

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.*Thursday, 19th April, 1945.*

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Excellency the Governor, Sir GORDON 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 Attorney-General, Mr. E. O. Pretheroe, M.C., K.C.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, Mr. E. F. McDavid, C.B.E.

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

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

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

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

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

The Hon. M. B. G. Austin, O.B.E. (Nominated).

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

The Hon. Peer Bacchus (Western Berbice).

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

The Hon. T. Lee (Essequibo River).

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

The Hon. V. Roth (Nominated).

The Clerk read prayers.

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on Thursday, the 12th April, 1945, and Friday, 13th April, 1945, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.**THE LATE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.**

The PRESIDENT: I have one or two announcements. I should inform the Council of the receipt of a letter from the United States Consul in which he wrote the Colonial Secretary as follows:—

"I have the honour to inform Your Excellency of the receipt of a communication from the Department of State dated May 9, 1945, wherein it is requested that the Legislative Council be informed that a copy of the Resolution of condolences which was passed on April 13, 1945, has been forwarded to the White House for transmission to the family of the late President. This Resolution has been noted with much appreciation by the Department of State."

There is also another letter from the Consul personally, in answer to my own message and telegram which I had previously sent.

I should also report to the Council that after attending a special service at one of the Churches on Sunday last I proceeded to the U.S. Army Base in the afternoon and attended a memorial service at the Base with the Colonel in Command, at which I gave an address.

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO P.W.D

With regard to the Order of the Day the Member for Western Essequibo) (Mr. C. V. Wight), who is Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Public Works Department, will come for the motion standing in the name of the Seventh Nominated Member (Mr. Edun). I propose to take the Order of the Day as it stands, but if the previous business takes a very long time I will adjourn that and proceed with the third item I have just mentioned.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

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

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Post and Telegraph Ordinance (Chapter 185) by providing that the Governor in Council may fix rates of duties of postage and other sums to be charged under the Ordinance; by providing for the issue of a Post Office Guide; and by providing that the Post Office Fine Fund shall cease to be appropriated for the benefit of the families of deceased Officers of the Post Office."

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939, by increasing the duties payable in respect of cinematograph entertainments."

ORDER OF THE DAY.

FIVE MILLION DOLLAR LOAN.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: Sir, I beg to move:—

That with reference to His Excellency the Governor's Message, No. 33 dated 9th April, 1945, this Council approves of a loan of \$5,000,000 being raised in the Colony under the provisions of the General Loan Ordinance No. 25 of 1941, such loan to bear interest at the rate of 3½%

per annum and to have a currency of 40 years but with the right of redemption after the expiration of 30 years from date of issue, being reserved, and of the introduction of the necessary enabling legislation.

I think that we in this Colony have reason to congratulate ourselves on the unexpected good fortune which attended us financially since the outbreak of the present war. In the first two years of the war I do not think that anybody had any expectation that we would have turned up so well. In fact, quite to the contrary, I remember that we were very pessimistic as to the financial position of British Guiana, and very concerned as to how we were going to pay our way. What has happened is this: Whereas we commenced the war with a surplus of approximately \$700,000 we found that at the end of 1944 we had a surplus of approximately \$7,000,000. During the years 1939—1944 we have been able to make a reduction in our public debt from \$18,000,000 to about \$16,000,000—a reduction of \$2,000,000. At the same time we have borne the whole of our expenditure on public services from revenue, including all the expenditure on war services, both civil and military, to the tune of something like \$6,000,000 up to the end of 1944. We have also carried a certain amount of capital expenditure—no less than \$2,000,000.

As I have said, we have been blessed with considerable good fortune, and I think it will be agreed that this was primarily due to the unexpected development in our major mineral industry, and also to the maintenance at a reasonable level of our normal agricultural industries—sugar and rice. At the same time I should mention that this good financial result is also due to the fortune of having an Air Base here established by the U.S.A., and also to the fact that the War Department in the United Kingdom had established a Force in this Colony, the cost of which is entirely borne by

H.M. Government. All that has led to a great influx of money into the Colony, and has tended to stabilize the finances of the Government.

Government thinks the time has now come to further stabilize our financial position by securing at once the necessary funds to enable any necessary capital works which we contemplate to be proceeded with, and also to enable us to maintain a reasonable reserve fund out of our current surplus. That is the primary object of the raising of this loan, and, of course, at the same time the raising of the loan locally will allow local investors an opportunity of investing their capital and their savings in local Government security. Those savings are, of course, to a very large extent deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank. The amount of money that has been deposited in the Savings Bank has increased during the war years from about \$2,800,000 to nearly \$8,000,000 at the end of 1944—an increase of nearly \$6,000,000. I know also that a considerable number of investments abroad are held by the local investing companies. Those companies would, of course, have preferred to have invested in local Government securities had there been an opportunity to do so during the war.

A substantial portion of the money which is held in the Savings Bank has been invested in war loans to the British Government and, of course, if the loan which is proposed is entirely successful we must anticipate some diversion of those funds into the local Government loan. Nevertheless the actual sales of the investments held by the Banks in the United Kingdom will not take place immediately. Those funds will merely be transferred to the Government and be held as Government investments against the proceeds of the loan until the time comes when the loan funds are actually to be expended in the Colony.

In Your Excellency's Message No. 33 is set out the purpose to which the funds raised by loan will be applied. The first purpose is "to provide for such portion of the expenditure incurred on services (civil and military) in connection with the war as may be approved by the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council being charged against loan funds."

As I said earlier, we have expended nearly \$6,000,000 up to the end of 1944 on war services, and in the current year's budget there is provided another \$2,000,000 for such services. It is, I think, proper that a portion of that expenditure at least should be spread over a long period. In the United Kingdom and America, and I believe also in the Dominions, the financial principle being followed is to meet half the cost of war expenditure from revenue, and the other half by means of bonds, and while no particular portion has been decided on in so far as this Colony is concerned it seems quite clear that a reasonable proportion of that war expenditure can be carried forward and spread over a long number of years, and to the extent that that is done the money can be replaced in revenue and thus swell our surplus and help to maintain an adequate reserve. As I said, the amount has not been decided upon, and it would be a matter for the Secretary of State and this Council to decide what proportion of our war expenditure should be charged against loan funds.

