

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 26th SEPTEMBER, 1946

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon James Lethem, K.C.M.G., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT :

The President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Gordon James Lethem, K.C.M.G.

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

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

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. W. O. Fraser (Acting).

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

The Hon. C. V. Wight (Western Essequibo).

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

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

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

The Hon. Percy C. Wight, O.B.E. (Georgetown Central).

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. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Hon. C. P. Ferreira (Berbice River).

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

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

The Clerk read prayers.

## MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 13th September, 1946, as printed and circulated were taken as read.

Mr. JACOB: May I draw Your Excellency's attention to the preparation of these minutes, Sir? I think in the past it was the rule to record in full any question or questions asked by a Member of this Council, but I notice on page 1 of the minutes before us today that the questions asked by the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Roth, and myself at the last meeting have not been recorded in full, and the way in which they have been put does not convey a correct interpretation of the questions. For instance, it is stated that:

"Mr. Jacob gave notice of questions—

- (a) relating to advances to Trades Union Officials
- (b) late submission of departmental reports."

The questions relating to advances were not in respect of Trades Unions only; they implicated certain Members of this Council and it would be far better if the usual practice is followed of having the questions fully recorded in the minutes as was done in the past.

The PRESIDENT: Your point is that the questions should have been fully set out in the minutes?

Mr. JACOB: Yes, Sir.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The answer is that I myself was in the Chair and I received the questions and took them to Government House to show them to Your Excellency. The replies will be prepared and given at the next meeting of the Council. The reason why the questions were not included *verbatim* in the minutes is that the Clerk had no access to them. I took them away and kept them at Government House, so I must take the

blame. They will be answered in part. I do not know whether I have the answers about departmental reports, but I have got complete replies about the advances made to Trades Union Officials — when they were made, and so on—in reply to Mr. Roth.

Mr. ROTH: I am not concerned very much about the replies to my questions being given at the next meeting of the Council.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: They will be.

Mr. JACOB: Would it be in order if I suggest that these minutes be amended to read "questions relating to Trades Union Officials and Members of the Legislative Council?"

The PRESIDENT: I am sure that any other question does not arise apart from the question of their being handed to the Clerk and the fact that they will be answered.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Yes; that is so.

The PRESIDENT: I am suggesting that the hon. Member's question is likely to be out of order. It is merely a matter of procedure, but I think it is usual that a doubtful question should not appear on the Order of the Day until it is passed by the Attorney-General.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: My point is that the questions would normally appear in the minutes and that they would have appeared today if I had not taken them to Government House. There is no question of referring them to the Attorney-General.

Mr. JACOB: I accept that and I trust that in future as long as questions are in order they will appear *verbatim* in the minutes.

The PRESIDENT: I think that is in order.

Minutes confirmed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL PROVISION

The PRESIDENT: Hon Members of Council,—The meeting today is of a purely business character dealing with details of

supplementary financial provision, and it is scarcely necessary or even proper that I should take up your time with any general remarks on larger matters of policy such as, for example, my discussions in London with the Colonial Office, which concerned principally future finance and development projects. I shall have, no doubt, a later opportunity of speaking with Members on these and any other important subjects before I leave the Colony, as you are aware I shall require to do approximately in the first week of November. It will not be possible for me to do much more than record my general advice on lines of policy, and I shall not be able to carry the responsibility of personal attention to the details of the Budget which cannot come forward before my departure. I shall, however, be able to leave that with a very confident feeling to the Colonial Secretary whom I should like particularly to thank for the manner in which he has filled my place in these recent months, and to other senior advisers of Government. I would also wish to record my warm appreciation of the labours of this Council in this period of recent months. I am very aware of the arduous and complicated business which they have been asked to put through. I should, however, at least record my personal pleasure at being back in Guiana, even for this short period which seemed to me on this occasion very much like a return to a second home, particularly from the friendly welcome accorded me by so many Members of Council and others of the community.

### THE LATE HON. J. W. JACKSON

I also take this opportunity in meeting again Members of this Honourable Council to record my very deep personal regret at the death of one Member since my last attendance here. I refer to the late Hon. J. W. Jackson and I should like to associate myself in the most sincere fashion with the tributes paid to the late gentleman by the Officer Administering the Government and this Council. I need add nothing in words beyond perhaps to record personally that it is my acquaintance with so many Guianese of the character of the late gentleman—with a sincerity of purpose and real readiness to serve the community—the community as

a whole without individual or sectional limitation — that makes me hopeful for the future of this country, hopeful in spite of admitted handicaps, difficulties and faults in Guiana, of the future of this country when the responsibility for that future is placed more and more, as it should be, and will be, on its own people.

I propose, therefore, to proceed forthwith with the business of the day which perhaps should not delay us very long when I know that so many Members have their eyes on another place.

I understand the Attorney-General would wish to take his one Bill, which is of a non-controversial character, through, all stages today. There is a good deal of other legislation of first importance prepared, but the continued handicaps of printing have so far prevented the getting of them forward. I very much regret this delay, as I am very acutely conscious of the urgent necessity of settling them.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTERIOR

There is one question of administration with which I have dealt in the last few days, that is touching the administration of the interior. The new Commissioner who is now in the country will take over the practical executive work carried by the Committee. There can be no question as to the practical and effective job carried through by this Committee under the Chairmanship of the Hon. the Fourth Nominated Member, Mr. Roth. I propose to continue it still under the Chairmanship of the Hon. the Fourth Nominated Member and to reorientate it and some extension, I think, may be possible with representation of general interests, as a body working with the Commissioner to provide him with knowledgeable advice and comment, and, I hope, backing. The Chairman, the Hon. the Fourth Nominated Member, will provide the link with this Council. I shall also ask the Secretary of State and this Government to anticipate allocation of funds under the Development and Welfare Act to the extent of \$30,000 in 1947.

I will now proceed with the formal business.

#### PRESIDENT WELCOMED

Mr. WOOLFORD: Sir, before proceeding with the Order of the Day I should like, with your permission, to state, both on my own behalf and that of the other Members of this Council, how deeply pleased we are to see you with us once again. I am sure it is the wish of all the Members that I should extend to you a hearty and sincere welcome on your return to perform the duties of Governor of this Colony, even if it is only for a short time. It is an added pleasure to us, Sir, that it should have been possible for you to have brought your daughter—Dr. Mary Lethem—with you, and it is our very great disappointment that Lady Lethem has not been able to accompany you also.

The announcement of your retirement, Sir, has been received by Members of this Council and the community in general with profound disappointment and regret which, I feel, is shared by every section of the community. I know that there are those present here today who would like to record their objection or disagreement over the decision taken by His Majesty's Secretary of State, but I will suggest to those Members, with very great deference to their opinions on the subject, that this is not an opportune time to do so, if it be their intention to do so at this moment. I think it would be both very embarrassing to you, Sir, and indelicate in the circumstances in which we have met, if we at this moment show our disapproval in any way with that decision. I know there are those who do not understand or appreciate the meaning of the words "on grounds of general policy" which are contained in the Secretary of State's announcement, and I feel sure Members of this Council will take the necessary steps to express their views on what is considered a very unwise decision.

I should like also to have placed on record this Council's appreciation of the manner in which the Colonial Secretary has administered the affairs of the Colony during your absence—a tribute which you were quite right in extending to him, Sir, and which we who are in the Colony also appreciate. In his capacity

as President of this Council, I think, he enjoyed a very happy immunity from disagreement. He had the full co-operation of the Members to such an extent that he was daring enough to say at the last meeting that he had been more indulgent than any other President of this Council. As he liked it—the position which he filled with distinction—let us hope he will not have cause to change his mind. In any event, I should like to place on record our appreciation of the manner in which he performed the duties of President of this Council. I think I would be ungracious if I did not extend to Mr. Parkinson also our appreciation of the manner in which he discharged the duties of Colonial Secretary during that time.

I can only hope, Sir, that both you, and your daughter who has already entered into the spirit of the community, will have a very happy and joyful time during your stay here.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I just want to say thanks very much indeed for Your Excellency's kind acknowledgement of my work and, to the Deputy President, Sir, I would like to say I am really most grateful for his kind expressions of appreciation, both on behalf of myself and on behalf of Mr. Parkinson who acted as Colonial Secretary. I am sure Mr. Parkinson, who is in his office now, would like me to say "thank you" on his behalf. I shall only add, Sir, that if I am to administer this Colony again, in the near future, and if the substantive Governor does not come out quickly I will do my best to carry out Your Excellency's policy so long as I am in the chair. (Applause). Further, I would ask hon. Members, Sir—if you permit me to express this remark—to bear in mind that however deep their resentment may be about the decision of the Secretary of State, they really can best show their appreciation of Your Excellency in helping me while I am in the Chair—if I go back there—to carry out Your Excellency's policy.

