 1947, this Council approves the recommendations of the Development Committee for the erection of a new building to house Queen's College at an estimated cost of \$400,000, and undertakes to provide the necessary funds either from loan account or surplus balance as may be determined to be most convenient.”

Question put, and agreed to.

Standing Orders suspended.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : The motion is very clearly set out in Your Excellency's Message and, I think, all I need add to it is this : I myself had a long conversation with Mr. Hammond, Education Adviser to the Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies, and he explained to me why it was not possible for the Comptroller to support the payment of a grant for this purpose under the Colonial Development Act in advance of the main recommendations of the Development Committee. Mr. Hammond's arguments, which were supported by the Comptroller and finally by the Secretary of State, were that if approved it would be a large bite out of the total which could be made available for Primary and Secondary Education, and it would be only logical for the Comptroller to know all that this Colony intends to do for Education generally before approving of the grant of this sum. However, I explained to Mr. Hammond that public feeling in this Colony was very strong on the subject, and while I appreciated the logic of his point of view I would press for immediate approval to get on with the job. Accordingly I sent a telegram to Colonel Spencer who happened to be in England saying that the Secretary of State has telegraphed, as His Excellency explained in his Message, that if it is considered that the need is sufficiently urgent then he has no objection to the sum being spent from Colony funds.

The hon. the Colonial Treasurer, I am afraid, is indisposed and I have not had an opportunity of discussing with him whether this sum should come by way of a Colony loan or from surplus revenue. All I am asking this Council to do this afternoon is simply this : Agree to the expenditure now of a sum not exceeding

\$400,000. Whether we put it on Loans Account or against surplus revenue is a matter we will decide later. What I want to get is approval of the sum to start building now.

Sir, in your Message you pointed out that if we spend from Colony funds this \$400,000, we could have that amount more to spend under Colonial Development and Welfare grant. Really what Your Excellency is saying is that we must treat all sources of revenue as one—the money we have from loans, the money from Colonial Development and Welfare allocation and the money we have from surplus revenue. If you agree that we have to spend this money, it does not really matter much from what source you spend it. Sir, I told you on your arrival when we discussed this particular matter my understanding of the feelings of this Council, of the Education Committee, and of the Sub-Development Committee on Education and of the whole people of the Colony. My feeling was that they wanted no further delay in the building of this College. And it was on my recommendation, Sir, you agreed to put your Message to the Council today.

The plan is here for Members to see. It has been prepared by the Public Works Department. It is to be a "T-shaped" building of wood with the cross of the "T" facing Thomas Road. I have Mr. Heard, the Architect, now outside, if you want any detail of the plan explained. The plan has been approved by the Queen's College Board of Governors and by the Governor and Executive Council. I have nothing else to add, Sir. I now formally move the motion standing in the name of the hon. the Colonial Treasurer, (Mr. McDavid).

Mr. SEAFORD : In seconding this motion moved by the hon. the Colonial Secretary, I should like to add a few words with reference to what he has said. First of all the present College, as we all know, is a disgrace to the Colony. It was an old Orphan Asylum and was adopted, without any change to the building or anything else, as a College. Those of us who have been around that building while the classes are going on wonder how the pupils in the various classes can take in what is being taught them, as what is going on in one

classroom can be heard in the other. It is marvellous that the pupils have done as well as they have done. We may think that the expenditure of \$400,000 on a new school is a lot of money, but I do not agree with that. I do feel that if we are putting up a building, unless it is to be one that we in this Colony and the boys at Queen's College in the years to come can be proud of, I think, it would do no end of harm. Let us do something that we can look at and be proud of.

I need not tell this Council, when we were first told it would be gone ahead with, the jubilation among the boys of the College and the Old Boys who have been pressing for it for a number of years, and I for one am delighted to see that we have reached this stage. It may be said by some that it is not big enough for 500 boys. That may be so, but the College is so designed that it can be added to in the future, if necessary. The plan has been examined by the Governors of the College together with the Headmaster and anyone else whose views we thought were of value, and I do think the result of the work done on it by Mr. Heard could not be better. As regards where the money is to come from, I do agree with the hon. the Colonial Secretary that it makes little difference whether it comes out of loans, or out of the Colonial Development and Welfare grants, or out of savings or anything else, because when we have to raise some money it comes out of the same till every time. It does not matter what you call it. I do ask Members to accept this motion as it stands and to pass it with a unanimous vote. I think no one in this Council will want to deny the Colony what it richly deserves.

Mr. LEE : As a Member of the Old Boys' Association, I desire to say we have tried in every possible way for this College to be built and, I think, it is long overdue and the sooner this Council realizes that it is for the benefit of the boys and youths of the Colony the better it will be for us. As the hon. Member for Georgetown North has said, whether we have to foot the bill or the Imperial Government has to assist us, we have to meet this bill and it is necessary that we commence work as early as possible.