The second purpose is "to defray expenditure on such other public services as may be approved from time to time by the Secretary of State and the Legislative Council." As regards public services I think Members realize that we have a very large programme in front of us in this Colony. We are going to have financial assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act but, obviously, we shall have to meet from our own resources certain types of expenditure, for example on

buildings. The Georgetown fire has made the reconstruction of certain public buildings absolutely essential. We shall have to have a new Post Office and we have long wanted a Customs House. It has been a crying need in Georgetown for many years. We have long wanted a new Telephone Exchange and switchboard. We have to find a proportion of the cost of building a new Queen's College. We may have to find a substantial sum of money for either reconstructing or expanding our present Hospital, or building a new one. We ought to have the District Administration building properly put up on the site opposite these Public Buildings. Then there is the question of roads. There have been serious complaints about the state of our roads, and we may have to undertake a complete reconstruction programme. Then there are various questions arising in connection with land settlement. We may have to buy certain estates. There is vast scope for public expenditure on capital works which should properly and reasonably be met from loan funds.

I want to emphasize that wherever Government proposes that a service shall be met from loan the matter will be brought before the Council in the form of a substantive resolution. No expenditure can take place from loan funds without the sanction of this Council and also of the Secretary of State, and every service will be fully considered here before it can be approved.

There is a third purpose to which the Message refers. Item (c) of the third paragraph says that the third purpose of the loan is "to provide for the redemption prior to maturity of the outstanding 4% Bonds of the 16th and 18th issues raised under Ordinance 6 of 1916 which originally formed a part of the \$2,000,000 loan raised in 1922/23 mentioned in paragraph 2 above." Ten years having expired since those bonds were re-issued in 1934, Government has decid-

ed and in fact has already exercised its option to redeem those bonds by giving due notice. The amount held in the sinking fund is \$200,000, and the balance is to be met from the proceeds of this loan.

Another motion which stands in my name seeks the approval of the Council for an offer of conversion of those 4% bonds, so that in fact the operation should result in a subscription of about \$2,000,000 to the new loan, which is equal to the amount held in sinking fund. I feel sure that the bondholders will accept conversion into this new loan.

As regards the terms of the proposed loan, it is proposed to offer \$5,000,000 at 3½ per cent. repayable in 40 years, with the option of the Government to redeem at the expiry of 30 years.

As regards the financial effect, the cost of raising the loan at 3½ per cent. with sinking fund say at 1 per cent., will mean an addition to our budget of the sum of \$225,000 per annum. Of course, while the proceeds of the loan are held and are not expended the money will be invested. I do hope and expect that much of it will remain invested as at present at 3 per cent. Therefore the cost of raising the loan in advance, that is to say before it is actually required, should amount to \$75,000 per annum. I know that the raising of this loan before the programme of expenditure has been finally decided upon is open to some criticism, but we feel that the time is now ripe and we must seize the opportunity and secure the investments which the people of this Colony are willing to make with the Government. We feel that we should not defer this financial operation any longer. This is the time to do it. Other Colonies have done it, and the Secretary of State has given careful consideration to this proposal and advised that it is sound, and that we should do so at once.

As regards the people whom we hope to attract, if this Council approves of the raising of this loan a prospectus will be issued and widely circulated, and I hope there will be a popular response. That is to say, I hope that not only the investing companies but all classes of people in the Colony 'will put their money into this loan and will thereby illustrate their faith in the Colony and in the soundness of our present financial and economic position and its future prospects.

If the motion is approved a **Bill**, which is also on the Order Paper, will be introduced and will enable action to proceed at once. I hope that both the motion and the Bill will be passed so that it will be possible to put the loan on the market by the middle of next month. I now formally move the motion.

Mr. CRITCHLOW seconded.

Mr. JACOB: I have listened with great interest to the remarks of the mover of the motion, and I feel that I must say at the outset that the motion is premature, unstatesmanlike, and most unbusinesslike. I cannot understand this Government attempting at this stage to raise a loan of five million dollars when, as has been stated by the mover, part of the loan raised at 3½ per cent. will be invested at 3 per cent. I wonder whether the usual business acumen was used when Government considered and decided on this proposal. I can hardly believe it; and I can hardly believe that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has had all the facts put before him before he arrived at a decision of this kind. This Colony was good enough to lend the Imperial Government two million dollars free of interest, on the understanding that if and when the money was required for the use of the Colony the Imperial Government would return it. I must say that we have statesmen here—in fact they call themselves so. This Government is now to raise a loan of five million

dollars, and has decided to allow that two million dollars to remain with the Imperial Government.

I have not been able to follow the figures quoted by the Colonial Treasurer with regard to the public debt and the budget position, but I have before me the Treasurer's Budget Statement of December 7, 1944. On page 2 it gives the funded public debt of the Colony at the 31st December, 1943, at \$19,373,560, while the value of the invested loan redemption sinking funds is estimated at \$3,650,000, leaving the net debt at \$15,723,560. This Colony has a public debt of nineteen million dollars, on which it pays interest ranging from, I think, 4 per cent. to 6 per cent. The Draft Estimate for this year made provision for \$999,755 to be paid as interest in respect of that debt. Most of those loans have been raised and squandered, and the taxpayers are burdened with interest and sinking fund charges amounting to nearly one million dollars per annum. We have it that Government wants to raise another loan to increase that million dollars to \$1,225,000 per annum. If this is not the worst kind of statesmanship, I do not know what is.

I am satisfied that it is the wish of certain people, if not the Colonial Office in particular, to keep this Colony in the state of subjugation, and perpetual bankruptcy, so that we may have to depend on them at all times to carry on the ordinary expenditure of the Colony. I am perfectly satisfied about that. I was hoping that there would have been a change of policy but I cannot see it at present. This is a most unbusinesslike proposal. Let us put the Colony in the hands of a few businessmen and see if they would under existing conditions raise a loan and pay interest on it when they do not exactly know what to do with the money.