#### ADDITIONAL FIRST CLASS PILOT

The COLONIAL TREASURER communicated the following Message to the Council:—

#### MESSAGE No. 8.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

The present demands for Pilots for duty in First Class Pilotage areas and in the Berbice and Essequibo Rivers render it essential that active First Class Pilots should be increased from two to three. For the past two years 2nd Class Pilot N. B. Fraser has been called upon to perform the duties of a First Class Pilot, and as he is the only fully licensed 1st Class Pilot not holding the appointment as such, I consider it equitable that he should be promoted to the grade of 1st Class Pilot as from the 1st of June, 1946.

2. No Supplementary financial provision is required as Transport and Harbours Department is at the present time operating with five 2nd Class Pilots, instead of six as shown on the estimates for 1946.

3. The Council is accordingly invited to approve of this appointment as from the date mentioned.

GORDON LETHEM,  
Governor.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
British Guiana,  
25th September, 1946.

#### PAPERS LAID

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

Report of the Comptroller of Customs for the year 1944.

Report of the Governing Body of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, 1945.

Statements of the Accounts of the Georgetown Mariners' Club for the year ended 31st December, 1945. (Leg. Co. No. 7 of 1946).

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

##### ADDITIONAL FIRST CLASS PILOT

The COLONIAL TREASURER gave notice of the following motion:—

That, with reference to Governor's Message No. 8 of the 25th of September, 1946, this Council ap-

proves of the number of first class Pilots in the Transport and Harbours Department being increased from two to three.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILL

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

"An Ordinance further to amend the Constabulary Ordinance by providing for the preservation of the pension rights of a Non-Commissioned Officer or constable when seconded or temporarily transferred."

#### UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

##### LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. CRITCHLOW gave notice of the following motion:—

RESOLVED: That this Honourable House recommend to Government the need for the appointment of a Labour Advisory Board, on which a woman or women should be appointed, for the purpose of investigating the conditions of employment of domestic servants in the Colony of British Guiana, and to make recommendations in respect to measures to be adopted along the lines indicated below:—

1. The daily working day should begin at 7 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. without a reduction in the present rate of pay.
2. Each worker be given a daily break of three (3) hours.
3. Each worker receive a half-day off weekly of 4½ hours so as not to interfere with the principle of the eight-hour day.
4. If a servant has to work before 7 in the morning or after 7 in the evening, that such extra time be paid for at double time.
5. Domestic servants be relieved from duties every other Sunday.
6. One week annual holiday with pay be given each domestic worker.
7. Where workers are expected to wear uniforms that the employers supply the uniform.

#### PETITION

Mr. GONSALVES laid over a petition from Government pensioners praying for an increase in war bonus, and for payment of their pensions before the end of the month as in the case of Old Age Pensioners and Civil Servants.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

##### SALE OF MALT LIQUOR IN CAKE-SHOPS

Mr. ROTH asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to the following question:—

Q.—With a view to encouraging the consumption of the less potent alcoholic beverages and to make the same more easily available to the less wealthy classes, will Government see its way to amend the relevant Ordinance so that, on payment of an annual licence of Fifty Dollars restaurants and cake-shops may sell malt liquor to be consumed on the premises?

A. — Government contemplates amending the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Ordinance, Chapter 107, and consideration will be given to the inclusion, with other matters, of an amendment to permit the sale of wine and malt liquor in restaurants and cake-shops for consumption on the premises.

##### CUSTOMS GUARDS & NEW INDUSTRIES

Mr. GONSALVES asked and the COLONIAL SECRETARY replied to the following questions:—

Q. 1.—(a) How many Customs Guards (apart from Boats' Crews) are there in the Customs Department in Georgetown? Are there any senior Guards of that number?

(b) If there are none is it not desirable to have at least six of these Guards classified in a higher grade as Senior Guards whose duties could be of a more responsible nature to the others?

(c) If considered desirable will Government make provision therefor in the Estimates for 1947?

A. — (a) There are 20 Guards (apart from Boats' Crews) —15 Class I Guards with salary on the scale \$480 x 30—\$720 per annum (pensionable), and 5 Class II

Guards with salary on the scale \$480 x 30—\$600 per annum (non-pensionable). There is no grade higher than Class I.

(b) It is not considered desirable to create a higher grade since all Customs Guards perform the same type of duties and there would be no advantage at present in attempting to reallocate the work so as to provide more responsible duties for a higher grade of officer.

(c) See (b) above.

Q. 2.—Is Government fully aware of the acute over-crowding in the city of Georgetown? If so, will Government give all possible assistance and encouragement in the starting of such industries in the country districts of the Colony as might attract such people who are over-crowding?

A. — Government is aware of the influx of persons seeking employment in Georgetown, and is prepared to afford assistance and encouragement, where feasible and practicable, in the initiation of industries in the rural areas.

Q. 3.—Will Government make a statement as to the action taken or proposed to be taken on Reports submitted to Government by the Secondary Industries Committee or other persons from time to time, in connection with the introduction of new industries in the Colony?

A. — During his visit to the United Kingdom, last year Mr. G. O. Case, Chairman, Secondary and Minor Industries Board, submitted six preliminary reports on the possibilities of manufacturing—

- (a) White and Aluminous cement;
- (b) Paper Pulp;
- (c) Glass;
- (d) Plywood and veneers;

(e) Chinaware, pottery, and kaolin fillers for the rubber, paper, and paint industries;

(f) Refractory products.

The following action has already been taken:—

1. *White Cement* :

Mr. R. E. P. Shearer of the firm of Messrs. Henry Pooley recently visited the Colony and it is expected that within the next three months he will report to Government on the economic implications of cement manufacture in British Guiana.

2. *Paper Pulp* :

Government is obtaining information regarding the area of forest which it would be necessary to make available for the establishment of a paper pulp industry, and has under consideration the question of engaging the services of a paper pulp expert to report on the economic issues involved.

3. *Glass* :

The necessary technical tests have been completed and a report by the Chairman, Secondary and Minor Industries Board, on the possibilities of manufacturing glass in British Guiana has been published.

4. *Plywood and Veneers* :

Samples of veneers cut in the Colony were sent to the Commonwealth Plywood Company Limited, who have reported that the tests made were satisfactory. The Company have enquired whether logs for making plywood and veneers can be dispatched to Canada. Samples of 26 different species of veneers cut in the Colony have also been sent to the Forest Products Research Station, Princess Risborough, which has been asked to inspect and advise on the suitability of these types of timber for making plywood and veneers. Samples of plywood made locally are now on exhibition at the Carnegie Library.

The possibility of establishing a plywood factory in British Guiana is under consideration by Government.

5. *Chinaware, Pottery and Kaolin Fillers* : N

The Government has engaged Dr. Alex Scott, a ceramics expert in the United Kingdom, to report on the suitability of local kaolin clays for the manufacture of chinaware, pottery and kaolin fillers for the rubber, paper and paint industries. Samples of local materials have been dispatched to Dr. Scott for tests.

6. *Refractory Products :*

Government is in correspondence with a firm of expert consulting engineers with a view to their visiting British Guiana and reporting on the possibility of manufacturing refractory products locally.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE FOR  
AUGUST 1946

On a motion by the Colonial Treasurer the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Schedule of Additional Provision for August, 1946.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE  
AGRICULTURE.

*Item 36—Cane Farming Industry, East Demerara—Assistance to, \$7,191.65.*

Mr. JACOB: I am moving the deletion of this item because I understand that there is not that co-operation which one would expect between the millers of the cane and those who plant it. There has been, unfortunately, a good deal of trouble on the East Coast, Demerara, and it appears to some of us at least that the Colony is not going to get the full benefit of this money that is being spent. Recently there was some litigation between cane farmers and certain sugar estate owners. There has always been some dispute over the question of weighing the canes and I do not know if the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) can tell us anything about it.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The remarks made by the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) have not been fully appreciated by me. The question raised is that this money is not being properly spent because there has been bickering between the cane farmers and the estate proprietors, but I would like to draw the hon. Member's attention to the fact that the item under discussion does not make any reference whatever to the estate proprietors, but it is an amount of money being voted to improve the lot of the cane farmers in the district to which it refers. The hon. Member may not be aware of the purpose for which this money is being spent and, if that is so, I should like to explain to him that it has for its objects the improvement of drainage facilities and also flood following in order to improve the yields in the district. If the hon.

Member feels that this vote would not benefit the cane farmers, I must express disagreement with his view, and I feel sure that other Members would do so. There can be no doubt that one of the reasons why cane-farming on the East Coast, Demerara, fell to a low ebb is because of the fact that the farmers found it impossible to obtain satisfactory results on account of the low yields. The hon. Member is perhaps not aware of the fact that there has been for some time a standing committee known as the Cane Farming Committee, and it is within my knowledge that they meet regularly and discuss the question to which the hon. Member has referred. They also discuss such matters as yields and the polarization of sugar. I do not think anyone would say that in an industry of that kind differences of opinion should not arise and that when they do arise it would not be best to have them settled by discussion.