Mr. EDUN : I do not think any Member of this Council would disagree to the spending of \$400,000 on a new Queen's College at this time. But what is passing through my mind is this : Why was not this same action taken long ago ? At the time when there was so much controversy about the inadequacy of Queen's College, there seemed to have been some hesitation as to what to do. Commonsense did not prevail at that time to say, let us take \$400,000 of our own money to do this job. Am I to understand that because the Bishops' High School stands out in spacious relief against the background of Carmichael Street, that Queen's College has become jealous of that ? If that is so, then I think it is better late than never. But I have seen the proposed architecture of the building. As the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has rightly said, it must be a building in which every Guianese should take some pride. It is worthwhile for us to spend our own money in that spirit of self-help. I will go as far as to borrow so as to complete the new Queen's College, because it will be an asset—it will be collateral security for the loan we borrow. So I do not see why we should not have begun before. But at this juncture I want to say this : Due credit ought to be given to the hon. the Colonial Secretary for his stand in this matter. I believe he has done very well indeed to urge on the Authorities in the Colonial Office that we need a new Queen's College, and it should be done in any case with whatever funds we have at our disposal. We ought to thank him for that suggestion. It stands surely as a tribute to his ingenuity, the statement "We must find the money somehow. Let us begin now." I want to thank him publicly for that in this Chamber.

Mr. GONSALVES : As one interested in this question of the improvement programme for Queen's College, I am happy to know that it is nearing its goal. It has been many years that we have been talking about it. We had many discussions and, I think, most Members know the difficulties which arose at times. To get the Queen's College that we hope for, it needs to be something for us to be somewhat proud of. I hope, though, that now that we have reached a substantial stage in

getting the Council to consider and vote on a motion to find the money for the commencement of the work, it will not be long—it will not be many years—when we will see the new Queen's College in being. I hope it may be possible to begin and continue the work as rapidly as possible, so that the conditions which exist at the present time may be removed at a very early date.

Mr. EDUN : May I enquire at this point whether it will be a stone building ?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY : I want to thank hon. Members for their support and the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, for his appreciation of the efforts which have been made to start the work. The building will be of wood like the Bishops' High School. The whole question of the delay in starting the work is really whether the sawmills will give us the timber. So if there is any of you with influence with the sawmills, now is your opportunity, and I hope you would use it well, because directly this motion is passed I will instruct the Public Works Department to commence collecting materials. The architect is on the spot. I think I should inform Members that it is intended by the Public Works Department to put Mr. Allen in charge of the construction of the new Queen's College as he had been in charge of that of Bishops' High School. If he makes as good a job as he has done with the Bishops' High School, I do not think any of us can have any complaint.

Motion put, and unanimously adopted.

GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1947.

The second reading was taken of the following Bill intituled :—

"An Ordinance further to amend the Gambling Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 95, with respect to distributions thereunder to charitable organisations and for purposes connected with the matter aforesaid."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL : In moving the second reading of this Bill I would point out to Members that under section 23 of the Gambling Prevention Ordinance, Chapter 95, as enacted by section 2 of the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance, 1941, all amounts

received by the Sweepstakes (Charity) Committee from the Demerara Turf Club under the provisions of section 21 of the said Ordinance are distributable among thirteen charitable organisations, I think. These are referred to under the Ordinance as "Approved charitable organisations" and are defined in section 1 of the Ordinance. The size of these amounts has so increased within recent years, due to the interest which people take in sweepstakes, that the approved charitable organisations have been receiving considerably more than was originally anticipated. On the other hand, there are other charitable organisations which have come into being and are doing very useful work and are also deserving of this assistance, but under the present provisions of the Gambling Prevention Ordinance no assistance can be given them from this source.

It is felt that a more equitable distribution of the amounts to which I have referred is desirable, and to this end this Bill which hon. Members have before them, while it preserves the prior claims of the approved charitable organisations which were in existence before by reserving for distribution among them the first \$6,000 received in any one year, in clause 2, seeks also to empower the Committee to distribute any excess of this sum between the approved and such other charitable organisations as the Governor in Council may approve and in such proportions as he may direct. I pause to emphasize that aspect of the Bill, because it will be seen that two things are done. On the one hand you preserve the position in so far as the approved charitable organisations are concerned in respect of what they receive under the old arrangement, and on the other hand you enable the Governor in Council to give consideration to the claims of other deserving charitable organisations. That is to say after the sum of \$6,000 has been appropriated to the approved charitable organisations, then any sum over and above that is distributable among those approved charitable organisations and any new charities. We are enlarging the scope of the application of the sums received from the Demerara Turf Club under the provisions of the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance of 1941.

Another point is, this Bill seeks to make provision for the keeping of accounts by the charitable organisations which benefit under the Ordinance, and to empower the Committee, subject to a right of appeal to the Governor in Council, to discontinue payments to such organisations as have either outlived their usefulness or no longer need financial assistance.

This Bill was published some time ago, on the 24th March of this year, and following on its publication there has been representation to Government with regard to this question of distribution. The B.G. Women's League of Social Services has made certain representation and has stated that its sub-committee does not approve of the method of allocation among the societies known as approved charities worded in section 23 of the Ordinance being perpetuated. It is suggested by the League that a new list of approved charities be considered and that the amount granted to each charity in future be varied each year in accordance with the information given on its audited balance sheet. The points are: (1) Subscriptions and donations from the public; (2) Amounts raised by efforts of the Society; (3) Amounts expended by the Society in charity; and (4) The assets of the Society. Some of those Societies are considered by the League to be very financial.