I cannot understand why the period of the loan should be 40 years if there is this indecent haste to raise a

loan. Why such a long-term loan? The whole show was given away when it was stated that local investors and people who have savings should be given an opportunity to subscribe to this loan. So far as I am concerned, the local investors must find their own way of making investments, and people who save money must do likewise. I am concerned with those people who cannot find sufficient to live on. I am not concerned with those who have money and want an opportunity to invest it. They should be able to look after themselves. This Legislature should not be concerned with those people. Here we have people working for 2/- and 4/- per day and not getting six days' work per week. Those people do not get sufficient money to live on. There is practically no concern about them. The other day when I raised the question I was told that they were the first to be considered. Yes, they were given two-pence per day and four-pence per day.

This Government, constituted as it is, must accept the blame. It is not at all concerned with the welfare of these unfortunate people who cannot make two ends meet, who cannot live on the money they earn and are not given an opportunity to earn more. They are not to be considered at all, but only in some ways those people who have money, who are able to save money must be given an opportunity to invest that money at 3½ per cent. The Post Office Savings Bank gives 2.4 per cent., and the commercial banks only give one per cent. So far as I know there are large sums of money available to be invested. I say these Colonies are being administered in such a way as to allow those who have to get something more, a great deal more, and those who have a little must have less than that little. I am entirely opposed to this motion, though I am in favour of the loan of \$2,000,000 to redeem the 4 per cent. bonds. I think the interest on this loan should

be 2½ per cent. and not 3½ per cent. I think the time should be 25 years with the right of redemption after five years. I do not think the term should be as long as that stated here or that the time of redemption should be as long as 30 years. Then I am going to suggest—if this motion is passed and I have no doubt it will be passed—when the Bill comes up that the amount be \$5,000,000 instead of \$2,000,000 and also what I have stated just now.

Reference has been made to the fact that a new Customs House is to be built, a new Queen's College is to be built, a new Post Office is to be built, and roads are to be repaired. That is the kind of padding we get in this Colony. Everyone wants a new Queen's College, but have you the materials, the plans, the specifications? No; but as usual this Government will raise the loan and have the money knocking about. I am sure it will not be invested. You just burden the taxpayers with increased Customs Duties on food clothing and everything else, and let the money remain there. I am satisfied, sir, from what I have heard that there is a surplus of \$7,000,000. I hope I have heard the figure correctly. The Budget Statement of 1944 dated 7th December, 1944, gave the surplus as \$5,567,000. The Budget Statement for 1945, if I understand correctly, gives the surplus as \$7,000,000. What is being done with all this money, I do not understand. It may be that some of it has been spent on Subsidisation, probably \$1,000,000. If proper steps are taken to utilize the money in a proper way \$1,000,000 would not be required all the time. I am wondering if it is the usual thing. Let us take for instance the Rice Marketing Board. When there were huge sums of money lying idly in the Treasury the Rice Marketing Board was borrowing money from the Banks and paying a rate of interest which has not yet

been disclosed. Probably it is a secret to some Official but not to the taxpayers. While there was a big surplus in the Treasury that was done. After I had raised the matter on several occasions, I was told finally no more loans were made and no interest was paid for some time.

Take the Transport and Harbours Department. I do not know where they get their money from, whether it is from a private source or not, but I find huge sums of money are voted on the Estimates for paying interest. In last year's Estimates the amount voted for interest was \$204,150 and in 1943 it was \$224,798. I do not quite understand why this Colony with such a huge surplus cannot receive more interest than what has been stated in the Estimates of Revenue for 1945. I am satisfied, taking everything into consideration, that the time is inopportune for this loan. It is not in the best interest of the taxpayers, and Government should not press forward this motion. I propose to vote against it, and I trust the majority of Members of this Council will see this matter in the light that I have seen it.

Mr. LEE: I cannot support my hon. friend's contention and I would like Government to increase the amount of this loan to \$10,000,000. I will give my reason. The war is nearing its end and may end abruptly. The utility service of this country demands modern equipment. I say that as a Commissioner of the Transport and Harbours Board. Your Excellency, when the Expert arrives here and makes his report you will see that it will require nearly \$3,500,000 in modern equipment in order to cut down the rate of deficiency that is going on with this old obsolete method of travelling. I travel all around this country, and the slow method of travelling is so tiresome

that it cannot appeal to any investor who may come here, the backward way in which the transport service is being carried on.

Mr. JACOB: To a point of order! May I ask the hon. Member if he has read the Message which gives the purpose for which this loan is being raised? If he has not, I submit he is out of order.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: The purposes of the loan are set out concisely, but it does not mean for a moment the purposes are limited to those items specified in the Message. The hon. Member who is now speaking is quite in order in suggesting if further capital expenditure under transport is necessary that it would form a proper charge against this loan subject to the approval of the Council.

Mr. LEE: I certainly think the amount of the loan should be increased, if \$3,500,000 is going to be taken to renew and make the Transport Service a proper service. Your Excellency, what about the new Hospital, the new Queen's College? I have been begging this Council to vote money for the erection of a new Queen's College, and I say this loan is insufficient to carry out all those things. It should be \$10,000,000. Through the recent war we know that we can get money cheap at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If we are only paying the depositor 2.4 per cent., are we going to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and for whose benefit? You can take your own money and use it in this loan and still feel safe. The money is in Government's hands and Government can use the amount which is necessary. If the people of the Colony have money let them invest it in Government undertakings. My hon. friend does not understand. Let him go and see the Leguan Police Station which is a disgrace and should be rebuilt. I am speaking of my own constituency, and

other Members can speak of theirs. The extension of the Bartica Hospital still awaits materials. If we have the money we would find the materials. We can invest the money in sawmills and woodcutting grants. I appeal to this Council. \$5,000,000 is insufficient if we are to bring the Colony up to the desired standard. If you say you want £5,000,000 for the Government to start industries and open the interior, I would say "Borrow the money and spend it where you can get returns and reduce the heavy taxation per caput." The amount stated here is too small in my opinion, and you will have to return for more money.