Mr. ROTH: The hon. Member who has opposed this item seems to have overlooked the fact that the money was voted since last year, but owing to circumstances over which we had no control all the money was not spent.

Mr. LEE: I would like to give the assurance that a committee of this Legislative Council discussed this matter and that the arrangements made for the expenditure of this money are to the satisfaction of the Committee. This is only a revote to carry out the policy of the committee.

Mr. JACOB: I thought the hon. Member for Central Demerara would have referred to the question of the litigation going on. My object in referring to it was to bring the matter to the attention of Government, so that there should be a better understanding between the estate proprietors and the cane farmers. It is said that the proprietors who buy the canes do certain things. If the canes are planted and the farmers have no representative to see that the scale is in order and that the canes are properly weighed then. I think, the money would not have been properly spent. The hon. Member for Central Demerara has made reference to the services of the Cane Farmers' Committee. That committee might be doing

a good job, but when this Council votes money I like to know that that money will be properly spent. We have had too many instances of money not being properly spent and, while I agree that conditions should be improved for these cane farmers, I am satisfied that all was not well in the past. I ask Government to see that this money is properly spent.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am sorry I cannot be of much more assistance to the hon. Member. I do not know whether he looks upon me as a Bail Court or a Court of civil jurisdiction. I suggest to him again that his method of approach is wrong, and I would point out that if his motion is carried it would interfere with the development of this industry.

#### MEDICAL—BACTERIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

*Item 3—Instruments, Supplies, etc., \$2,000.*

Mr. LEE: I would like to draw to Government's serious attention that there are very few, or if I may say none at all, up to date instruments in this Bacteriological Department. During my investigation I found that, although we have a very competent officer there, he has no up to date instruments and materials with which to make the necessary tests. Your Excellency. Government has paid for one of our boys to go away and take a post-graduate course of studies for work in this Department. He has returned and would like to give of his best to the Colony, but unless he is assisted with up to date instruments he will not be able to do so. I do not know what he wants but, from what I understand, this vote of \$2,000 is not sufficient to purchase all those instruments. I am seriously asking Government to enquire into this matter.

Apart from that, I would also like to draw Government's attention to the fact that this Officer's salary is not on the level of that provided for experts employed in other Departments of Government. Although he is one of us, I feel he should be given the salary of an expert as in the case of the other Officers who are experts at the Hospital. I ask that that be considered for the coming year.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: In reply to the hon. Member I would like to explain, that in the Estimates for this year there is a sum of \$2,000 for two instruments. A further \$2,000 is being provided for in these Estimates, and an increase of \$4,000 has been asked for next year. I spoke to the Director of Medical Services on the subject, and he told me that the Bacteriologist is perfectly satisfied, if provision is made for the Department to be properly equipped next year.

Mr. LEE: Why I have mentioned this matter, there was a Medical expert who came out here and was doing certain tests at this Department but had not the facility of the necessary instruments for carrying out his experiments and tests. When these experts are seconded here for the purpose of carrying out certain experiments, they should be able to obtain the necessary equipment here. I am glad for the hon. the Colonial Treasurer's explanation, and I sincerely hope the instruments will be got down as early as possible.

#### MEDICAL—HOSPITALS & DISPENSARIES.

*Item 37—Purchase of Station Waggon, \$3,000.*

Mr. ROTH: With regard to this item, I desire to take this opportunity to mention to Government that in the present conditions a station waggon will not be of much use as half of the road cannot be used. I refer to the southern half of the Hosororo—Mabaruma road. If you are going to have a station waggon there, it should be possible to make the fullest use of it. The waggon will not be able to get to the Hosororo Hills area.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: May I ask the hon. Member if he has received my letter or not?

Mr. ROTH: I received one some weeks ago but not recently.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I directed a letter to the hon. Member yesterday.

Mr. ROTH: I have not yet received it.



The CHAIRMAN: The letter is on the way to the hon. Member. I have taken a note of what the hon. Member has said.

MISCELLANEOUS.

*Item 5—Contingencies, \$1,500.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: This is more than double the original item when the question was raised. I am just wondering what could have arisen to have brought about an estimate of increased expenditure of more than the original amount for last year.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The reason for it is, the Department has to meet a rather unusual compensation. An accident occurred between a Police car and two men and compensation to the amount of \$180 has to be met.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am very glad I asked the question. I thought this item here or fund, which is under the control of the Colonial Secretary, covered such little things like petty expenditure. Now I hear it is for the purpose of paying compensation for the Police Department and something else. I am going to suggest seriously that this is not the proper place for it. Hon. Members are unable to keep track of expenditure when it is allowed to be met from Contingencies under the control of the Colonial Secretary. Surely it can be put under the Head of Police. The Police Department ought to pay the compensation when one of their cars get into trouble. But they seem to get into trouble very often. I would like to see compensation for accidents of that kind placed under the Police Vote so that it can be seen easily.

Mr. JACOB: I am afraid I do not agree with the hon. Member. How can you anticipate what amount must be placed on the Estimates? I think it is being placed under the correct head—“Miscellaneous—Contingencies”. I am afraid my hon. Friend has missed the point on this occasion. I do agree that the Police cars and motor cycles run about the streets of the town far too recklessly. They just race along the streets as if they own the place. I think a stop ought to be put to that. I think

the Commissioner of Police ought to look into this matter. Only yesterday I saw a motor cycle ridden by a policeman travelling on the street at about 40 miles an hour, while he should not be going at more than 15 miles an hour. I am not surprised that these accidents do occur. My attention was drawn to the fact that the Police cars instead of being used are misused. At some later stage we shall see the condition of the cars from what use they are being put to, and how they have deteriorated.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I would not like the hon. Member's remarks to go unchallenged. I want to remind him that if he turns to the various Heads on the Estimates he would see the item of compensation has been put down as a token vote every year, and if the amount is exhausted Government comes back to the Council for an increase. I suggest to him to look under the Head—“Transport and Harbours Department”—and the Heads of the various other Government Departments where the item of compensation appears. It does not surprise me that he agrees that compensation in this case should appear under a vote of which I had no knowledge, and I do not think the hon. Member himself has any.

Mr. LEE: I would like to find out whether the Police cars are insured against “third party” risk or otherwise. If that is so, I do not see the necessity for a vote in this Council. According to the law every car on the road must carry “third party” insurance. Therefore in the event of any accident this Council will not have to vote any money as compensation save and except an excess over \$5,000. I do not know whether the Police cars are exempted from “third party” insurance.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The subhead “Contingencies” is to cover expenditure that cannot be easily fixed under any vote on the Estimates. In so far as compensation is concerned to which the hon. Member for Central Demerara has referred, there is already a vote on the Estimates for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. But this will not be compensation under that

Act. There is no other appropriate Head in the Estimates to which it can be charged.

Mr. FERREIRA: I fail to see why an amount like that should not be inserted as "Upkeep and Maintenance of Police vehicles." It is a matter which concerns the running of these vehicles. I totally agree with what I have heard about these Police cars running about furiously. Some care ought to be exercised in that direction. The question raised by the hon. Member for Essequibo River (Mr. Lee) is an interesting one. I gather the law says that every car must have "third party" insurance, and I do not see why the Police cars should not be so covered.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: That risk is carried by Government itself.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: Arising out of that, every lawyer knows how difficult it is to sue the Government. It takes a lawyer a considerable amount of thought to do so, as it is not the usual writ. I can assure the hon. the Colonial Treasurer that, but for that fact Government would have been sued many more times than it is sued at the present moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Some insurance companies will not take Government business at all.

Mr. LEE: The reason is that the driver's name has to be given. What I am concerned about is that accidents do occur and a poor man cannot recover damages from Government for injury he receives, as the process is a very expensive one. I would like to ask Government whether it is not possible to introduce legislation or otherwise whereby when these accidents do occur, some process may be made available to the injured party to recover compensation from Government without the expense of engaging a lawyer.

*Item 45 — Expenses of visit of expert to advise on manufacture of White and Aluminous Cements, \$7,040.*

Mr. LEE: May I enquire whether this Council or the Executive Council was consulted in respect of this expendi-

ture? As an Elected Member of this Council I thought that this expert's expenses were being paid by the Imperial Government from the Colonial Development and Welfare grant. Here we find that we have to pay this expert's expenses to the tune of \$7,040. After this expert has given his report, is this Government going to undertake or vote the money for the erection of a factory? What is the use of this Government spending this money when it is not going to carry out the expert's recommendation, if at all it is favourable, but will throw it in a pigeon-hole or the waste paper basket, unless there are firms abroad or locally who are interested in these industries and will buy copies of the report and then invest money in these industries? We have already spent this money, but I am asking Government that in future, when any expert is to come here and this Colony has to bear the cost of his visit, this Council be consulted.