Those are the main points of the League's representation. They consider that some of these charitable organizations receive funds without making any effort whatever, with a consequent slowing down of activity by their members or by their Committees. On the other hand their other point was that the combined approved charities should be permitted to elect a representative of their own on the Sweepstakes (Charities) Committee. I think hon. Members will appreciate that that is undesirable from several points of view. As we say in law, no man can be judge in his own case.

As regards the several aspects of the position, such as the circumstances under which the approved charities came to receive the particular percentage, or how they came to be considered as entitled to part of the allocation, some years ago there was an arrangement arrived at

as a result of which the Demerara Turf Club was permitted to run sweepstakes as a sort of monopoly, and other organizations which formerly ran sweepstakes and lotteries gave up their right in consideration of getting an allocation from the funds of the Club. The suggestion about having a representative on the Committee is neither necessary nor in the circumstances advisable. It is very much better to have on the Committee persons who have nothing to do with the matter at all, so that a purely objective and impersonal point of view may be taken as regards the distribution of the funds.

Another point is that the League considers it correct to voice its regrets that no mention is made in the proposed amendment of unpaid prize money, and expresses the opinion that amounts representing unclaimed prize money should, after three years, be paid into the Colonial Treasury. I think I should mention that.

There have been other representations submitted on behalf of certain other organizations such as the Plaisance Orphanage, the Ladies of Charity, the B.G. Dorcas Society, the African Development Association, St. Ann's Orphanage, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Gentlewomen's Relief Association, and in their communication they set out the history of the distribution of these funds. It appears that in 1938 there was a conference between the Charities concerned and the Demerara Turf Club, at which the Turf Club made their financial position clear to the Charities, and a tentative arrangement resulted by which the Charities decided to forego their right to conduct prize drawings and sweepstakes on the condition that not less than 10 per cent. be allotted to Charities, and if an annual amount of \$6,000 was not reached, the Club would make that amount good. After some time and further discussion it was decided to have a Bill put before this Council, and ultimately Ordinance 22 of 1941 was passed. Section 21 (4) of that Ordinance provides for an allocation of 15 per cent. of the gross receipts from the sweepstakes to certain charitable organizations, but owing to the increased amounts which have been paid over and the usefulness of other charitable organizations which have been established since, representations have been made, and it is considered desirable, to enlarge the scope of the distribution.

I think hon. Members will appreciate the fact that this Bill seeks to deal with the matter in as fair and equitable a manner as is possible, having regard to all the circumstances, particularly to the history and background of the method of distribution which came into being as a result of an agreement between the Turf Club and the organizations which were operating at the time when the Ordinance was passed. With those observations I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Mr. ROTH: This Bill undoubtedly is an attempt to adjust a wrong to a certain extent, but so far as the first \$6,000 is concerned it perpetuates the iniquity of the existing Ordinance. To understand the position one has to go back to 1941 when the Demerara Turf Club was given the monopoly of running sweepstakes in the Colony. It was then provided by the Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance of that year that certain approved charitable organizations should receive 15 per cent. of the takings of the periodical sweepstakes, allocated in ratio to what they received from their individual sweepstakes a year or two previously. For the first two or three years that was a fair and just arrangement, assuming that the activities of each of the charitable organizations remained the same, but in the succeeding six years some of those organizations increased their charitable work at least 100 per cent. On the other hand I am not prepared to say that some of the other organizations decreased their work, but it is obvious that, based on the original ratio, however much a younger organization increased its charitable work it could get no greater ratio from the sweepstake fund, whereas another organization might just rest on its laurels and still get its original quota. My point, and that of quite a number of people, is why give the original organizations a lien on the first \$6,000 irrespective of what they do or have done? A more just system would be to award the amounts in ratio to the actual disbursements of all approved charitable organizations over a period immediately preceding the year of disbursement. With such a system I do not think anybody could have

any legitimate complaint. The organizations would get their awards in proportion to their work.

I am rather in a quandary whether to support the Bill at all, for the reason that if I protest against it and the majority of Members object to it and it falls through the immediate relief which it offers would be lost. If we agree to let it go through as it is there would be just that little relief, but the iniquity continues so far as the first \$6,000 is concerned. I would suggest that a small Committee be appointed to thresh those points out. It is just a question of justness and fairness.

Mr. LEE : I would like to support the appointment of a small Committee, and to suggest one other aspect of the matter for consideration. At the time when the amendment of the Ordinance was introduced the first prize of the Turf Club's sweepstakes did not reach as much as \$6,000. Now the first prize is as much as \$12,000, and the Club and Charities get an equivalent sum. I am sure that at the time this Council did not contemplate that the proceeds of the sweepstakes would have increased so much as to give the Turf Club an equal share with the Charities who gave up their right to run sweepstakes in order to allow the Club to have a monopoly.

A small Committee should be appointed to examine the results of these sweepstakes with a view to a more equitable distribution of the proceeds among the approved charitable organizations and the Club. I also suggest that certain charitable organizations which have just sprung up and are doing useful work, should be given awards commensurate with the work they are doing. It must be borne in mind that the Charities get nothing from the sweepstakes run by the Turf Club on the race course. Another point is that the Club has not yet organized sweepstakes on the race meetings held at Port Morant, Springlands and Mahaica, although they are recognized race courses. There are certain charitable organizations whose activities are spreading, but their present allocations are not sufficient to carry on their work.

