

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana
(Constitution) (Temporary Provisions)
Order in Council, 1953)

THURSDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1956.

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker,
Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.
Q.C.

Ex-Officio Members:—

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,
Mr. M. S. Porcher, (Acting).

The Hon. the Financial Secretary,
Mr. F. W. Essex.

Nominated Members of Executive

Council:—

The Hon. Sir Frank McDavid,
C.M.G., C.B.E. (Member for Agriculture,
Forests, Lands and Mines).

The Hon. P. A. Cummings (Member
for Labour, Health and Housing).

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social
Welfare and Co-operative Development).

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj.

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Nominated Unofficials:—

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. W. A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertie H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

Mr. R. B. Jallal.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (acting).

Absent:—

The Hon. the Attorney General,
Mr. C. Wylie, Q.C., E.D.—on leave.

The Hon. W. O. R. Kendall (Member
for Communications and Works).
—on leave.

The Hon. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.,—
on leave.

Deputy Speaker:—

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E. —
on leave.

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.—on leave.

Mr. J. I. Ramphal. —on leave

Mr. E. F. Correia —on leave

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Friday, the 22nd of June, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Deputy Speaker (Mr. Raatgever), the hon. the Attorney General, and the hon. Mr. Kendall have asked to be excused from today's meeting. The hon. Mr. Correia has also asked to be excused from today's meeting and from tomorrow's, if there is any meeting tomorrow. The hon. Mr. Tello has been granted leave from the 29th June to the 6th of July.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL

The Chief Secretary: (Mr. Porcher, acting): I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to make special provisions with respect to the computation of the pensions of certain persons."

NOTICE OF QUESTIONS

PRICE OF RICE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION

Mr. Phang: On behalf of Mr. Correia I beg to give notice of a question, copy of which I now hand to the Clerk:

To the Chief Secretary:

Will Government afford the Legislature an opportunity of discussing any proposals for increases in the price of rice for local consumption before any such increases are given effect to?

RE-OPENING OF U.S. CONSULATE

Mr. Macnie: Before you proceed to the Order of the Day, Sir, I would

ask the permission of Your Honour and the Council to make reference to an announcement which I feel sure has been received with pleasure in this country. It relates to the decision reached by the Government of the United States of America to re-open their Consular Office in this country. It so happens that on the 13th November, 1952, in this Chamber it was my privilege, and at short notice the Council agreed to suspend the Standing Rules and Orders to permit me to move a motion expressing the concern and regret of the Council at the decision which had then been taken to close the U.S. Vice Consulate in this Colony.

I feel that, having had that privilege, and as it is still my privilege and honour to be a Member of this Council, it is right and proper that I should have the privilege to refer to this matter once again. On the previous occasion the motion was carried unanimously, having been supported by other Members, some of whom are Members of this Council. It was supported by Dr. Nicholson, Mr. Kendall, the Rev. Mr. Peters and Dr. Jagan. I hope I am right in feeling (I am almost sure I am) that this Council as a whole, both Government and "floor" Members, are greatly pleased and equally appreciate the decision which has been taken by the American Government to re-open their Consular Office in this country.

In the debate in 1952, to which I have referred, mention was made of the great inconvenience and difficulty which would be caused the public by the closing of the Consulate. In the interim of 2½ years we have had experience of what the inconvenience and difficulty really amounted to, and I think it would be only right and proper that this Council record its pleasure and appreciation of the decision to re-open the Consulate, which has been announced, and request that these senti-

ments be conveyed through the proper channel to the appropriate Department of the U. S. Government. (*Applause*)

Mr. Speaker : I think the news of the proposed re-opening of the Consulate will be received by everybody in this Colony with great relief, but I do not quite know what is the proper channel through which we should convey our appreciation. However, I think Government would be only too pleased to notify the proper authorities.

Mr. Macnie : On the last occasion our regret and concern were conveyed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies with the request that Her Majesty's Government make representations to the Government of the U.S.A. Possibly the same channel might be used.

Mr. Speaker : I have no doubt that will be done. I do not know whether there has been any official notification to the effect, but the news of the decision to re-open the Consulate here is heartily welcomed. I rather fancy that His Excellency will take some action, and I will let him know of the Council's wish in the matter. This is not a motion by Mr. Macnie; it is just an expression of opinion.

Mr. Macnie : I did not think it necessary to go by way of motion.

ORDER OF THE DAY

STORAGE OF HISTORICAL RECORDS

Mr. Phang asked and the **Chief Secretary** (Mr. Porcher, acting) laid over replies to the following questions:

Q: 1. Is Government aware that the files of Old Colonial newspapers, some dating from the second decade of the nineteenth century, in the Archives Department at the Public Buildings, are the only

copies existing at the present day and thus are of inestimable historical value ?