Mr. FERREIRA: I am rather disappointed and surprised at the remarks made by the hon. Member. As a British Guianese one would have thought he would be glad to have all the facts about our interior's wealth placed before the world so that outside capitalists as well as local capitalists could be interested and find it worthwhile to assist in the development of this country. I commend Government for going forward with this matter. It is only by these means we can hope to make any progress.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I was hoping the hon. Member for Essequibo River would have asked Government a specific question on this matter. He has failed to do so, and I have risen to get some clarification of it. What I think hon. Members would like to know—certainly I would like to know—is whether Government will make the report, which will be issued at some time or other by this gentleman, available to any interested party. I would agree with the hon. Member if the intention is that this gentleman will make his report and it will be considered and possibly pigeon-holed. What is meant is that Government should make the report available to

interested persons. I do not think that such a report will be published as the hon. Member thinks. If my understanding of the matter is correct, then I think the obvious question is whether Government will make this report available to any party or parties interested in the development of projects of this kind. I would like to ask Government that question.

Mr. GONSALVES: Arising out of the discussion which has taken place on this particular item, I desire to draw Members' attention to the reply given to my question which has been answered today. The question reads:

"Will Government make a statement as to the action taken or proposed to be taken on Reports submitted to Government by the Secondary Industries Committee or other persons from time to time, in connection with the introduction of new industries in the Colony?"

The reply that has been given to me is:

"During his visit to the United Kingdom last year, Mr. G. O. Case, Chairman, Secondary and Minor Industries Board, submitted six preliminary reports on the possibilities of manufacturing—

- (a) White and Aluminous cement;
- (b) Paper Pulp;
- (c) Glass;
- (d) Plywood and veneers;
- (e) Chinaware, pottery, and kaolin fillers for the rubber, paper, and paint industries;
- (f) Refractory products.

"The following action has already been taken:—

1. *White Cement*: Mr. R. E. P. Shearer of the firm of Messrs. Henry Poole recently visited the Colony, and it is expected that within the next three months he will report to Government on the economic implications of cement manufacture in British Guiana...."

It seems from that answer we will have to wait three months in order to have the report and to find out the possi-

bilities of cement manufacture in the Colony. If that is so, we would have to exercise patience for some months to see what the report will bring forth.

Mr. JACOB: I am inclined to agree that the money to be voted today, \$7,040, is somewhat on the high side. Then there is a note which reads:

"It is probable that further supplementary provision under (b) —Travelling and other expenses of Mr. Shearer—will be required but this is dependent on shipping connections of Mr. Shearer."

I believe this Council will be asked to vote a further sum of money in connection with these Secondary Industries. What would be the position if this Colony spent \$7,000 on each of the six new industries that are proposed? If there are going to be results, very well and good, but not if the Colony is just going to get these reports and pigeon-hole them after spending a large sum of money to get them. I think these things should be followed up in a different way. Unless there is someone interested in the development of these industries, Government should not go to the expense of getting experts to advise on them. If there are no enquiries and no one is prepared to do it and Government is not prepared to do it, what is the object of spending all this money? I do think that spending such a large sum of money without the possibility of starting the industries seems to be almost a hopeless situation. That has been the unfortunate position in this Colony for a long time. I rarely see anything practical done. Perhaps I am wrong. Perhaps I am a pessimist, I would like to be an optimist and to see certain development, but for the present I can see nothing practical. I urge on Government to go slowly in getting experts to prepare reports for these large sums of money.

Mr. LEE: I would ask Government that as many of these reports and geological reports be published in appropriate magazines or weakly editions of certain papers abroad. If these reports are published in geological magazines in England and Canada we may find capi-

talists in those countries being interested in them. In this instance I ask when the report is sent to Government that Government should consider its publication in Canada and England in appropriate magazines or weekly papers.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: With regard to the remarks of the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob), I can assure him that, particularly in connection with the expert who came down here with respect to White Cement, there were several enquiries and capitalists are very keen about it. If this white cement can be manufactured economically in this Colony, it would be a considerable boon to the Secondary and Minor Industries. This report will be read with considerable interest by several firms, and there have been several enquiries. They have already practically intimated their willingness to come in without awaiting the report. It is a question of wealth coming in if this particular form of cement, white cement, which is very valuable and which is the cement used considerably instead of marble and things of that kind, becomes an industry.

Mr. JACOB: I am very glad to hear that. I do not know much about it at the moment to be able to form a considered opinion, but if this expenditure is going to bring people here to develop this thing it would be a very good thing for this Colony. I would like just to make another point in connection with this matter. I do not think it is wise to put forward a Budget Statement in this Colony showing huge deficits. For instance, the last Budget showed a deficit of nearly \$3,000,000 for this year and over \$2,000,000 for last year. Yet you expect capitalists to come here and invest in new industries. I have been asked in Canada recently: "Are we going to get protection from taxes if we have to contribute to the deficit in the working of the Colony?" If the deficits were real one would be satisfied, but when these deficits are so imaginary and so huge, displaying very little skill in their preparation, then I ask this Government to endeavour not to damage the reputation of the Colony by putting forward

such figures. I understand the deficit for last year amounted to only \$1,000,000, while it was shown in the Budget Statement as being nearly \$3,000,000. The deficit for this year is shown as being over \$2,500,000, but I doubt whether it will be \$1,000,000. I think that Budget Statements of that kind frighten away capitalists from the Colony. I think Government should be very cautious, if it intends to invite and encourage capitalists to come here, not to put forward figures that are erroneous. I trust that when we see the Budget this year I will not have the occasion to make the very caustic comment I made last year.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I would like to say, the matter of the Budget is being gone into very carefully, and I hope when the time comes the forecast will be as near reality as possible.

The CHAIRMAN: The suggestion of the publication of reports abroad is noted.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I think arrangements are being made for that.

The CHAIRMAN: The report should be published in technical journals abroad. That is what is meant?

Mr. LEE: Yes.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: We had one of the reports printed at your direction.

*Item 46—Leave Passages, Public Officers, \$5,000.*

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: When I moved the motion for Leave Passages I informed the Council that—with Your Excellency's permission I will read from the Hansard report—

*"Officers can only qualify for this concession when they have completed a minimum tour, which is three years in the case of senior officers."*

Actually I was wrong. It should be two years in the case of senior officers and three years in the case of junior officers. The reason why that slip occurred in my statement I cannot now trace, except that the papers had referred to officers entitled

to six months leave after three years and I must have got confused. The point I am trying to make is simply this: A minimum tour is three years. It does not make any difference in principle because a minimum tour is not the time an officer actually goes on leave, as either he cannot be spared or he does not want to go on leave. I do not think it makes any difference to the question at all, but the fact is that this Council has approved of regulations which provide for leave passages to be granted after an officer has completed a minimum tour. What I had said was quite wrong. The minimum tour is two years for senior officers and three years for junior officers.

#### POOR

*Item 6—Uniforms for Nurses and Servants, \$1,800.*

Mr. LEE: Under this item I desire to plead for Nurses and the lower-paid employees at the Alms House. When there are vacancies in the higher grade it is reasonable for those in the lower grade to expect that they will be promoted. I understand that there are two vacancies in the higher grade at present, but no promotion has been made. I do not think that is right and I would ask that inquiry be made into it. Further, it is thought that this is an institution in which nursing is a necessity and that there should be a satisfactory standard of pay as in similar institutions. I ask Your Excellency to go into the matter.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Colonial Secretary to pursue the matter.

Item passed.

#### POST OFFICE

*Item 3—Uniform, \$1,600.*

Mr. JACOB: I would like to raise the question again about the delivery of letters to persons living on the front lands of sugar estates, and on other lands owned by other people. I think the Postmaster General has received a communication about this matter. The distance from the Post Office to where some of these

people live is nearer than the distance between their homes and the Manager's house. Recently I received complaints which showed that sometimes letters remained at the Manager's house for as long as a week. I had an interview with the Postmaster-General recently and he said he had received complaints but improvement of the situation would mean increased staff. I ask this Government to have letters addressed to third parties when it is requested that they be delivered directly to the addressees. I am not suggesting that the whole system be changed, but that there should be some improvement. I have been raising this question here for the last 8 or 10 years, and I will continue to do so until some improvement is made.

The CHAIRMAN: I will ask the Colonial Secretary to take notice of it.

Item passed.