Mr. EDUN: I have been listening very attentively to the hon. the Colonial Treasurer and I have also taken pains to listen to the hon. Member for North-Western District. There is an amount of horse sense in what the hon. Member for North-Western District has said. I am beginning to feel that something is definitely wrong with the brains of our financial advisers, because if we have to raise a \$5,000,000 loan why not \$50,000,000? As I see it, sir, 3½ per cent. interest is to be paid. On \$5,000,000 it will work out at \$175,000 a year, and that multiplied by 40 will give pretty nearly \$7,000,000. You borrow \$5,000,000 and in 40 years this country will be bound to pay \$7,000,000 to a handful of financiers who will live off the substance of the working and producing people of British Guiana. Why not borrow \$50,000,000? If I had my way about it, I would pledge every potentiality of this country to some financier for \$50,000,000 at 2 per cent. payable in 50 years, and in the course of those 50 years I would be able to show useful services. That is what I should do. It appears to me this is one of those instances of superimposition on us from some quarter, perhaps from the financial dictatorship of Downing Street. I am

definitely opposed to this \$5,000,000 loan. Within a period of 25 years we borrowed sums of money accumulated to the amount of \$2,000,000. Why not take courage and have some little vision and talk about the bigness of this Colony in terms of millions? But I see this is purely an attempt to meet certain investors in this Colony in order that their money should be secured. If I am to take cognizance of the fact that this money is required for public services in which I have absolutely no confidence, why should I therefore vote that we borrow money to be mis-spent in the Public Works Department?

I think the hon. Member for North-Western District sounded a very appropriate note that this motion is premature. Why is this indecent haste about it? We do not need the money now when we have not even got the materials to build anything at all. Why is this haste when we have been told by the hon. the Colonial Treasurer that we have \$7,000,000 surplus and added to that we have a loan in the Imperial Treasury of \$2,000,000? I do not see the sense in this kind of borrowing. No matter where we turn, whatever investment we make, whatever sinking fund we have to pay, you know who will have to pay it—the producers, those who produce commodities. We have to produce more goods. If this loan was being asked for in the interest of productive works whereby we can get more revenue or make more profits or dividends or for that matter to finance industry or something of the kind, I would support it wholeheartedly. If investors have a little bit of courage and hope in this Colony's progress and future why not take some money and invest in industries? Why should we expect to burden the taxpayers of British Guiana to invest their money and get interest? Let them have a little bit of courage, exercise some vision if they feel the country has a

future. Let them get into the interior and use their resourcefulness and create some industry. Why not look about in the Insurance Companies for \$5,000,000 to be borrowed by some coterie of financiers in this Colony to finance a wood pulp industry? But no, sir, it is the easiest thing to do to invest in Government gilt-edged security and live a parasitical life off the people of the country. This unsocial measure should not be supported at all, because if you produce more sugar, more rum and more rice that will only be an incentive to borrow. If this loan is to be used in productive works it would have my support, but under the conditions here I do not see how I can support it because every cent paid out from the sinking fund will fall right back on the producing element of British Guiana, those who work. I want to repeat that there are local companies, certain people with a little bit of money, in this Colony who, if they have a little bit of courage and think this country is their own, should get about in the interior and do some pioneering work and do something productive rather than have this kind of washing each other's clothing all the time. I am definitely opposed to it and will not support it.

Mr. deAGUIAR: I have risen to lend my support to the proposal for this Colony to borrow on long term loan the sum of \$5,000,000. I think I should preface my remarks by expressing a certain amount of surprise at the opposition that has been given to the proposal by the Members who have spoken against it. As far as I am aware there are two kinds of borrowers. One is the man who finds himself up against the wall and is bound to find ready money and who goes into the highways and by-ways to get the money at whatever cost in order to relieve himself out of his difficulties. The other is the sober man who has some vision and looking ahead makes his plans and the best bargains and

obtains a loan at a rate of interest on such terms which will enable him to carry out the programme he has in view. I look upon the Treasury today as one that falls in the second category. Perhaps it may be the wish of certain Members of this Council and indeed certain members of the community to wait until this Colony finds itself in the first category before making any attempt to borrow money in order to carry out schemes which we know are in view. That to my mind can only be the view of a defeatist, and I am very happy indeed I do not find myself in that position today.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the hon. the Colonial Treasurer in moving his motion made reference to the surplus of \$7,000,000. Handsome though that figure appear to be, there are questions one can ask in connection with that surplus. For example, is it liquid, is it available in order to embark on any immediate expenditure? But whatever the answers to those questions may be they are beside the point, except to say it is rather unfortunate because it has made it appear to people that we have so much money today and there is no need to borrow any more. As I understand it, opportunity is being taken to obtain a sum of money at this time because money is cheap. Of course I excuse those hon. Members who spoke on the subject as they know very little about it but, perhaps, they know about the purchasing end of it. I think, they should give credit to those people whose business it is to deal in matters of this kind and can give advice of the right kind. I would ask whether they are in a position to say that when this war is over this Colony, or for that matter any Colony or any individual, would be in a position to obtain money on loan on the favourable terms as do exist today. I know a little bit about it. I do not profess to be an expert, but I am not too sure which way the cat will jump. What I do know is this: It is unreasonable to expect that the rate

will be lower. It will certainly be not much lower and, therefore, opportunity should be taken to do something in connection with the matter at once.

Like the hon. Member for Esse-
quibo River, the only regret I have is that the loan is only for \$5,000,000 and, subject to some remarks I will make later on as to the application of it, I would like to support the motion. I think I will suggest a figure of \$10,000,000. It is not competent for any Member either to move an amendment or even to make a suggestion that this motion be amended for a larger sum to be borrowed on loan. I express that agreement because the proposals which are in view now are very wide and very varied and a good many of them are of very long term, and I am not so sure and in fact I am perfectly satisfied with due respect to what hon. Members may think that our current revenue will not be able to carry one-fourth of the expenditure that is being envisaged at the present time on these proposals. Therefore we have to resort to borrowing, and I submit this is the best time to put our house in order to meet that position. It is no good talking about \$8,000,000 we have in the Savings Bank. That does not belong to Government. That money can be withdrawn at any time. Hon. Members know that, and the Government is ready and willing at any time to pay that money when request is made by those depositors. They have deposited that money on certain prescribed conditions and can go and get their money at any time. The only thing the Government can do with that money is to invest it prudently and not in the way I heard the hon. Nominated Member suggested—in industries. Government cannot do that any more than a company which has other people's money can invest in industry and speculative industry at that. I represent two Insurance Companies and, I say with a certain amount of authority, as a matter of fact perhaps I have

taken the word of two hon. Members here who are Chairmen of those Companies I am connected with, they cannot use the surplus funds to invest in industries as the money does not belong to them. In one case it is a mutual company and the money belongs to the policy-holders. In fact both companies hold the money in trust and cannot invest it in any other form than gilt-edged security. I wish to make it perfectly clear whilst on that point, that those companies are not in any way parties to this loan at all. If they subscribe that is another matter, but they are not responsible for it.