A: 1. Yes Sir.

Q: 2. Will Government state whether these files are still in the Archives Department of the Public Buildings?

A: 2. No Sir. The files of old newspapers were removed in September 1954, from the dome of the Public Buildings to a room in the premises occupied by the Housing Department whilst arrangements for improvement of the storage facilities of the dome were being made.

Q: 3. If the answer to question 2 is in the negative; will Government state where these files are now, what steps are being taken to protect them from fire and the ravages of insects, and who is the officer responsible for them ?

A: 3. The files are still stored in the premises of the Housing Department, where they are inspected regularly to ensure that they are not suffering damage. The Chief Secretary has general responsibility for these documents.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex): I beg to move:

"That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the period January to March, 1956, totalling \$65,000; which have been laid on the table."

I have very little to say about this Schedule. There is only one item on it, for the purchase of a Grumman aircraft. It has been clear for some time that two Grumman aircraft are not sufficient to carry out the demands made upon them, including the St. Vincent service, and Members of the Finance Committee approved of provision for

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an additional plane. I would like to say that the aircraft may cost above the \$65,000 which has been put into the Schedule, and when we have found out the exact cost, I shall come back to this Council if necessary.

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): I beg to second the motion:

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 34 of 1956

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move:

"That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 34 of 1956 which was made on the 17th day of May, 1956, and published in the *Gazette* on 9th June, 1956."

This is not a very important Order. Hon. Members will remember that during the Second Session of this Council in 1955 they fixed the rate of 2% Preferential tariff and 5% General tariff on special mining supplies, admitted as such by the Comptroller of Customs and Excise. Although the Order specified certain "special mining supplies" it is a very wide term and difficult to define, and it appears that re-consideration of it is necessary. It is now proposed therefore to define this term "special mining supplies" more closely so that the discretion of the Comptroller will be restricted to all things of a like nature to these specified in the new Order. No change in duty is proposed.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 35 OF 1956

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move:

"That this Council in terms of section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 35 of 1956 which was made on the 17th day of May, 1956, and published in the *Gazette* on 9th June, 1956."

This Order is even less important and even more technical than the previous one. It is to put Order in Council No. 26 of 1955 in its right place in Part I of the First Schedule to the Customs Ordinance. The Order in Council No. 28 speaks of adding in a new proviso to Division 99 of the First Schedule. There is in fact more than one proviso and this new Order is to make it clear that the new proviso made by Order in Council No. 26 of 1955 comes at the end. There is no change of substance.

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Does anyone wish to oppose this motion?

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

AUDIT DEPARTMENT (AMENDMENT)
BILL

The Chief Secretary: I rise to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Audit Department Ordinance for the purpose of increasing the salaries of the Director of Audit and the Senior Auditor."

Last year when the Salaries Revision proposals were brought forward before this Council, the salaries of certain Heads of Departments, Deputy Heads and Assistant Heads were reduced by some £50 below the original

proposals. Subsequently Finance Committee met, on the 18th January, this year; and the majority of Members proposed that the salaries of those Heads of Departments, their Deputies and Assistant Heads should be put back to the original amount recommended by the Salaries Commissioner. That recommendation was accepted by the Administration and it was formally approved by a majority in Finance Committee on the 27th April. It has been implemented in respect of most of the officers concerned, but the salaries of some of them are governed by law. This Bill deals with the Audit Department; the salaries of the Director and Senior Auditor come under Chapter 69. This Bill seeks to provide the necessary amending legislation to implement Finance Committee's proposal.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: Would anyone like to speak on the second reading?

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause and passed it as printed.

Council resumed.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

CIVIL LIST (AMENDMENT NO. 2) BILL

The Chief Secretary: I rise to move the second reading of the Bill intituled;

"An Ordinance further to amend the Civil List Ordinance by increasing the amount which shall be payable to Her Majesty for defraying the expenses of certain services."

This Bill has the same purpose as the previous Bill. In this case the salaries of the Solicitor General, the Commissioner of Lands and Mines, the Comptroller of Customs and the Postmaster General are prescribed in the Civil List Ordinance; this legislation seeks to amend the Civil List Ordinance in order to alter the salaries of these officers.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Lee: Sir, I would like to draw your attention—

Mr. Speaker: Are you speaking on the Bill?