Mr. SEAFORD : I believe there is a certain amount of misunderstanding about this whole matter. These sweepstakes

were organized by the Turf Club with the object of fostering what is called the Sport of Kings, because it was well known that it was impossible to support horse racing from the entries of horses, gate money, etc. At that time there were hundreds of lotteries and sweepstakes being run in the Colony to raise the wind. As a matter of fact anyone could have run a sweepstake for the benefit of his own pocket. The Turf Club made the proposal that they should control sweepstakes in the Colony for their own benefit and the benefit of local charities. The charitable organizations were at first not inclined to accept the proposal, because it meant the elimination of the sweepstakes they were running to finance the good work they were doing, but they were eventually persuaded to accept a guarantee from the Turf Club that they would share between them a sum of \$6,000 a year. In view of that agreement I cannot see how Government can go back upon that undertaking, neither can I agree with the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Roth, when he speaks about "perpetuating an iniquity". I can hardly call that an iniquity unless one considers the running of a sweepstake iniquitous.

As regards the second point, I think most hon. Members will agree that the sweepstakes have grown and the amounts given to charity have grown considerably. At the same time new charitable organizations have sprung up in the Colony, and it is only right that they should benefit to a certain extent from the sweepstakes, but that benefit is to be given to them after the liability of \$6,000 to the original charitable organizations has been met. I cannot see that there is anything wrong about that. I read in clause 2 that the Bill provides that

"the Sweepstakes (Charity) Committee shall distribute the excess among the approved charitable organizations and such other charitable organizations as the Governor in Council may approve and shall pay to each organization such percentage as the Governor in Council may from time to time direct."

I take it that in directing what amounts shall be paid to the various charitable organizations the Governor in Council would take into consideration the work those organizations are doing, and the

amount of money they are spending on charity. Surely that meets the point made by the hon. Member. I cannot see that we can improve on the proposal put before the Council today. I therefore ask hon. Members to support the Bill. I think this is the fairest way to deal with the matter. I cannot see how we can wipe out the undertaking given as regards the \$6,000. After that liability has been met the distribution of the excess is entirely in the hands of the Governor in Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I would like to make one point. It seems to me that this matter is only controversial on the question of the first \$6,000. There is nothing else that is controversial about the Bill. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Roth, remarked that the Bill perpetuates an unfair arrangement, and the last speaker said it was not unfair. After listening to him I agree that it was not unfair. When Government gave the undertaking that those approved charitable organizations who gave up their right to run sweepstakes should have a fixed allocation from the Turf Club's sweepstakes, was there any indication that it was for life, or for any time? I understand that there was no indication at all. If we agree that the arrangement was perfectly fair it does not follow that it must continue forever.

The PRESIDENT: I take it that section 25 applies to the original organizations to whom the \$6,000 is guaranteed. That clause applies to the original charitable organizations to whom this \$6,000 is guaranteed. If it does, then it seems to me to cover the point that these charitable organizations are properly conducted and are in need of funds.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Charitable organizations as distinct from approved charitable organizations. "Approved" is the governing word that really covers that.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I take it that the word "approved" relates to the organizations concerned and not to the amount fixed. I support the view of the hon. Nominated Member that we should not interfere with the figure of \$6,000 for these approved charitable organizations. It

appears that there is a dispute between the charitable organizations. The Council is concerned about the money being devoted to charitable purposes, and whether it is paid to A, B or C should not have so much effect on this Council's decision. But I quite agree with the other argument also that an organization whose amount is fixed may lack interest in its charitable development, and others may spring up which do just as much good or, perhaps, more good in so far as charities are concerned. I do not see the reason why, if there is improvement in these other charitable organizations that this fixed sum of \$6,000 must be given to the approved charitable organizations that have been so approved owing to the work they had been doing five, six or ten years ago. I think that circumstances alter many cases, and it is justifiable that new organizations that have come up and are doing some amount of work should receive similar consideration. That consideration should be the approval of those new organizations that have been doing charitable work on the same lines as or, perhaps, on more improved lines than the present approved organizations are doing. It is only right that we should now consider the advisability of removing the sum of \$6,000 for the old approved organizations, but the basis of distribution should be left to be decided by the Governor in Council to allocate the 15 per cent. as he thinks fit, according to the work that is being done by the organizations and to be varied as they lack interest.

Mr. GONSALVES: There are two points which have occurred to me, having listened to those Members who have spoken. They are—(1) It has been suggested, and I think it has been admitted, that the work of these organizations has been considerably increased, and they are in a much different position than when the original concession was given as regards sharing in this money. (2) The question which has been raised by the hon. the Colonial Secretary as to whether the guarantee given at the time was for a fixed period. What has occurred to me is this: If it is correct to assume that the charities done today by the organizations, who originally were in this arrangement, are greater and

therefore call for the distribution of more money, then it seems to me that the question raised by the hon. the Colonial Secretary is answered. There is no limited time. It seems that if the guarantee is one that can be altered, the amount which is guaranteed may well be increased. Assuming the conditions are, as I have heard it said by one or two hon. Members, that there is no gainsaying the fact, that the work of these organizations has increased, if we agree on that, then we have to be consistent. It means more money is necessary for the work to be carried on. If there is no limit to the guarantee given, either as regards the amount or the period, then, I think, if anything the Bill needs amendment in regard to the \$6,000.