There is one further point I wish to make in support of the point I previously made as to whether the time is opportune or not, or whether the terms of this loan are advantageous to the Colony or not. Certain hon. Members should know that efforts were made elsewhere to borrow money under more favourable terms than these, but they failed. To my mind that is an indication of the trend of things, and I say without any hesitation whatever that the time is opportune for this Government, in looking ahead, to make the necessary plans to secure liquid funds to carry out the projects it has in mind.

I do not know whether those Members who have spoken against the motion have given it the thought which I think it deserves. Apart from Government's proposals for the future it must be borne in mind that some of the revenue collected in the years of the war may have to be paid back, and I wonder what would be the position if, when that time comes, Government finds itself in the unfortunate position of being unable to fulfil that obligation. It would be a sorry day for this Colony if such a situation should ever occur.

Dealing with the proposal itself there is one question on which I would like some information. I would like to

be informed as to the procedure that will be adopted in the future in approaching this Council for decisions in respect of paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of Your Excellency's Message. I ask for that information because, when I read the Message a bit carefully I am not very happy as to how this loan will be ultimately disposed of. Paragraph (a) indicates that provision will be made for a reimbursement of some of our war expenditure, the percentage of which has not yet even been determined, and in dealing with that the Colonial Treasurer made the remark that the sum, when determined or ascertained, would be utilized to swell our surplus. I do not like that at all. It is true that we should make some attempt to spread over our war expenditure to be borne by some of the future generation, but I think great care should be taken because, if in swelling our surplus we embark on increased expenditure which may not be offset by recurrent revenue, we would be looking for trouble. In other words our aim should be that our recurrent expenditure in the future should always be covered by recurrent revenue, and that any sums used from this loan should be for expenditure specially ear-marked with a view to some future expansion of our services or general development. In short I think it would be an unhappy time if a portion of this loan was used in the future for balancing our ordinary recurrent expenditure. I therefore repeat the question: what procedure will be adopted by Government in approaching Council for a decision in respect of these three sub-heads of the Message?

I have one further point in respect of paragraph (a), and that is that I notice in paragraph 4 that the figure of 2½ million dollars is given as the estimated expenditure for the current year. Of that 2½ million dollars I think we all know that one million dollars is for subsidization. If we are going to pay back that sum, or a portion of it, from this loan it

means that we are going to postpone the cost of our subsidization measures to future years. I think that would be a step backwards, and so I feel that a pronouncement from the Government side today would allay any fears I have in that regard. I think that what I have said indicates that this motion will receive my support.

Mr. C. V. WIGHT: When the Royal Commissioners were here I suggested that a loan might be raised. Perhaps I was too premature, but I have risen to say that this motion has my wholehearted support. I do not think it is too premature now. I think we should borrow this money while we can, and keep it securely for the purposes stated. If we wait until later money may not be so readily obtained.

Mr. SEAFORD: I will be very brief. I will support the motion, but I feel that there may be some pessimists here who may argue that this is not the right time to borrow money. They may think that after the war we would be able to borrow money at a cheaper rate, but I think Government is always wise to take the safe course. Now that Government has an opportunity to borrow money at a reasonable rate of interest it should take that opportunity. It may be necessary to borrow 10 million dollars but we do not put all our eggs into one basket. No doubt Government will take the other five million dollars that the hon. Member recommends. Government is wise in borrowing money, especially when it knows that there is a certain amount of money available in the Colony.

I would like to refer to the seven million dollars surplus. As the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. deAguiar) said, we do not know whether that money is liquid, or whether it exists on paper. We know there is a surplus because we know how the

Treasury came to the assistance of the Banks after the fire, but to what extent it is there I do not know. Let us get the money while we can get it.

As regards the rate of 3½ per cent. there may be some doubt expressed as to that rate of interest, but we know that money can be borrowed in the London market today at practically 3¼ per cent. In this Colony Government cannot expect to borrow money quite as cheaply as that, because we have no Stock Exchange, and to put a lot of bonds on the market in a small Colony like this would only flood the market. I for one would much rather put 3½ per cent. bonds on a market where I know I could sell them at a moment's notice. I think that 3½ per cent. is the correct rate of interest, and Government is justified in giving the people of the Colony a chance to invest their money and so keep it in the Colony for the benefit of the country.

Mr. WOOLFORD: I have risen to speak on behalf of the small investors and not the large companies who have been in the habit of subscribing to loans of this kind. In the absence of a prospectus, and without any knowledge of the terms upon which subscriptions will be invited. I am hoping that there will be a prospectus. I think that some consideration should be given to the denominations of the bonds. It is quite obvious that if bonds of \$5,000, \$10,000 and amounts of that kind are issued a large number of people—widows and other small people who merely have \$2,000, \$1,500 and \$1,000—will not have an opportunity to subscribe to this loan. I refer to people who, for some time past, invested their money with the Building Society which offered a wide range of investments that appealed to them. I believe that although there has been some little loss to some of them the opportunity is still provided of a more secure investment in the form of investment bonds similar to Government bonds.

I think there should be some system of allotment with respect to the issue of these Government bonds, but even the Colonial Treasurer would experience difficulty sometimes in apportioning the allotments. It must not appear that he is partial if he alone has to do it, but if the Executive Council does it I think it would be a fair way. What I am trying to avoid is the total subscription being absorbed by insurance companies and people in that position, to the exclusion of small people. I do not know what the position of the insurance companies is now. I do not suppose they have been so hard hit by the fire. I would suggest that the bonds be issued in denominations of \$500, \$750 and \$1,000—at least those three—so as to allow the small investor an opportunity to invest his money.