#### TRANSPORT & HARBOURS DEPT.

*Item 13—Purchase of motor car, \$1,000.*

Mr. de AGUIAR: I do not know whether there is a little omission here. We are being asked to vote \$1,000 for the purchase of a motor car, but I do not see any vote for the upkeep or the running of the car. I am wondering whether there is an omission, or whether this is one of those cases where we are being asked to bite a little bait first and that in addition to this expenditure we will have to pay for the running of the car, and for the chauffeur and so on. If that is so I think we should be informed at once so that we could come to some conclusion as to whether this amount should be voted or not. I would ask the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer to assist us on the point.

Mr. JACOB: I do not follow the remarks of the last speaker. The hon. Member is a Commissioner of the Transport and Harbours Board and yet he comes here and questions a vote of \$1,000 for a motor car to be used by the General Manager. After all, Members of this Council should be able to rely on Members of that Board for information. Is the Board use-

less, or is it a dictatorship Board or not? I see all the Members of the Board present are enjoying this debate, and I do not like the way in which the poor taxpayers' money is being voted. I should like to hear a little more about this matter.

Mr. LEE: I should like to tell my friend on my right (Mr. Jacob) that I am a Member of the Board and I do not think this matter was ever put before the Board.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I should like to explain that this item of \$1,000 comes under Capital Expenditure and should be charged to the Annual Recurrent Vote of the Transport and Harbours Department.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am afraid the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer has not answered my question at all. He has only told me where to look for the vote. There is no indication that this car will be for the sole use of the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department, and whether the cost of the upkeep and the chauffeur and so on is going to be paid by the Department. I must anticipate that the answer is going to be in the affirmative and, therefore, I must say that it is a reversal of Government's policy in matters of this kind. I happen to know that if a Government officer requires a car for the performance of his duties Government would assist him in buying it, but this seems to me to be a departure from that policy. If it is the intention of the Department to pay the cost of upkeep of the car, then I am going to ask for an announcement of Government's policy. I would like to know whether Government is prepared to acquire cars for the use of Civil Servants rather than pay the allowances we are now paying. I have in mind the fact that this Council was approached not so long ago for an increase in these allowances, and I am wondering whether it has been found that the allowances are too much and that it will be more beneficial for Government to operate its own cars.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: I quite agree that this item involves a principle, and an important principle at that. I see in the Remarks column that the car has

been taken over from the Motor Lorries Control, but I do not know what that means. I know that the Controllers are the Police and that they are the head of that department, and if this means the buying of a motor car from the Police Department, I would move the deletion of the item.

Mr LEE: I would suggest that the item be postponed. During the consideration of the Motor Vehicles and Road Transport (Amendment) Bill there was no provision made for supervision by the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department, or by the Controller of Motor Lorries, but if this is an indirect way of purchasing a motor car for the General Manager and charging the cost of maintenance against the Department, I do not think it would be best to pass the item now.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I would explain that the \$1,000 is really a reimbursement; it is not an actual expenditure. The car was purchased from the Traffic Office which is going out of existence and it is being taken over by the Transport and Harbours Department. As regards maintenance, that is a matter for the Transport and Harbours Department whose estimates do not reach this Council.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I cannot accept that. I think the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer means that if the Transport and Harbours Department operates at a profit its estimates might not reach this Council. I want to remind him that so long as this Department operates at a loss and has to come to this Council for coverage then its estimates must come here. I want to know whether this is a reversal of Government's policy—to purchase a motor car and let the Department pay for its upkeep—as against the present policy whereby an officer is required to purchase a car and if, due to financial circumstances, he is unable to pay for it then Government usually comes to his assistance and lends him the money to pay for it and he repays the capital cost.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think the hon. Member is wrong; we cannot make anybody buy a car. If an

officer has to use a car, however, and would not buy but just hires one, that might mean considerably more expense to Government.

The CHAIRMAN: It is often better to assist him in buying a car.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I will point out with the greatest respect that if an officer has to use a car he should be assisted to get one. This Council seems to have overlooked the fact that only about 8 months ago it passed a vote to buy a car for the Medical Superintendent of the hospital at Mahaica. Therefore, there is nothing unusual in this item. There may be certain circumstances which justify an individual case, but in this particular case no money was expended. This is just a transfer of money from one Head to another, and when I was asked by the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department whether it was a proper thing to do, I said "Yes, provided an accurate log book is kept." Col. Teare told me that every mile done by that car is noted and that it will only be used on Government duty.

The CHAIRMAN: I agree with what the Colonial Secretary has said—that it is not the general policy to buy a car for an officer, but that there may be special circumstances. That is one question of principle, but the other is that this car was owned by the Motor Lorries Control and why should we not take it over for the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Except that the Motor Lorries Control no longer wanted it.

Mr. de AGUIAR: The fact of the matter is that this car is being taken away. It was being used by the Motor Lorries Control for operations in the Corentyne district and was therefore necessary at the time. The General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department said he wanted a car, and he took it. The only way to get over that difficulty was, as the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer said, to make a cross entry in the books and credit the Motor

Lorries Control with a hypothetical figure of \$1,000. I would like to know who gave the valuation of this car as \$1,000. I would not like to enter into competition with the Department, but I would pay \$1,500 for it now, and I would make a profit on a resale. I gather from the remarks made by the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer—he did not quite say it but I understood him to mean it—that the cost of running the car with all the little frills, such as driver and so on, will be borne by the Transport and Harbours Department. That must be so, because it has been stated here that the allowance which is being paid to the General Manager will lapse. I was never aware that the General Manager even received a motor car allowance. If he has to inspect the New Amsterdam area he should travel by train, and if he does not travel by train he would not be doing his job properly. He will have to pass about 20 stations on the way, all of which will need inspection, and if he went by car he would be neglecting to visit these stations. My recollection is that the General Manager hired a car when he wanted one, paying a certain rate of mileage. I do not think any Member of this Council is convinced that the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department has more need for a car than the Controller of Motor Lorries.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The General Manager did not take it away from the Motor Lorries Controller. The Controller wrote and said: "I have no use for the car and I understand the General Manager of the Transport and Harbours Department wanted it." I agreed on the understanding that a log book will be kept. I also stated in the file that this will not be a precedent as regards Government officers.

Mr. THOMPSON: This question, to me, is most amusing. There are certain Members who, apparently, know more about it than others, but I am very glad the discussion has come up and that I have heard what fell from the lips of the hon. Member for Central Demerara. He states that the car has been taken away—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: And I have denied that.

Mr. THOMPSON: I agree that some more information should be given to us or that the item should be thrown out.

Mr. GONSALVES: Am I to understand that after this car is taken over there will not be any need for another by the Controller of Motor Lorries?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I think so. This car was purchased by the Lorries Control for use on the Corentyne Coast and was no longer required by them. It was there lying idle and it is now being transferred to the Transport and Harbours Department with the consent of Government—with the consent of myself and the Acting Governor. The General Manager asked to have the personal use of it and I thought that in view of his high position and responsibilities and duties it was a reasonable request. It is not a question of buying a new car; it is a question of using a car that has already been paid for by Government, and I cannot defer consideration of the matter. There is nothing more to tell hon. Members. I have told you all the story. (Laughter).

Mr. FERREIRA: I reside in Berbice and if I have seen the car up there twice, then that is as much. At any rate, if the car is going a-begging I think the Public Works Department would like to have it.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I am a member of the Transport and Harbours Board and I can say that nothing has been heard there about this car. I cannot see the logic in the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer's statement that it will be a cross entry. The money has to be paid to somebody for the car. We had a meeting here the other afternoon and nothing was said about it. I would like to know where the car is at the moment and, I think, the matter should be postponed.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: The car is under the control of the Transport and Harbours Department. I repeat that no money has to be paid for it.

The CHAIRMAN: We would like to sell it for some money.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I consider that that car will be a gift to anybody for \$1,000. If I am going to sit on the Board and allow things like that to happen, then I had better come off. It is one of the best cars in the Colony.

Mr. GONSALVES: I do not like the taste of the debate on this matter. Here we have a matter concerning the Transport and Harbours Department and Members of the Board saying they do not know anything about it as it never came before them. It confirms the doubt in the minds of the community when that first Transport and Harbours Bill came up to give absolute power to the General Manager to do whatever he likes, whenever and however he likes. That power is not in his hand, but there has been placed before this Council an item concerning a car for his personal use and Members of the Transport and Harbours Board, the controlling authority of the Department, know nothing about it.

The CHAIRMAN: The General Manager got an allowance before?

The COLONIAL TREASURER: He got \$20 per month.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I am glad for that information. Government says "Give him a car" and, possibly, we will have to give him a chauffeur. The car has to run, and I do not know whether the car will run on air or petrol. I am sure it is going to cost this Government \$70 per month. I really do not like it.

Mr. GONSALVES: I formally move the deletion of the item.