Mr. Lee: I would like to say that the increasing of the salaries of certain gentlemen in this Bill—

Mr. Speaker: It is the salary attached to the posts that is being increased, not the salary of these gentlemen.

Mr. Lee: Well, I am saying that we should not pay for something for which we get no returns. I desire to draw Government's attention to the fact that unless stricter control is exercised over the Telephone Exchange, we would be wasting money on the Postmaster General.

Mr. Speaker: You have not specified in what way.

Mr. Lee: I have laid my complaint in writing before the Postmaster General but I have not yet got a reply; and as this Bill has come up I desire publicly to say that the Telephone Exchange should be giving more and quicker service to the public than what it is giving now. One has often to wait for two, three or five minutes when one picks up the telephone before getting an answer.

Mr. Speaker: Longer, sometimes.

Mr. Lee: Since that is Your Honour's experience I desire further to say that the Postmaster General should take better care of the public when we are paying him more money.

Mr. Speaker: I mentioned that it is the salary of the post that is being increased. I think the hon. Member's remarks are quite out of order.

Mr. Lee: Sir, if you are ruling my remarks out of order, then I must say that there must be a right of Members of this Council to criticize on matters in connection with which they have to vote money. The public must be satisfied. We are not getting the service from the Exchange—

Mr. Speaker: It is the salary of the Postmaster General that is down for discussion, not that of the electrician.

Mr. Lee: Sir—

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion, you are not in order. We all know what you mean. Everybody knows the reason for the delay. Nobody is responsible; it is either due to the apparatus or the lines—or the lack of equipment in the Department. On one occasion I could not get communication with the West Coast at all. There is only one line, and that I understand is insufficient to carry the traffic. We have

been promised a new Telephone Exchange.

Mr. Lee: That is why we should have waited until the new Exchange is in operation before increasing the salary of the Postmaster General.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is the oldest Member, in continuity of service, in the Legislature. Does he think that is a fair and just remark?

Mr. Lee: I think that it is not fair to agree to the recommendation when we are not getting the services we are paying for.

The Chief Secretary: I would ask that this should not be put on the record. It would not be fair.

Sir Frank McDavid: I think all we can say is that we join with Mr. Lee in expressing some concern over the manner into which the whole telephone system is drifting. He has been very mild in his complaint, for it takes sometimes five minutes before one can get on to a subscriber and one may not get him at all. We all know that the system is overloaded. Indeed, one has to congratulate the Engineer and the staff of the Telephone Exchange for providing even the service we are getting now. I do not know if the hon. Member has ever visited the Exchange. If he did, he would be amazed at the speed at which the operators have to work. We know that we have projected a new Telephone Exchange, we know that a site for it has been located, we know that tenders have been put out for the new building and we know that work has been started. I do not think it would help at all if the salary of the Postmaster General is not increased. Even if his salary were cut in half it would not hasten the remedying of the situation.

I feel I should make those remarks because I do not think it is fair to hit

at the Postmaster General. The situation which exists is one for which he certainly is not responsible.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and passed it as printed.

Council resumed.

The Chief Secretary: I beg to move that this Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PHARMACY AND POISONS BILL

Item 7.—Second reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to make better provision for the control of the profession of Pharmacy and the trade in Drugs and Poisons.”

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I think this Bill should be further deferred. It is a very complex Bill and it concerns the safety and health of our people. The Pharmaceutical Society met the hon. Mover this morning and considered the Bill, and there are certain aspects which must be further studied.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Mover objecting to that being done?

Mr. Cummings: I should like to indicate the nature of the proposed amendments, Sir, and if it is the wish of the Council that Members should have a further opportunity to study them. I think the proper thing would be for me to accede to the hon. Mr. Carter's re-

quest. As Mr. Carter has said, I had a meeting with members of the Pharmaceutical Society this morning and, subject to what I regard as a minor detail, we have reached agreement on the entire Bill. I have also met certain gentlemen who deal with proprietary medicines and who have had certain fears in this matter, but they are satisfied that the proposed amendments will preserve their livelihood. They are also very happy, therefore, about the Bill. I suggest that before the hon. Mr. Carter presses his proposal for a postponement, he should listen to what I have to say on the amendments. In any event, I propose to move the second reading of the Bill today and if the Council wishes to have it deferred, that could be done in Committee. I should like this Council to know also that my only reason for my appearing to rush the Bill, is the fact that I am leaving the Colony very shortly. The pharmacists have been pressing for this legislation for four years now, and it is in their interest and the interest of the public to have it on the Statute books, but I do not intend to railroad it.

Mr. Carter: The pharmacists themselves are not in favour of pushing the Bill through this afternoon, in the light of the amendments. I saw them this morning, and I think they agreed on a minority decision.