The PRESIDENT: I had hoped to get this motion through by 3 o'clock. Will the hon. Nominated Member agree to let us try to finish it before we take his motion?

Mr. EDUN: Yes, sir.

Mr. PERCY C. WIGHT: I am rather surprised that opposition should be offered to an investment of this sort when, according to the last speaker, the small man is the one to be considered first. It is perfectly unnecessary. I think the Treasurer has put the matter very lucidly. By spreading the loan over a period of 40 years he makes it far more enticing to the investor.

There seems to be some accusation against the investing companies for trying to invest their money in the Colony. Most of the remarks that have been made do not warrant a reply, because they were so far-fetched, and I should not like to use the word "absurd" or "ridiculous." Some people run away with the idea that the companies, who are trustees of people's money, are keeping large sums idle

simply for the purpose of waiting for investments in Government loans. They know perfectly well that as the result of the calamitous fire recently, the insurance companies have had to keep large sums of money in hand in order to pay claims. The risks that a private individual can take certainly no insurance company which is well managed is able to take.

The Colonial Treasurer must be given credit for having given the matter very serious thought, and personally I think it is a tribute to him that he has been able to put the proposal before this Council in so simple and concise a manner. It is absurd to talk about a surplus. As I have said before, a surplus is something over and above one's liabilities. There is really no surplus to speak of. We have a public debt of 15 million dollars. How can we have a surplus?

Mr. JACOB: To a point of explanation. May I ask if the surplus will be paid over to the people who have lent Government money? Perhaps the hon. Member might say so.

Mr. WIGHT: I think that is a matter for the hon. Member to "draw brains." (Laughter.) I am not here to put him right. We have only had two Members opposing this proposal. I think Government has seized the right time to raise this loan. I consider it a wise move to give an additional $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., because in another Colony a loan at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent did not come up to expectation. In England the Government can borrow all the money it wants at 3 per cent. How can we in this Colony expect to borrow money at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent? I can understand a man putting idle money on the Bank where it can be withdrawn at short notice. Every bit of idle money one can find can be sent to England and invested at 3 per cent. Government bonds of this description would be a first-class security for minors, and small people should have no difficulty in getting the bonds they want if they knew how to go about

it. All they have to do is to ask the Banks to get so much in bonds for them.

The COLONIAL TREASURER: I am sure we have had a very interesting debate. The only serious opposition to the motion came from the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob), and let me say at once that I sympathise with his point of view. It is a point of view that is held by other people. The hon. Nominated Member, Mr. Edun, characterized the hon. Member's speech as horse sense. Well, so it is, but something rather more than horse sense is required in dealing with financial operations of this magnitude. Let me put it quite simply. We have deferred raising a loan during the war until now, but we feel that this is the time to do it, because, as one Member said, we do not know what is going to happen when the war ends. We cannot tell whether the rate of interest is going to go up or down. What is equally important is that during the war years our people in this Colony have accumulated large sums of money in savings which are held very largely by the Post Office Savings Bank. We would prefer those savings to be invested more or less permanently by large numbers of our people. We would prefer that they should have them properly secured in Government security, rather than that they should be withdrawn and spent or squandered. That is what is meant by the term in the Message that it will provide a suitable opportunity for local investors. It does not really mean that we are going out to afford an opportunity for the large financiers. There seems to be a general impression that one of the main objects of the loan is to provide a source of a higher rate of interest for the large financiers. That is not the case at all. It is to provide a means of investment for all classes of people in the Colony who have accumulated savings during these war years.

Government is certainly at a disadvantage in not having at this time a precise and definite programme of loan expenditure, but for obvious reasons we cannot do that now. All we can do is to indicate very generally the kind of services on which this loan will be expended. The hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) wanted to know precisely the procedure which will be taken in coming to this Council for its approval of services to be met from the loan. I tried to indicate, when I spoke first, that every specific service will be brought before the Council in the form of a resolution. No expenditure can take place or no service can be charged against this loan funds unless it is properly approved by resolution of the Council and sanctioned by the Secretary of State. What is more, every year a statement of annual expenditure will be laid over in the volume of the Estimates or separately, so that the Council can see from time to time what is happening to the loan fund, how it is being spent and what is the available balance. The hon. Member need have no fear, seeing that this Council will be fully in control of the disposal of this loan fund.

I was sorry to hear the hon. Member for North-Western District (Mr. Jacob) say that as in the past the proceeds of this loan will be squandered. That, of course, is largely in the hands of this Council. It is for the Council to see that it will not be squandered. I was also sorry to hear him say that the raising of this loan might be some evil design on the part of the Colonial Office to bring us into a state of bankruptcy. I do not know how he could possibly have arrived at such a conclusion.

I began my remarks by making a statement on the financial position of the Colony, and I was taken to task by the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. de Aguiar) for having done so. Obviously, if one proposes to raise a loan of five million dollars one must begin by saying what the position of

the Colony is. We are at the moment in the most favourable financial position we have ever been in, and we are unlikely to be in as good a financial position even next year. Therefore, for the reason I have already given, this is the time to approach the public and to raise a loan.

The hon. Member for New Amsterdam (Mr. Woolford) raised a most important point. He wanted to know whether the small class of investors would be given a chance to subscribe to this loan. I thought I had made that very clear when I was ending my opening remarks. I said I wanted a popular response to this loan. I wanted everybody with savings to put their money into it in order to illustrate their faith in the country.

He asked about a prospectus. I have already drafted it, and in paragraph 5 it is stated that the debentures will be of the denominations of \$100, \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000. So that it is clear that our object is to cater not only for the big investing company but also for the small man with \$100 on the Savings Bank who would be prepared to withdraw it and get a 30-year bond for it. I cannot at the moment say what procedure will be adopted should the loan be over subscribed. Personally I hope it will be a success, but I do not at the moment anticipate so large a success that a considerable amount of allotment will be necessary. However, I shall consider what steps may be taken, should the loan be oversubscribed, in the way of making alterations.