The CHAIRMAN: Why have you put this particular item the deletion of which is moved?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: Can I suggest to hon. Members that they should not really attack this matter. Take it as a car belonging to the Transport and Harbours Department and allow the matter to be deferred so as to let the General Manager consult the



Board of Commissioners and then come back again to this Council. Why not transfer it to the Department and not to the General Manager personally?

The CHAIRMAN: That is what it is now.

Mr. LEE: There will be an increase. If the General Manager is given an allowance of \$20 per month and he goes to the Board with this cost of \$70 per month, would they agree to it? It means an increase of \$50 per month expenditure.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I ask that it be not struck out, but let it go before the Commissioners first. We bought a station waggon and had to get Government's permission to do so.

The CHAIRMAN: In other words, pass the item subject to confirmation by the Board.

MEMBERS (in chorus): No.

Mr. GONSALVES: My purpose in moving the deletion is to show disapproval of the matter. I do not think it is the proper way in which the matter has been gone about.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: I suggest that it be deferred to the Transport and Harbours Board.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: Is it withdrawn?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY: It will be withdrawn.

Item withdrawn.

#### COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

*Item A. 9—Improvement Work at Rice Experiment Station, \$2,712.27.*

Mr. LEE: This Rice Experiment Station, I take it, is the one at Abary.

Mr. de AGUIAR: This has nothing whatever to do with the Mahaicony-Abary Scheme.

Mr. LEE: I say nothing more.

*Item L. 1—Labour Officers' Conference in Barbados, April, 1946, Attendance of B.G. delegate, \$192.*

Mr. LEE: I would like to mention here for the purpose of having it recorded that there is necessity for co-operation between the workers and Government in all these Colonies. Therefore when the Labour Department sends its officers at Government's expense to a conference in Barbados of Labour Officers in the Colonies without any representative of the workers at that conference, how can there be that desired co-operation in respect of the labour policy of the Governments throughout the West Indies? I ask Government to make as a recommendation that at these labour conferences there should be a representative from the workers themselves, chosen by election or otherwise, so that they can join in the discussion on the future policy of the Labour Departments. Those representatives on their return to their respective Colonies will be able to inform the workers as to the policy Government desires to carry out. In the interest of co-operation the workers should know what occurred at the Conference and what is Government's policy. At present they know nothing about what has taken place at the last conference, except that they are able to see the report. I sincerely hope the B.P.I. will publish these reports as time goes on.

The CHAIRMAN: I take a note of that and will have that comment passed on.

#### MISCELLANEOUS. (SUBVENTIONS, ETC. OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL)

*Item 62—Subsidy to British Guiana United Broadcasting Company, Ltd., \$5,000.*

Mr. LEE: I am going to ask Your Excellency to intervene on behalf of the B.P.I. to get a longer time for the broadcast of its information. As far as I understand, the B.P.I. is only given a limited time and there is difficulty in broadcasting all the necessary details which the public should know. I ask that enquiries be made into the matter with

the view of securing a longer time for the B.P.I. to broadcast certain necessary information.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I think what the hon. Member for Essequibo River means is not that the Station will not give the time to the B.P.I., but it is that the B.P.I. has not the funds to purchase the time from the Station. Unless the hon. Member means that by reason of the subsidy granted by Government, Government should approach the Station for free time. I am not aware that Government receives any free time from the Station. If it is in respect of free time I would like to be so informed. What I understood when I had a conversation with the Publicity Officer on this question of broadcasting, was that formerly the Publicity Officer got a much longer time, about two or three times a week, but now that has been reduced to once a week and only on Sunday for a very short time—fifteen minutes. I agree with the hon. Member that fifteen minutes per week for the B.P.I. is insufficient to broadcast Government information to the people. If it is found that the new Service Station is of value to the people, then it seems we should also consider doing the job properly. I agree that fifteen minutes is too short to disseminate Government information to the people and, perhaps, it is a waste of money. Either we must do it properly or not at all. I think we should do something in the matter.

Mr. WOOLFORD: As Chairman of the B.P.I. Committee I may say that there is a draft representation to be made to Government on this subject. While Members have not seen it, I have revised it and it will be circulated to Members. It deals with the whole question of the radio receiving licences and as to how far the Broadcasting Company should be entitled to receive those licences. The great objection is the limited period that the B.P.I. is given on the programmes. It is not always a very convenient hour. The whole question is under consideration.

Mr. LEE: I am a member of that Committee and I desire that if our policy is to be carried out and the B.P.I. has in-

formation, be it foreign, imperial or local, to be broadcast, there must be some means of obtaining a longer time than fifteen minutes.

The Council resumed.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I beg to move that this Council approves of the Schedule of Additional Provision for August, 1946, as amended.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion adopted.

#### CONSTABULARY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Your Excellency, with the permission of Members of the Council I beg to move the first reading of a Bill intituled—

“An Ordinance further to amend the Constabulary Ordinance by providing for the preservation of the Pension Rights of a Non-Commissioned Officer or Constable when seconded or temporarily transferred.”

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to allow me to proceed with the Bill through the other stages today.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Your Excellency, this Bill, I suggest to hon. Members, is not of a controversial nature as will be seen from the Objects and Reasons which accompany the Bill and which read:—

“If a non-commissioned officer or a constable is seconded or temporarily transferred to duties other than those of a member of the Police Force of this Colony, the period of his service in the employment to which he is seconded or temporarily transferred would not count as ser-

vice for pension under the Constabulary Ordinance, Chapter 30, and when he resumes duty as a member of the Police Force there would be a break in his pensionable service.

"This is not considered to be desirable, and the object of this Bill is to provide for the preservation of the pension rights of a non-commissioned officer or constable in the circumstances stated in paragraph 1".

I may mention for the information of hon. Members, that the main matter which has made the Bill necessary is that some time ago the Government of the Bahamas asked this Colony whether it can recommend candidates for secondment as Inspectors with the Bahamas Police Force. After some correspondence this Government recommended certain candidates one of whom has been selected. There are two points which arise in regard to this. First of all the question of payment of pension over and above that provided in respect of the Officer seconded. That point has been settled, the Legislative Council of the Bahamas, the receiving Colony, having approved of the payment of pension contribution. The second point arose in view of the fact that the Ordinance, Chapter 30, does not contemplate the secondment or temporary transfer of non-commissioned officers and constables of the Police Force of this Colony. This Bill which is in general terms seeks to make provision in respect of such a contingency. With this observation I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I only desire to ask a question. The Bill has only been published on the 21st September. Is it strictly in accordance with the Standing Rules to put the Bill through today?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I had asked for the suspension of the Standing Rules to do so. I take it, the matter not being controversial, the Standing Rules and Orders can be suspended to enable a matter of this sort to go through, provided hon. Members have no objection to such a course being taken, I take it that hon. Members have no objection

in a matter of this sort. The hon. Member has raised the point of procedure. The very fact of having the Standing Rules and Orders suspended provides the necessary procedure.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

On a motion by the ATTORNEY-GENERAL seconded by Mr. CRITCHLOW the Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

#### COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

##### *Clause 2 — Preservation of Pension Rights.*

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I ask leave to delete the comma and the words "with the consent of" and to substitute therefor the word "for".

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause as amended passed.

The Council resumed.

The PRESIDENT: With the consent of Members I propose to call on the hon. the Attorney-General to move the third reading of the Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: I beg to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

#### ADDITIONAL 1st CLASS PILOT

The PRESIDENT: We have now that motion on Message No. 8 which I gather the hon. the Colonial Treasurer proposes to put forward now. Is that in order Mr. Attorney-General?

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: If hon. Members agree.

The PRESIDENT: There being no objection I call on the hon. the Colonial Treasurer to move the motion.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I beg to move the suspension of the Standing Rules and Orders to enable me to move the following motion:—

"That, with reference to Governor's Message No. 8 of the 25th September, 1946, this Council approves of the number of first class Pilots in the Transport and Harbours Department being increased from two to three.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The establishment of Pilots consists of one Chief Pilot, two 1st Class Pilots and six 2nd Class Pilots. Under the Harbours and Pilotage Ordinance a 2nd Class Pilot is only licensed to pilot vessels in the Georgetown Pilotage area, the southern boundary of the Port of Georgetown. The number of vessels coming now to the Colony requiring to be piloted outside the Georgetown Pilotage area is more than the number of 1st Class Pilots can handle. It is therefore necessary to meet the position by asking this Council to substitute a 2nd Class Pilot for a 1st Class Pilot, the substitution to take place from the 1st June, this year. The cost will be \$480. I trust this Council will have no difficulty in approving of the motion

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Message explains itself. Hon. Members are invited by the proposal of the hon. the Colonial Treasurer to approve of this appointment of a 1st Class Pilot.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion unanimously adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I have now a notice that one hon. Member desires to raise on adjournment a matter of public importance. The suggestion has been made by the hon. the Deputy President himself that I do not adjourn Council but that I vacate the Chair. I accordingly do so and ask the Deputy President to preside.