Mr. Cummings: I have on record what we discussed and what we agreed upon. The Council might still prefer the Bill to be postponed, but I do intend to proceed with the second reading today. It is a matter for the Council, but since I am the Member charged with responsibility for the Bill, I hope the hon. Mr. Carter will not mind.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member (Mr. Cummings) might proceed with the second reading, referring to the amendments proposed, and thus

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give Members an opportunity to study the principle of the Bill during his absence from the Colony. The Bill could be taken through its further stages later in the year, and that might satisfy the objection being raised.

Mr. Cummings : Mr. Speaker, I have circulated the proposed amendments, and I shall refer to them when I get to the sections concerned. In moving the second reading of this Bill, before I invite attention to the Objects and Reasons I wish to say how indebted this Government is to the Board of Examiners of the Chemists and Druggists, to the Medical Board and to the Pharmaceutical Association for assistance rendered in putting up a draft Bill which sought to make better provision for the control of the profession of pharmacy and the trade in drugs and poisons. The law, at the moment, is to be found at Chapter 141 — the Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance.

The Bill contains a number of provisions that are not in the existing law and the chief features of these are: (a)—the establishment of a Pharmacy and Poisons Board for the purposes of the Ordinance (when enacted) (b)—the establishment of a Committee of Enquiry to investigate allegations of professional misconduct and incompetence on the part of registered pharmacists and corporate bodies, (c) — the conditions to be fulfilled by pharmacists in order to become authorised sellers of poisons, (d) — provisions relating to the continuation of the business of a pharmacist by representatives in the case of death and in certain other cases, (e)—registration of business premises of authorised sellers of poisons, (f)—the licensing of sellers of poisons (not being registered pharmacists). (g) — wider scope in the sale of drugs and poisons by registered sicknurses and dispensers and (h)—the appointment of inspectors to enforce the provisions of

the Ordinance. Part II of the Bill seeks to make provision for the establishment and constitution of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board and for the appointment of a Registrar of the Board. Part III seeks to make provision for the registration of pharmacists and for the qualifications to be required before a person is entitled to registration as a pharmacist.

To sum up,—apart from controlling the profession of pharmacy and the trade in drugs and poisons, the Bill seeks to give to the public the same effective service and a higher measure of protection with regard to the drugs which they have to purchase in the interest of their health. The amendments which I propose to move in Committee—if we get through to that stage—are to give effect to decisions taken after representations were considered from the sicknurses and dispensers, and from a group of people who have, for a number of years, been selling proprietary medicines. If this Bill went through in its original form, these people would have been deprived of a livelihood after all these years. Government has, therefore sought to effect a compromise by the amendments proposed. The decision is that the Bill be amended so that there would be a continuation for a period of five years only, of the practice whereby more than one drug store is served by one chemist and druggist, but that is in respect of existing cases only.

Perhaps I might develop that a little more. At the moment there is a practice whereby one chemist or pharmacist puts up his signboard on several drug stores, and those drug stores can sell certain drugs and poisons because his name appears on them. The pharmacists, quite properly, objected to that and have suggested that the practice should be discontinued. Government has been advised by the Director of Medical Services that

a certain measure of hardship will result if that provision is brought into force immediately and, therefore, there has been a compromise. Unless the hon. Member (Mr. Carter) is going to tell me that since I saw the pharmacists this morning they have changed their minds, their Association has agreed to the proposal, which is that existing cases will be permitted to continue for a period of five years only. In order to give effect to this decision, it will be necessary — if hon. Members will look at the amendments circulated — to re-number clause 20 as clause 20 (1) and it will follow as subsection (2). It reads:

“(2) Where a person qualified under paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of sub-section 9 of this Ordinance for registration as a Pharmacist was, on the 30th of June, 1956, carrying on a business which comprises the retail sale of drugs in more than one set of premises the conditions set out in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) of sub-section (1) of this section shall not apply to such person prior to the 1st of July 1961.”

This is the Government's proposal which has been accepted by the pharmacists and certain other persons who made representations to the Board in the matter, and also to myself.

The next decision of Government is that the Bill be amended to provide that any sicknurse-dispenser in a rural area whose dispensary is within two miles of the nearest chemist and druggist, provided he remains in the same area, should continue to dispense drugs without restrictions on a personal basis indefinitely. I must emphasize that the sicknurse-dispenser must remain in the area, and the provision must be carried out on a personal basis. The proposed amendment to give effect to this reads:

“(2) The Board may grant any duly registered sicknurse and dispenser so registered at the commencement of this Ordinance permission to sell in specified

premises drugs and poisons other than set out in Part I of the Poisons List.”