In so far as the other suggestion in respect of the other charitable organizations that have sprung up is concerned, there are quite a few of them that are doing very useful work and, I think, deserve some assistance from this prize-drawing money. What the proportion should be is a matter that can be fixed by the Committee. I would like to say with regard to the historical part of it, as narrated by the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford), what he described as "Raise the wind sweep" it may well be termed that, but I think most Members of this Council would agree that in those days you got up a sweep on a race meeting and the law or some regulation of Government required you to have two Controllers or Guarantors, men of some standing or repute. Whilst Members of the Legislative Council are regarded as men of repute, if you look back you would find among the Controllers of Sweeps were at least Members of the Legislative Council—

Mr. SEAFORD : I was not referring to sweeps on race meetings but to those sweeps or raffles promoted for \$100.

Mr. GONSALVES : In that case the promoter is the controller himself and he is his own guarantor. He not only issues the tickets but also controls the money. I was not referring to those. I thought the hon. Member was referring to Prize Drawing before this came into being. I know that I and, I think, lots of other Mem-

bers too felt happy when that system was changed and this was brought in, because it relieved us of a very awkward position in which we were placed on many occasions when we were asked to be Controllers of Sweeps, because it was always difficult to say "No" when approached. This system is one that has worked very satisfactorily. I agree that it is necessary, as I and other Members have said, that there should be some revision of the method of disbursement. I do feel in the light of what has been said that if a small Committee might help in that direction, then some useful purpose would be served by that Committee. Failing that, I am inclined to support the amendment of the Bill as it stands.

Mr. EDUN : My views on gambling are so well known that further reiteration here is unnecessary, but when gambling has assumed the proportion of becoming an industry Members like myself should think one hundred times before supporting a Bill of this kind. The hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) has said it here that the Sweepstake has expanded, but he might have also said "considerably." Am I to find myself in a congratulatory mood to congratulate the Demerara Turf Club on the creation of an industry of gambling? If charity is to exist at all by the evil of gambling, then the essence of charity would be *nil* and, I think, we should be very careful not to perpetuate the iniquity. Everywhere in this Colony that you go, you find Sweepstake tickets being sold on Sundays and every day of the week, and dozens of persons have found a living out of selling them instead of tilling the soil and producing goods. But I find this Sweepstakes industry is growing further and further. It has captured the imagination of certain Members of this Council to the extent as to ask this Council to support a State Lottery, something which I deprecate from the very bottom of my soul. Am I to understand that Christian charity can be just made possible by the gambling evil? If that is so, I have no use for such charity at all.

What I cannot understand in this Bill is this : The hon. the Attorney-General told us that it goes a long way to distri-

bute the charity to a greater number of organizations, but I fail to see in it, if at all, that \$6,000 of this fund should be given as a prescriptive right to certain charities. It would in the long run put those charitable organizations in a position above other charitable organizations. The hon. the Attorney-General has received representation from the B.G. Women's League of Social Services, and I cannot understand why he, as a Churchman, did not call in those people and ask them how far they expected Government to go as regards what they had said in no uncertain terms. Many of these organizations are run on actual begging in the streets in order to do good work. All these organizations are doing service to the poorest classes of the country. The League in paragraph 5 of their document stated :

"The sub-committee would assure His Excellency that they have been greatly influenced by the fact that most of our poor charities are those who deal with child welfare, and the under-privileged children of the Colony get little Government aid."

Here was an opportunity to place before the Government of this Colony the work of these institutions, to examine their credentials and see what they are doing in order to make a larger share of distribution among them, but instead there has been this attempt to perpetuate an iniquity; \$6,000 must be preserved from the receipts—moneys got from the proceeds of gambling. The sooner the world of mankind gets away from that habit the better it will be for us. The whole background of the set-up is wrong and, I think, the Government ought not to dabble in it. There should be certain laws, and whoever wants to carry on sweepstakes should be governed by those laws. On the other hand I have a comparison of figures in respect of the money handed out from this fund to the various organizations. I would like to place it before the Government. It will there be seen that some of them receive very much money. Why should not then the distribution be wider? This preservation of \$6,000 should not be. I am not concerned with this Government giving an undertaking to anybody about gambling. What about the other charities? I think I will support an examination of the whole set-up under

this Bill by a sub-committee or select committee, so that these good women can get their views considered with the view of seeing whether these prescriptive holders of the right to this money should give way to other charitable organizations that need help. That will be the best way to go about it. I do not know the ladies. But before your advent here. Sir, there was a great deal of controversy on this matter, because it was found that a monopoly had been created not only for the Turf Club but for certain charitable organizations to be able to get funds.