*The President left the Chamber and the Deputy President (Hon. E. G. Woolford, O.B.E., K.C.) occupied the Chair.*

#### EXTENSION OF GOVERNOR'S TERM OF OFFICE

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon. Members, I would like to speak to you on a matter of public importance, and for that reason I am going to ask that the hon. the Colonial Secretary and the hon. the Colonial Treasurer should in the circumstances withdraw from the Council. The hon. the Attorney-General may remain for reasons that will be explained to hon. Members.

*The Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer here retired from the Chamber.*

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must also ask the representatives of the Press and the general public to withdraw.

*Press Representatives and the public withdrew.*

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The matter is very urgent. I must ask hon. Members to listen to me for just a few minutes so as to see whether some means can be devised to give expression to what I know to be the feelings of some Members. I regret we have not sufficient time to do so by deferring our meeting, but as we are all here very representative of this Council we may do so now. As I know, and as you know yourselves, the announcement of the Governor's successor may be made at any time. I would ask those of you, who do not agree to the decision as has been announced, to say whether you will agree that further representation be made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies in the matter and that we proceed with such notification so that what we are about to do may reach him by cable. I have prepared a draft cable which I will read to hon. Members. Whether you agree or disagree I would be very glad if you would let me know

Mr. JACOB: What is the object of the meeting?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jacob, before I can speak you are interrupting. Let me finish what I am saying. The draft cable reads as follows:—

“Respectfully request defer announcement of Governor's successor. Further representations as to the urgent necessity of extending term of present holder of office for a period of one year at least and so securing desirable co-operation of all sections of community in support of new administration — not necessarily certain—being forwarded. Widespread public disapproval being openly manifested and announcement that decision has been arrived at on grounds of general policy has not allayed public feeling and anxiety and is being universally resented. Members of Legislative Council especially feel —notwithstanding assurances given — that their representations have not received the fullest consideration. Suggest desirability in public interest of present Governor remaining in office until after general elections and formation of new Council”.

If any Members do not wish to sign the cable they may not do so but may still remain, as what is prepared is subject to your advice in the matter. I have taken this course because I had been asked by several Members of this Council, after what the Governor had said, to show our disapproval by leaving the Council Chamber. I did not think that was the course to adopt. I suggest that we forward this cable. We all know that such an extension has been made in other Colonies. The words “not general policy” have really no meaning at all. They convey nothing. I do not know what the general policy of the Colonial Office is.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What I do emphasize is that this is a most important moment for the people of this Colony, seeing that the general elections are just a few months off.

Mr. JACOB: A few months?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I may be wrong.

Mr. JACOB: You are always wrong sir.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The course of events will prove who is right and who is wrong. The course, I have suggested, is one that the Members of this Council should take. We represent the people. If any Member does not wish to have this done or wishes to suggest that this should be done, he should say so.

Mr. RAATGEVER: I would like to support most whole-heartedly the sending of this telegram to the Secretary of State. If you will only circulate the document, sir, I will attach my signature to it.

Mr. JACOB: I take it that this is an informal meeting of the Legislative Council, am I right?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not know. You say I know nothing. You have a right to speak, however.

Mr. JACOB: If Members of this Council desire to ask for the retention of the Governor they might do so, but I certainly do not think that the decision of the Secretary of State should be disturbed. I think it will be a little ungracious on the part of Members of this Council to attempt to dictate to the Secretary of State as to whether the term of a Governor should be extended. The Regulations do not support us; the Regulations say that a Governor shall retire at sixty and the Governor has reached the age of sixty. It is therefore plain that he must retire from the Service. As a matter of fact, I have already taken certain action. I have sent letters etc., away and Mr. Creech-Jones knows about them. I was going personally, but on account of certain political manoeuvres in this Colony I could not. I certainly think that if this gentleman is allowed to remain here a petition will be sent to the Secretary of State asking that he be made to retire. It must be understood that the Governor in this Colony has not got absolute power and, although certain Members of this Council have always supported him and still want to support him at this stage, I suggest that it will be a little ungracious to ask the Secretary of State to retain him. If this Council is going to send the telegram, I suggest that it be made clear that it is from the majority of the Mem-

bers and not from the entire Council. Before the telegram goes, I think, I am entitled to see it. I was invited to leave the Council this afternoon if I would not agree with this step—a hole and corner matter—but I have never done anything in a “hole and corner” way in my life. I think Sir Gordon has done very well during his term of office, but as regards the practicability of his schemes I cannot see it. I have done certain things already and I am not ashamed of them.

Mr. ROTH: I am afraid the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) has allowed his personal feelings to overcome his good judgment. I have only been in this Colony for 40 years, but I have not known of any Governor who has done so much for the Colony as the present Governor has done during the five years he has been here. The last speaker said the Governor should retire at 60 years after having served for five years, but it is within my memory that Governor Hodgson was here for seven years. I have heard it said that some Governors should be retired at fifty, while others should be kept until they are seventy. I repeat that I am entirely in agreement with the resolution.

Mr. LEE: I would like to make it very clear to my hon. friend, Mr. Jacob, that while I associate myself with him in certain political matters I disagree with him entirely in this particular matter. I suggested to him that if he did not agree with this proposal he should leave.

Mr. JACOB: I was not referring to you.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: I guess the hon. Member was referring to me and, perhaps, he prefers to refer to me than to the hon. Member on his left (Mr. Lee).

Mr. LEE: The reason why I am supporting the resolution is because there are certain things that will require the presence of this Governor for some time. If we have any feeling against him, let us drop it for the good of the Colony as a whole. I know that my hon. Friend (Mr. Jacob) has some feeling against the Governor. I know also that he has cer-

tain political views and, perhaps, they are responsible for the Governor's departure. There are, however, certain schemes which require the presence of the Governor. He has won popular favour with the public for introducing a number of things. The general elections are coming within a few months under the new franchise (Hear, hear), and it is right and fair that he should be here to see the new Council elected and the new franchise in operation.

Mr. JACOB: No!

Mr. LEE: My hon. friend says no, but if he reasons it carefully he would see my point. I am told that certain Committees are not statutory and, therefore, their recommendations should not be carried out, but this Governor has instituted certain policies on the official side and, I think, he would be the proper person to show the Members of the new Council how they should balance themselves for the progress and development of the country. I may be wrong, but that is my conviction, and I feel that if my friend should weigh the matter in that light he would see that I am right. There are many things to be done and, after all, what is a year—the period for which we would like the Governor's service extended? It will pass very quickly; time passes and we are gone. We often criticise Government and even criticise each other when we should not. My hon. friend desires that there should be Committees to exercise control over certain Departments, and after the next elections we can ask the present Governor for assistance in that respect if he is still here. From my interviews with the present Governor I know that he is desirous of giving effect to such measures when the time is ripe. We want to prove to the Imperial Government that the people of this Colony can rule themselves, and I think the time is ripe for us to do so. We want him to tell the Imperial Government that if the right people are elected they should try and help them. This Council wants all the assistance it can get, especially as a 10-year plan of development has been laid down for this Colony by the Imperial Government and His Excellency knows that the financial arrangements are not

sufficient. I heartily endorse the proposal to send a telegram to the Secretary of State, and I will sign it.

Mr. GONSALVES: I do not think any long speeches are necessary in this matter. We all know the merits and demerits of the suggestions made, and if we feel that the Governor should remain let us sign the request to the Secretary of State, but if we do not agree that he should then we should not sign it. Personally, I feel that everything has been done already over there, but if we think His Excellency should continue in office then we should tell that to the Secretary of State. His Excellency has returned with the idea that he is going back in about seven weeks and I do not think he expects to stay longer. I know, however, that he will appreciate what we are doing.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: The point I would like to make with regard to the whole of this issue is that we in this Colony sit down too much, and we know it. We have the machinery and should use it, but we are sending this letter—this petition—to the Secretary of State. We have heard it already that His Excellency's term of office will not be extended and I suppose that this will be dealt with by some junior clerk in a stereotyped form and he may not even bother to answer it. Here we have Members of this Council sending representations to the Secretary of State in this matter and what do we get?—A reply stating that this is a matter of general policy. Do we know whether the Secretary of State or the Prime Minister has seen the communication? Yet we have ignorant people here feeling that we are going to have self-government. If we are going to have self-government we must show now that our wishes must be respected. We are settled here, and when we make representations from time to time the Secretary of State should not control us as he is doing. In this instance, because of personal feeling he does not wish to decide in our favour in a big issue—a Colony-wide issue and one in which this Legislature by a majority has requested him to act a certain way. I want that pointed out

—that it is the majority that speaks—and they have requested him to do something, but he calmly writes back to say that general policy prevents him from doing it. What do we find now? That general policy has not been applied to same Colonial Service there are three Governors whose terms of office have been extended. Let me take this last opportunity of saying that I am one who was born in this Colony and so I do not trust anybody at the Colonial Office on this question of Colonial policy, be he a Conservative, a Liberal or a Labourite. Unless he was born in this Colony he has no use for us. That is why we find that in the House of Parliament with its 600 members, only fifteen attended a debate on the Colonial question recently. The other day they doubled it and made the attendance thirty, and yet we are being told a lot about the Fabian Society and that Mr. Creech-Jones is doing this and that for the Colonies. The Fabian Society or Mr. Creech-Jones cannot have much control over 600 members and they do not care "one hoot" about us.