These gentlemen have asked Government to consider whether, having regard to their long experience as sick-nurses and dispensers, they should not be registered as chemists and druggists, but I think that if they reason seriously they would realise that Government cannot continue to add to the list of unqualified persons. They can continue to practice in the areas in which they have been registered, but we cannot put them on the Register thereby giving them a roving commission to practise as chemists and druggists.

The last decision to which the Bill seeks to give effect, is to permit unqualified persons who, on the enactment of this legislation, are selling proprietary drugs in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, to continue to do so on a personal basis. In the case of a company, the amendment is to permit the company to carry on for a period of five years. Thereafter, it must employ a qualified pharmacist. The proposed amendment to give effect to that decision is at item 5 (in the list of circulated amendments) and it reads as follows:

5. Add the following provisos at the end of sub-paragraph (iii) of paragraph (b) of clause 33 (1)—

“Provided that the conditions set out in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) hereof shall not apply to a person who, on the 30th of June, 1956, was within the municipal boundaries of the city of Georgetown and the town of New Amsterdam carrying on business in the course of which he was selling any such drugs or patent or proprietary medicines so long as such patent or patent or proprietary medicines have unbroken containers in which such drugs or patent or proprietary medicines have been put up by the manufacturers thereof:

Provided further that the condition set out in sub-paragraph. (iii) hereof shall not apply:—

(i) to any person other than a company incorporated under the pro-

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visions of the Companies Ordinance was on the 30th of June, 1956, was, within the municipal boundaries of the city of Georgetown or the town of New Amsterdam, carrying on a business, in the course of which he was selling any such drugs or patent or proprietary medicines;

- (ii) prior to the 1st July, 1961, to any such company which was on the 30th of June, 1956, carrying on such business within the municipal boundaries aforesaid."

I have said that there was one difference—minor in my opinion—but I can quite see the point of view of the pharmacists, and I have undertaken to put it to the Council when proposing the amendment. The type of person that Government is seeking to protect here is the person who is carrying on a little drug store for himself—doing pharmacy, and have for years been selling these drugs. As I understand it, Government is not seeking to protect groceries which are selling these drugs merely incidental to their business. The pharmacists have asked for the amendment, and so that would read "persons who were principally or in the main selling those drugs". I am for the moment tied to the decision of the Executive Council, and I must put the amendment as that Council has approved of it. Some hon. Member of this Council might, however, wish to move an amendment to meet the issue raised by the pharmacists, and that could be done in the Committee stage.

Government has made an attempt to put forward legislation for improving the standard of the profession and for restriction on the sale of drugs, but while doing so has endeavoured to avoid as far as practicable any hardship that might result to existing business people.

I hope that after hearing me hon. Members will agree to let us move on

into Committee with this Bill. I wish to emphasize that it is not my wish, if any Member wishes to give it further consideration, to railroad this Bill, but I do hope the Council will see that every effort has been made to consider fully the representations which have been made, and to arrive at a compromise in the best interests of the people of the country. I now formally move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Financial Secretary: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Speaker: It is competent for any Member to move that the debate on the second reading be adjourned.

Mr. Macnie: I rise to support the request that the debate on the second reading of this Bill be deferred, on the ground that I feel that we should be given further opportunity to study the proposed amendments which were put before us this afternoon. My views on this subject are on record in the previous debate, and there is no change of ground on my part.

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to interrupt you, but do not say anything which would prevent you taking part in the debate on the second reading.

Mr. Macnie: I will have much to say in the Committee stage, but I do not propose to speak on the second reading.

Mr. Speaker: I propose that the debate be adjourned; I have quite made up my mind about that. The proposed amendments are of importance, and there has been a request by one Member for an adjournment of the debate. Do not spoil your opportunity to speak on the second reading.

Mr. Macnie: I do not intend to speak during the debate on the second

reading. My concern is about the representation made to me personally by sicknurses and dispensers in the country districts—not chemists nor pharmacists. My concern is about the sicknurses and dispensers, because of the service they have given to the country in the past.

Mr. Speaker: With the consent of Members the debate on the second reading of the Bill will be adjourned. The hon. Member for Health promises to

give it some form of priority on his return to the Colony.

Mr. Cummings: I will deal with this Bill as soon as Members feel that they have had sufficient time to consider it. As a matter of fact, if Members would wish to proceed with the debate on the second reading tomorrow I would be prepared to do so.

Mr. Speaker: I adjourn the Council *sine die*.