There is another thing which can be said against certain actions of the Demerara Turf Club Limited, but I do not want to bring it up here. As a matter of fact I myself am sure it is not so. I have been told that prizes which have lapsed are not accounted for. Where those sums of money go, I do not know. The whole public is suspicious and, I think, this Council ought not to take a jump in the dark in order to make that situation firmer. Call all the charities concerned, examine them; call these holders of prescriptive right to this money together and examine them. At the beginning those organizations may have received a certain sum of money which grew every year as the sweepstakes grew. If they could make, for instance \$1,900 do in the year 1945, they can go along with it rather than all get \$6,000 the next year. Therefore if their prescriptive right is limited to the first \$6,000 to be shared among them, they should get that and that alone. If they want to say they should get a proportion of the other amounts from the sweepstakes, then I say that would be wrong. I think the hon. the Attorney-General should examine the whole question by a Select Committee calling the ladies concerned and then come back to the Legislative Council with the matter. I agree with the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Roth, that the best way out of it is by examination by a Select Committee. Before I sit down, just for record purpose I would like to read paragraph 3 of the same document to bring forcibly to the minds of hon. Members what is occurring with the charitable institutions which do not share in this money :

"The sub-committee would emphasize that many of the societies working for youth are so poor that their task is heartbreaking, while others who for the most part assist the aged are so prosperous that there is little need for them to appeal to the hearts and hands of the townfolk. The result of these extreme conditions is that social workers are increasingly difficult to find."

An appeal like this from other charitable organizations than those which expect to receive \$6,000 perpetually is worthy of consideration. They have the right to come to this Council and to Government and say "Since you have got funds here from the gambling propensity of the people, you ought to give me some of that money in order to carry on for you the work of child welfare." Members should look on that particular aspect of it rather than to think of preserving a defunct right on the part of the approved charitable organizations. I do not think the Government has the right to commit this Council on a matter of that kind and to say "Oh, no; they will get this money perpetually." It would be wrong, and I plead with you that this matter should be re-examined and thoroughly too, and some proper method adopted for a wider distribution for all charities which do good work.

Mr. RAATGEVER : Sir, I would like to support the request of the hon. the Fifth Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, that this matter be placed before a Committee for examination and that the recommendations sent in by the various organizations be examined. I think the time is ripe when the proportion allotted the Turf Club should be reduced and the money given to charities increased. I think the proportion is 15 per cent. to the Turf Club and 15 per cent. to Charities. That to the Turf Club should be reduced to 10 per cent. and that to Charities increased to 20 per cent. When this matter came before the Council and was agreed to, there was no thought that the amount would have grown to the extent it has. I be to support the application that the matter be put to a Committee.

Mr. THOMPSON : I feel that the point is well taken for a Select Committee to be appointed. I am not here to discuss

the point of the Turf Club or any other. What concerns me is whether the amount of \$6,000 is to be permanent. There are several other organizations working individually and, I think, they should be encouraged. Without much waste of words I am prepared to support the application for a Committee, so that there may be a more equitable distribution of the money among the prevailing charities.

Mr. de AGUIAR : It would appear from the discussion that has taken place so far in this Council that those Members who have spoken have not fully grasped the purpose of the amendment before the Council. I am almost tempted to say that they have not really studied the amendment, or they would have discovered that the main object of the amendment is to widen the scope of distribution which is now done under the Ordinance. Members have contented themselves with dealing with the details of the arrangement rather than supporting the amendment as it stands. I say straight away that so far as the amendment is concerned most of the points made by hon. Members have been met, with the possible exception of what they refer to as the reserved right of those charitable organizations to which they referred. Most of the Members who challenged the right of those organizations, I venture to suggest, were either not Members of this Council when the matter first came up for discussion, or are not familiar with the subject. I do not propose to give the historical background of this matter. My friend, the hon. Member for Georgetown North (Mr. Seaford) touched very briefly on the subject, and certain Members have asked for a Committee of the Council to examine the question. I do not think there can be any harm in doing that, and I am inclined to agree that a Committee of the Council might be appointed, but I am suggesting that it should be a Committee of the whole Council rather than a Select Committee of five or seven Members, so that the views of every Member of the Council may be fully known on the Committee. I mention that because it may well be that the Members selected to serve on the Committee may not have knowledge of what has

gone before, and may be wedded to a particular point of view as to how this money should be distributed.

I am going to take this opportunity to reply to some of the points raised by the hon. the Fifth Nominated Member (Mr. Edun) and possibly other Members. First of all I wish to say that I have no quarrel with the hon. Member over his puritanical ideas about gambling. Some of us like a little flutter; I like a flutter myself, and in our daily lives a little flutter now and then is a good thing. What I would like to emphasize is that the growth of the sweepstake is, I believe, proof of the confidence of the public in the running of the sweepstake. I do not think that remark can be challenged. Those of us who know what happened in the past appreciate that even those sweepstakes which were run by these self-same organizations were supported only by certain people who in one form or another wished to contribute to the work being done by those organizations. The Turf Club's sweepstake is something that is more Colony-wide, and as one of the officials of the Club I would like to say with a certain amount of pride, that no further evidence of its popularity is needed than the growth of the sweepstake within the last few years.

The hon. the Fifth Nominated Member remarked that he did not think the Turf Club submitted accounts in connection with the sweepstakes. I would like to tell him that about five minutes before I left my office to come to this Council I, again as an official of the Club, signed a copy of the account which is coming to Government in respect of the last sweepstake concluded a little over a week ago. As a matter of fact I would like to tell the hon. Member that that is why I said that so few of the Members seem to have a grasp of the subject. Under Ordinance 42 of 1941 it is laid down that within 14 days of the draw there shall be paid by the Club to the Sweepstakes (Charity) Committee 15 per cent. of the gross receipts with a statement of account duly verified by the Club's auditors. That is a statutory obligation on the Club, and I do not think it is fair, without a complete examination of the position, for a Member to suggest that accounts are not submitted by the Club.