If it were left to me, with the sufferance of the Deputy President I would tell the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister that they are not consistent and then show that this question of general policy is nothing more than a Service Regulation which says that a Governor shall go up to 60 years of age. What about the petitions we have put up here from time to time and have been turned down by the Secretary of State?—Do we know that he has seen them? It is on that score I am inclined to be much more forceful in my representation. I will tell hon. Members here straight that I do not think this decision was made by the Secretary of State but by some clerk in his office, and I say unhesitatingly that the majority of the people in this Colony—regardless of race, colour or creed—desire that the Governor's terms of office should be extended.

Mr. CRITCHLOW: In rising to support this telegram I can assure hon. Members that the majority of the people in this Colony are very much annoyed over the Secretary of State's decision. We—

the Trade Unionists—were about to take another step, but we have been asked to postpone it. In various districts which I have visited many people have told me that they cannot understand the decision and that the Secretary of State should be asked to re-consider it. I must congratulate the Deputy President on the step he has taken in this matter and I can assure you, sir, that the working-classes are behind you. They feel that we should have a right of appeal.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I think I am correct in saying that the "general policy" refers not only to this Governor but, I think, there are twenty or thirty others in the British possessions, and that is not a good reason, as I can see it, for reaching the decision. I think, because of the position of the Colony at present, we should express the wish for an extension of His Excellency's term of office for one year. I think about thirty other changes are being effected and that it is not being done only on the ground of "general policy". As regards the hon. Member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob), his statement about the privileges of Members of the Legislative Council is correct and if he does not wish to sign the telegram he need not do so. When the hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, moved his resolution it was for a further term of office for not more than five years. I think I have already stated that the period for a Governor used to be six years, but just before the Governor came here it was reduced to five years. Some places are consulted before a Governor is transferred and we should have at least, the courtesy of having our case reconsidered. I think the reason given for the decision is wrong. Sir Wilfrid Jackson was here at 62, and unless some better reason can be furnished — and the Secretary of State might be able to furnish it—I think, as Mr. Critchlow has put it, we should have a right of appeal.

Mr. JACOB: May I ask when we will have the general elections?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not know.

Mr. JACOB: You said in a couple of months.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I said "a few." The general elections have nothing to do with this, however, even if they are to be held in March. They ought to be held within a year.

Mr. JACOB: I have nothing personal in this matter at all, and I wish that to be clearly understood. My objection is on a question of principle, and policy too. I do not see why the Colonial Secretary should not administer the affairs of this Colony for another year or two.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I do not object to your saying that you are objecting on a question of policy, but that is all you can say. Before I adjourn the Council, let me say that Members who wish to sign the telegram can remain and do so or, perhaps, I should circulate it at once.

Dr. SINGH: If it is passed around now we will sign it.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I agree that in view of the special circumstances existing in the Colony at the present time it is right for this Council to make special representations in this matter. I am not sure whether the hon. Member for North Western District was in the Colony when the resolution was passed, and therefore he did not have the benefit of the views expressed by those Members who spoke in support of it. I think I am correct in saying that I have not yet had an opportunity to speak today, and that every other Member has already spoken. My acquiescence in the motion was given when it was put to the vote and carried. I cannot understand the objection to the telegram to be sent to the Secretary of State, since we met here and considered this question and decided to make representation. I am also doubtful as to whether the decision was already taken by the Secretary of State but, even if it was, it seems to me that full consideration was not given to the resolution and to the wishes of the people of this Colony. It is therefore right and proper that this Council make further representations so that the



Secretary of State will be fully seized of the expressions of opinion which, I venture to say, are general in this Colony at the present time.

I cannot recall—within memory at any rate—a more popular reception given to any man whether Governor, legislator, labour leader, or else—than that which was accorded the Governor on his return to the Colony some days ago. I have never seen anything like it, and if that is not evidence of the fact that the people of this Colony would like to have Sir Gordon with us for a little longer period, then I do not know what else can be produced as evidence. The hon. Member for North Western District talks about his signing a petition, I do not know where that petition will come from. It will probably come from his constituency, but I am going to suggest to him seriously that when he reads that petition he must be sure it is not a question of the Governor being refused another term of office but something else. I think we should make this representation. If we do not make it here and now, we would be destroying an important right which, I think, this Council has. In the matter of making representation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it is my opinion, apart from the incident itself, that we should go back to the Secretary of State and tell him in no uncertain term that the decision he has made is most unpopular and does not meet with the wishes of the people, and what is more it will send the Colony back for another 20 or 50 years. I am not going to say that Sir Gordon has not made errors. We all make errors. But, I think, I am right in saying that he should be given an opportunity to see some of the things he has introduced carried out to some extent. I personally agree that a telegram should go to the Secretary of State for the Colonies under the names of individual Members. I think that is how it should be done. I will most willingly subscribe my name to it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will try to see that this cable goes this afternoon. I propose to keep the draft as a record.

Dr. SINGH: I would not have spoken if I did not feel slighted, as I represent 90,000 Hindoos. As far as my memory serves me, this is the first time in the history of the Council a resolution of this nature has been passed requesting the extension of the term of office of the Governor for another five years. I know that we had moves in this Colony for the recall of a Governor. I know of an instance where the people actually paid no heed when a Governor was leaving the Colony. I know of an instance where the people were praying that a Governor would be removed. Such is not the case with Sir Gordon. Those who visited the ramp last Thursday will remember that the poor people, old and young men and women and children, clustered there to accord him welcome. Old and young people lined the streets from the ramp to Government House only to get a glimpse of him and to honour him and to show their respect to one whom they loved. But, sir, the Secretary of State for the Colonies has thought otherwise and has turned down the request of the accredited representatives of the people of this Colony. He has also turned down the request of 90,000 Hindoos and, sir, as a loyal citizen I protest, and as the President of the British Guiana East Indian Association I had wanted earlier today to record my protest by leaving the Chamber after expressing a few words, but you, sir, spoke to me and I remained. I think we should also embody that we propose the Governor should remain here.

Mr. THOMPSON: I have nothing much to add. I have expressed my feelings to you. I represent even the 90,000 Hindoos the last Speaker mentioned. I represent the villagers of the country. You can quite understand that several villagers wanted to hold protest meetings, and so I urge it is imperative that we come to an understanding in this matter. We cannot allow these resolutions that we send to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be turned down so lightly. They had been sent by this honourable Chamber and, I think, it is very unkind that we should have been treated in the manner that we have been. Let us send this cable and let the Secretary of State

for the Colonies understand that we are all in agreement that His Excellency be given another year.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: My only regret is that we did not put in that resolution that the Governor has inaugurated all these schemes during a period of war, as that might have encouraged them to grant the extension. I had not been in agreement with the Governor in all those big schemes but, I think, it is only fair that he should be given an opportunity to see them started. I remember when Sylvester was alive he wanted to get Bel Air Park sold and he had a petition which was signed by dead people. I do not know if my hon. friend is going to follow suit. He said he has written Mr. Creech-Jones to get the Governor taken away. He says it is another person well known to all of us. That person had been nominated by the Governor himself to serve on this Council, and he had wasted much of our time here in getting up and lauding the Governor. We know that the Governor takes a keen interest in the Colony and has done more than many Governors for the Colony. I was a staunch admirer of Sir Edward Denham as Governor of this

Colony but, I think, Sir Gordon has excelled him. I regret sincerely that one Member has said he is not going to sign the cable. I am going to use my good offices to get him to sign it. When he says there is no personal feeling against the Governor, it makes one suspicious. We should certainly send this telegram, as six years is not too long for a Governor to serve in a Colony.

Mr. LEE: I take it you will get the other Members who are absent to sign also.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I may not be able to get that done as I want to send it off tonight.

Mr. de AGUIAR: I formally move that the telegram be despatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies as submitted.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: seconded.

Motion put, and unanimously adopted.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must thank you all for having remained. I adjourn the Council *sine die*.

Council adjourned *sine die*.