I would like to end on one point, and that is to refer back to this surplus. I have heard some remarks which seem to imply that some people believe the surplus is not real but imaginary. Our surplus is perfectly real. We do have a surplus of \$7,000,000 of which \$2,000,000 is loaned to the Home Government free of interest. We have a substantial sum — I forget how much—about a half million

dollars (\$500,000) in investment in London. The balance of the money is not exactly in hand. Some of it is advanced to His Majesty's Government for services which are current; some of it is in the Bank here; some of it is in the Crown Agents' hands invested by them in Joint Colonial Fund but if it came to the point of getting that money we can produce it within a reasonable time. I hope no one in this Colony would say our surplus is imaginary. It is absolutely real. I should have mentioned it on the prospectus and, I hope, when it is put no one will challenge it.

Mr. JACOB: May I move an amendment so that it can be on record?

The PRESIDENT: Actually we have closed the debate, but I do not mind having your amendment.

Mr. JACOB: In the place of \$5,000,000 put \$2,000,000, substitute 2½ per cent. for 3½ per cent., 25 years for 40 years and 10 years for 30 years. The effect is that the loan will be \$2,000,000 at the rate of 2½ per cent. for a currency of 25 years with the right of redemption after the expiration of 10 years. That is my amendment in the changing of the figures.

Mr. SEAFORD: One cannot point out how absurd such an amendment is although one would like to. Anyone having to deal with finances would know it is absolutely hopeless to try to get money at 2½ per cent.

The PRESIDENT: I shall put the amendment, one by one.

Mr. PEER BACCHUS: The amendment has not been seconded.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member is quite right. The amendment finding no seconder falls. I therefore put the motion as it stands in the name of the hon. the Colonial Treasurer, that it should be adopted.

Motion put, and the Council divided and vote as follows:—

For:—Messrs. Roth, Lee, Peer Bacchus, Percy C. Wight, Austin, Critchlow, de Aguiar, C. V. Wight, Seaford, the Colonial Treasurer, the Attorney-General—11.

Against: Messrs. Edun and Jacob—2.

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO P.W.D.

With the consent of the Council Mr. EDUN proceeded to move the following motion:—

WHEREAS the recent Public Works Conspiracy Case that was heard and concluded in the Supreme Criminal Courts of British Guiana having very clearly disclosed that grave irregularities in the general administration and in the expenditure of Public Funds by that Department are being committed.

AND WHEREAS the very nature of the such and said existing irregularities is absolutely inimical to the best interests of the tax-paying element of the Colony, aforesaid, and that the said tax-paying element continue to experience and exhibit a very deep feeling of uneasiness;

AND WHEREAS not having since or subsequent to the determination of the said case made, in fact, any public announcement or otherwise given any information, knowledge and/or intelligence to the said tax-paying element of any course of action which it may consider desirable to prosecute, with the view to restore the people's confidence in the aforesaid Department of Public Works;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor the desirability of setting up a Competent Committee of Inquiry to investigate and report on the broad and detailed functioning of the Public Works Department, aforesaid, in relation to all works of a public nature undertaken and carried on by the Department; aforesaid: e.g. the Drainage and Irrigation Board, the Pure Water Supply, the Transport and Harbours Board and other Boards connected and entrusted with Schemes within the Colony of British Guiana; aforesaid;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor the appointment of a VIGILANCE COMMITTEE comprising of Members of the Legislative Council to act as watch and ward on the expenditure of Public Funds by the Departments, aforesaid.

Your Excellency, this motion had been tabled for a long time now, but, I think, the time has come when it is to be threshed out in this Council. Before I proceed to making my points, I want to say that, perhaps, history may record my regime here as a Nominated Member as not only the mover of motions but a loser of motions. I can assure you, sir, and Members of this Council that in my humble way I have been able to gradually create a public opinion in this Colony which has called attention to the moving of a motion of this kind for the examination of the Public Works Department. What I am definitely pained about, sir, is that I thought a Senior Member of this Council ought to have taken the courage and to have done his duty in moving a motion of this kind. I allowed time for the conspiracy trial to be concluded so as to see whether or not a Senior Member would do his duty and ask for an inquiry into the affairs of the Public Work Department, but I looked in vain, the public called in vain and, except that a complete conspiracy of silence was exercised by this Government, no action was taken by any Member. I, therefore, thought it my duty whatever the consequence, whether I will be a loser or whether I do not find a seconder it does not matter, that the time has come when public indignation ought to be reflected in this Council by those who happen to be the representatives of the people. The Press was persistent in the agitation and called for action, but nothing was done. If I may be permitted to bring before this Council excerpts of what the Press had said about the frauds, the conspiracy, the nepotism and the kind of irregularities that are committed in that Department, I think I would be justified in my action.

The "*Daily Chronicle*" some time ago said:

"Naturally the public is indignant. Naturally, too, it is uneasy because expenditure on public works is increasing and the opportunities for cases of frauds committed are increasing."

Then the "*Graphic*" just recently had a big headline "Stop Thief" just after the incident of the Public Works Robbery in the Office Safe. This is what it said:

"These accidents do not seem to upset the matured merchant or the little businessman with any degree of regularity if at all, but these accidents in the leakage of public funds do occur in the Public Works Department."

Any Member who has taken the trouble to go through this motion will find in it a comprehensive survey of what is occurring in my mind and how I intend to deal with them. I shall divide the preamble of the motion into the following heads:—(1) Is the appellation of Public Waste Department justified? (2) The episode of the Conspiracy Trial—uneasiness and alarm on the part of the public, utter complacency and silence on the part of Government. (3) What is the true state of affairs? (4) What should be the remedial measures? Under these heads I shall endeavour in my own way to examine the conduct of the Public Works Department as a whole. I do not intend to bring in any personal matter at all, because—I want to make a very definite statement here—so far as the Head of this Department is concerned in the person of the Director of Public Works he has my utter confidence; he is an honest officer and a man in whom the public has much confidence. But that is not all about it. When the public has placed confidence in an officer as the Head of a Department, he has his responsibilities and, perhaps, when I condemn the practice, the irregularities and all the kinds of frauds that are being committed in that Department, the

officer should be bold enough to say "This hon. Member is only attacking the Department as a whole without bringing in any person as being involved."