Mr. EDUN : What I meant was that the accounts were not published.

The PRESIDENT : That is not what the hon. Member said.

Mr. de AGUIAR : There again (I want to be kind to my friend) I will tell him that in some form they are published. The Club issues a statement the day after each drawing, showing the number of tickets sold, the prizes, the amount payable to Charities, etc., and even before that publication, on the afternoon of the draw a large number of persons usually gather at the Club's premises for the purpose of witnessing the draw, and they are given full information. They know all about it, and, as I said at the beginning, the growth of the sweepstake is due to the confidence the public has in the organization and the running of the sweepstakes.

The hon. Member went on to say that the people who sell sweepstake tickets make it a livelihood. I can see that he has never bought a sweepstake ticket in his life, because I do not believe the sweepstake sellers, or a large number of them, can do any other job of work. They are mostly people who are broken down in health. I only mention that so that he would know that the entire sweepstake is run on a charitable basis.

One last thing. I think it was a very unkind remark to make when it was suggested, I think by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Roth, or the hon. Member for Essequibo (Mr. Lee), that certain charitable organizations rested on their laurels and did nothing. I consider it most unkind to suggest that organizations like the B.G. Dorcas Society and the St. Vincent de Paul Society would be content to rest on their laurels and receive the money paid to them by the Sweepstakes (Charity) Committee. I happen to know that in addition to this money from the sweepstakes those organizations continue to solicit donations and make appeals to private individuals and corporations. They cannot afford to sit down because, as their revenue from the sweepstakes and other sources increases, they expand their work, and I repeat that it was unkind to suggest that Government is encouraging those organizations to rest on their laurels.

Nothing that I have said must be taken to mean that I do not think there are other organizations which should benefit, and for that reason I am prepared to support the appointment of a Committee. It is because there are certain other organizations which should now come within the framework that this amendment of the Ordinance has been brought forward, and I am prepared to support it. If the Bill is not supported we would only perpetuate the original position, and in that way we would preclude any benefits being passed on to other deserving organizations.

Mr. A. G. KING : I have no objection to the appointment of a Committee, but I cannot for the life of me see what good it will do. The only point is whether the existing charitable organizations should share the first \$6,000. That right has been referred to as being iniquitous and unjust, but to take away that right would, in my opinion, be a greater iniquity and injustice. The existing charities did not get this right from Government for nothing; they gave up what they had been doing for some years previously. The Turf Club, in its anxiety to foster racing in the Colony, approached those charitable organizations with the support of Government, and there were at least two or three meetings at which I was present when the matter was discussed. Eventually the charitable organizations agreed to give up their right to run sweepstakes and lotteries in consideration of being given 15 per cent. of the proceeds of the sweepstakes to be organized by the Turf Club. There was a further undertaking that the amount in any one year would not be less than \$6,000, but for the first two years the Charities did not get \$6,000 because the percentage to which they were entitled did not realize that sum, and they accepted a lesser amount. To take away that right would be a grave injustice perpetrated by this very Council which gave them that right some years ago.

I regard those charitable organizations as preferent shareholders of a company. Is it contended that the ordinary shareholders of a company can by resolution take away the rights of the preferent shareholders? Is it possible for this Council to swallow the

words it uttered six years ago when it passed the amendment of the Ordinance giving those charitable organizations the right they have now? Those organizations are not taking up the attitude that other organizations which have become a force since then should not share at all in the proceeds of these sweepstakes. All they are asking is that in justice to themselves they should retain their right to the first \$6,000, and after that share with the other organizations whatever sum may be left over. I consider that a very generous attitude.

While I have no objection to a Committee of the Council considering the Bill, I cannot see what advantage there would be. We are going to discuss outside of the Council exactly what we are discussing in Council, and that is whether or not we should deprive the existing charitable organizations of the right which this Council gave them. So far as I am concerned it was intended in 1941 that that right should be in perpetuity, and the Council fully realized what it was doing. The Council is now willing, with the consent of the existing charitable organizations, to amend that Ordinance, and I cannot see what useful purpose will be served in discussing the matter outside of the Council along the same lines we are discussing it now. The Bill merely provides that anything in excess of \$6,000 should be shared by the existing organizations and other charities.

I feel very strongly on this matter, because in 1941 I took a considerable interest in the Bill, and I know that the meetings which were held between the officials of the Club and the charitable organizations were quite heated at times, and that the charitable organizations only gave way in the interest of the welfare of racing in the Colony and the understanding and the undertaking which was eventually given by this Council that their rights would be protected. Those same organizations today say that they are willing to forego their rights in so far as anything over \$6,000 is concerned, and to share the excess with the new organizations. I am asking Members to consider that a very generous offer. This is a poor country. There is need for a considerable amount of charity, and it must be borne in mind that

as the revenue from these sweepstakes has increased in recent years the approved charitable organizations have taken on additional responsibility. To cut their revenue suddenly would mean that their commitments would be thrown completely out of balance. I am appealing to this Council not to allow those organizations to be placed in that unfortunate position.

The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, says he does not approve of gambling; he regards it as an evil. So do I where one gambles in excess of his means, just as I consider the use of alcohol or smoking in excess a detriment to a man's health, but I would suggest to the hon. Member that to ease his conscience to some extent he should bear in mind that out of evil cometh good. Out of the evil of gambling comes benefit to charity and the poor of this Colony. I am appealing to hon. Members to consider this amendment in the light that they would be creating an injustice to the existing charitable organizations if they do not approve of the Bill before Council.

Mr. FARNUM: I think the time has arrived when this matter should be re-examined, but I do not think it is the intention to reduce the \$6,000 which was guaranteed the approved Charities. I do not agree with the proposal in section 23 (3) that those approved charitable organizations should also share in any sum in excess of the \$6,000. For that reason I quite agree that this matter should go to a Committee.

The PRESIDENT: It seems to me that the view of the majority of Members is that there should be a Select Committee to consider this Bill, and perhaps it would be a good thing if we could clear up a number of misapprehensions regarding it. Members have referred to certain organizations as having a monopoly over \$6,000. It does not appear to me that they have any monopoly over it at all. It was given to them under very strict conditions, and they can lose it if they do not comply with those conditions under the law. It is for that reason that I asked whether section 25 (1) of the Bill now before us applied to those original charitable organizations. If it does—and I assume it does—I do not think anyone can say that any organization

has a monopoly even over one dollar. There are misapprehensions, and perhaps the best thing would be to refer the matter to a Select Committee to be sure that we do not come to any final decision based on any misapprehension of the facts. What I would suggest is that the Attorney-General proceed with his reply, and that we take the second reading of the Bill on the understanding that it will be referred to a Select Committee.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: In view of what Your Excellency has just said I do not think it is necessary for me to reply at any length, because in moving the second reading I gave full details as regards the background to the Bill. I would just like to point out that the whole basis of this legislation goes back to the original agreement or understanding with what we call the approved charitable organizations, and if it is an accepted fact that the result of that understanding between the Turf Club and those charitable organizations was an Ordinance which we now propose to amend, then I suggest that from the point of view of equity and fair dealing those organizations are entitled to the fullest possible consideration.

As regards the suggestion that certain organizations are resting on their laurels, I venture to say from my limited knowledge that the work of those charitable organizations is expanding, and in addition there are new organizations which have sprung up. Consequently, there is a greater demand for financial assistance to carry on the work entailed. The new organizations also require financial assistance, and that is where the difficulty arises. I venture to say that they are all doing very admirable work and should receive every possible assistance.

As regards the hon. Mr. Edun's strictures concerning gambling, I think we should proceed from the realistic point of view that there were lotteries and sweepstakes prior to this, and that by arrangement the organization, the Turf Club, was permitted by law to carry on sweepstakes in the Colony, and out of the proceeds a certain amount was allocated to charity. In other words, a number of persons who would never give anything to

charity at all, or would never consider whether they should help an underprivileged child or an infirm man, or the very poor, would probably buy 10 or 20 books of sweepstake tickets. All that is being done is to approach the matter from a realistic point of view in saying "Some of that money which you are expending in your desire to be the lucky winner of the sweepstake is going to help some underprivileged child or infirm man." I will point out to the hon. Member that I do not think, having regard to all the circumstances, his strictures are deserved. As a legislative body we have to face the facts and face them resolutely. It is not a question of an ideal state; it is not a question of your own personal point of view. The hon. Member may look askance at the man who offers a sweepstake ticket for sale. That is his point of view. It takes all classes to make a world. We are trying to take from what the hon. Member refers to as an evil, perhaps a social evil, and help the cases which the hon. Member and all hon. Members think are deserving of every possible assistance.

So far as the Bill is concerned, I will again emphasize that it seeks to preserve from the point of view of fairness the result of an agreement and understanding which was reached years ago, and having done that it then seeks to enlarge the scope of the funds in order to embrace other charities which have come into being and which are doing equally useful work. Of course the Governor in Council will direct the percentage to be paid.

As regards the other point Your Excellency asked about, in order to remove it from any possible doubt the approved charities will come within the purview of

section 25 (1). That is to say, if in the opinion of the Committee a charitable organization may be regarded as distinct from an approved charitable organization, in these matters in order to avoid any misunderstanding or misapprehension, I think, it should be clarified in some way. It was intended that way, but did not really fully meet the point. In view of what Your Excellency said that you propose to appoint a Committee, I do not desire to make any further comment. I suggest that the Bill should receive second reading and then in the light of the comments made it can be examined by the Select Committee Your Excellency proposes to appoint.

Mr. KING : On a point of information ! May I ask the hon. the Attorney-General if section 25 (2) does not provide for Your Excellency's query ?

The ATTORNEY - GENERAL : It seems to make it clear, but I want to make it abundantly clear.

The PRESIDENT : I want to be sure whether it is so.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The PRESIDENT : I suggest to hon. Members that the Select Committee may consist of Sir Eustace Woolford, Chairman Mr. Roth, Mr. de Aguiar, Mr. Gonsalves, Mr. Bacchus, Mr. Raatgever and Mr. Farnum. I suggest that so as to ensure that every point of view will be put before the Committee. I do not know whether there are any comments to be made on the personnel.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.