Let me take the first head. Is the appellation of "Public Waste Department" justified? The cost of running this Department for the last ten years, from 1934 to last year has risen from \$64,699 in 1934 to \$815,000 in 1945. That is annually recurrent expenditure. The total in all is about \$2,500,000 in public funds. Then I ask myself by examining the credentials of the Department as a public man travelling the roads of this country and seeing the Public Buildings in a state of disrepair and the sordid conditions prevailing, "Am I satisfied that this Department is carrying out its job, its obligation in so far as the roads, etc., are concerned?" If I were to make comparison between the Municipal roads and the roads maintained by the Public Works Department I would say: "It is a shame on this Department for its officers to be living in the City and seeing the roads of the City and having regard to their own self-respect feel justified to have roads in the country districts of the kind we have." What about the buildings? Are they in a good state of repair? Can we have any pride in our public buildings in British Guiana? Some people say through the war we have not got the materials but the funds are there. But the war is only six years old, from 1939 to 1945, and the Department existed from the beginning of British administration of the Colony. Yet we find the roads and public buildings in a deplorable condition enough to make us blush with shame. What of this vast sum of money which is being expended on public works? Am I as a public man to be satisfied with the kind of service I get from the Officers of this Department? Certainly I am not satisfied, and I feel certain and am satisfied in my own mind that the appellation of "Public Waste Department" is quite justified. If allowed to continue, sir, I

think your regime would be a total failure in the course of a few years.

I think this Department is suffering from acute financial diarrhoea. I think I should use terms with which the Department is quite familiar. Check sluices ought to be erected to stop the flow of waste. How can a public man in my place, standing as I do here, hope to penetrate into this Department's finances and try to help it to have a clean public service and to regain public confidence? I had great hopes when the present Director was appointed. When he was appointed a sigh of relief went into the atmosphere. Everybody breathed it and said "Well I think now an honest man is there the Public Works Department will be clean in its service." But sir, the public was mistaken. I also lost faith, for after all I am a taxpayer and I feel it when money the taxpayers are paying goes into channels other than the right one. This country will be heading for bankruptcy when these leakages are allowed to continue. If it was one incident then it is an accident and someone has behaved badly, but it appears to me it is a recurrent decimal in the history of the Public Works Department. When the public is lulled into a feeling of security that the thing has stopped, suddenly \$1,000 of the public money goes into thin air from the Public Works Department safe. The public becomes aroused and the Press is persistent in its demand that something be done.

I will give you certain instances apart from the actual frauds, apart from the irregularities. There are other phases of the Public Works Department which ought to be examined. The Sea Defence Department wants to dig a trench at Pln. Uitvlugt. Its experts, as they call themselves consulted and said the best way to do it would be to secure a dredge. Men of experience who have been doing shovel work all these years were ignored. They wanted to experi-

ment with public funds and they asked for the loan of a dredge from Pln. Wales. It cost them \$1,000 to remove the dredge from Pln. Wales to Pln. Uitvlugt. When it got there it could not do the work and it had to be done by hand. That \$1,000 went with the wind. There was no co-ordination among the experts. It was very easy to wipe off \$1,000, but the man who did that ought to have been dismissed. It is the Public Waste Department. Why worry, let us waste public funds. I can go on multiplying these instances to show how lackadaisical the Officers of this Department work. There is no co-ordination between them. I will give an instance. The Sea Defence Department, as a matter of fact, had a stone crusher at Windsor Forest. That stone crusher was requisitioned by the Bonasika Scheme, but instead of removing it from Windsor Forest to the Scheme it was removed to the Kingston Yard at public expense and it still lies there. That was an absolute waste, the kind of waste that would justify no sort of enquiry. Let me give another instance of how these experts work. A Diesel Hammer was brought to do some work and every Executive Engineer went to test it. Before it was used another Executive Engineer requisitioned for it, and it has been going from one end of the Colony to the other doing nothing. That is the kind of wastage we have to face so far as the Officers of this Department are concerned. I can multiply these instances.

I have a pile of letters. No sooner my motion was tabled in the Council than the public rushed to tell me what was being done. That gave me the feeling that something is definitely wrong because it is difficult to arouse the British Guiana public. The tendency on their part is sulkiness, but when aroused they get into action. What irks me is this degree of silence, although these things were committed, although we had the conspiracy trial running for such

a long time and all sorts of things were said there. The episode of that conspiracy trial was a sordid thing in itself, and I do not know how the Public Works Officers could raise their heads at all when those disclosures were made there. I do not want to say certain things here that will not be pleasant in this Council, because I do not want to bring in the personal element at all. I have been imbued in bringing this motion with one hope alone, the fervent hope to have a clean Public Service in this Colony in order that the public will have confidence in the Officers who are their paid servants. That is my motive behind this motion. I have nothing at all against the Public Works Department, but I would be against my Mother Country, British Guiana, if I sat down still and allowed these things to continue. I need not go back to the conspiracy trial at all. It is public property. Every Member, I am sure, has read what happened during that trial. I took the opportunity to go to the trial myself, and as I sat there and listened to certain of the disclosures frankly I was amazed at the effrontery of certain Officers of the Department and the painful episode of it all. But this Government remained so silent as if every member of this Government from the Head down to the bottom agreed to say nothing about it. I am tempted to ask, was there a departmental enquiry after the conspiracy trial? Was there one before it? Am I not privileged to ask that? Would it not have been the right thing to do in order to create certain confidence in the tax-paying public? Would it not have been the right thing to do to say something about it in view of the fact that every Officer of the Department was involved? Why, sir, I could not believe myself when I learnt that in this Council so much eulogy was paid to Mr. Mahood, the Cost Accountant, for his efficiency in having the cost of these works separately. He was employed years ago, but yet there was no system of cost accounting at all, although this expert

was there. Then I can only say one thing, if I am to sum up at all that conspiracy trial episode, that was one of the symptoms of the many diseases of the Department. As I make my points one after another I am going to show other symptoms with your permission. It is now getting on to 4 o'clock.

The PRESIDENT: Would the hon. Member like to continue?

Mr. EDUN: I will be very lengthy.

The PRESIDENT: Would you like to continue at 8.30?

Mr. EDUN: I am living in the country and cannot be here tonight.

The PRESIDENT: The hon. Member will continue tomorrow afternoon. I adjourn Council to 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.