

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Tuesday, 7th June, 1932.

The Council met pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Hon. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., the Officer Administering the Government, President, in the Chair.

PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Major W. Bain Gray, M.A., Ph.D (Edin.), B. Litt. (Oxon.) (Acting).

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. J. J. F. Mc Dowell (Acting.)

The Hon. P. James Kelly, M.B., Ch. B., Surgeon-General.

The Hon. F. Dias (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. J. S. Dash, B.S.A., Director of Agriculture.

The Hon. R. E. Brassington (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. E. A. Luckhoo (Eastern Berbice).

The Hon. W. A. D'Andrade, Comptroller of Customs.

The Hon. M. B. G. Austin (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. B. R. Wood, M.A., Dip. For. (Cantab.), Conservator of Forests.

The Hon. S. H. Bayley, General Manager, Transport and Harbours Department.

Major the Hon. J. C. Craig, M.E.I.C., D.S.O., Director of Public Works.

The Hon. J. Mullin, A.I.M.M., F.S.I., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, Colonial Treasurer (Acting).

The Hon. A. V. Crane, LL.B. (Lond.) (Demerara River).

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River),

The Hon. A. R. F. Webber, F.R.G.S Western Berbice).

The Hon. J. Gonsalves (Georgetown South).

The Hon. Jung Bahadur Singh (Demerara-Essequibo).

The Hon. G. E. Anderson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. F. J. Seaford (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. C. Farrar (Nominated Unofficial Member).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 26th May, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY (Major Bain Gray): I am the bearer of the following message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to Members:—

MESSAGE No. 14.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to approve of the additional items of supplementary expenditure for the year 1931, shown on the attached Schedule, which have not been included in the Supplementary Estimates (First, Second and Third) for that year passed by the Council.

2. Reference is invited to the explanatory remarks furnished in every case.

3. It will be observed that with the exception of four items the supplementary expenditure was fully met from savings under the Head of the Estimate of which the item is a sub-head.

4. After providing for all supplementary expenditure the total actual expenditure for 1931 was \$114,349.72 less than the sum appropriate in the original Estimate for the year.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Officer Administering the Government.

30th May, 1932.

Mr. D'ANDRADE (Comptroller of Customs): I am the bearer of the following Message from His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to Members:—

MESSAGE No 15.

Honourable Members of the Legislative Council,

I have the honour to invite the Council to

* Not reproduced.

approve of the steps which Government has taken to assist the British Guiana Fruit and Canning Co., Ltd.

2. By letter dated 27th November, 1930, the Company requested Government to consider the question of granting an Exclusive Permission to occupy 100,000 acres of Crown land on the left bank of the Demerara River (in the rear of the private lands from Dunoon to the northern boundary of the tract surveyed for the British and Colonial Bauxite Co., Ltd.) for the purpose of cultivating the pineapple, and of establishing a fruit canning industry. The Company also asked for concessions as regards exemption from Customs duties, and from taxation generally. Government on 11th February, 1931, conveyed to the Company its decision to grant the following concessions:—

(a) A lease, without the option of purchase, of 25,000 acres of land within the area specified, free of rent for a period of five years, at the termination of which period there would be demanded a nominal rental for a period of ten years further, conditional upon the Company agreeing to expend on the development of the land so granted increasing sums of money from year to year within the said period of ten years, in a manner satisfactory to, and agreed to, by Government; and conditional also upon there being at the termination of the ten year period, revision of the amount of rent chargeable, which would then be so chargeable in respect of the area actually cultivated, and a reconsideration of the conditions under which the lease should continue;

(b) An undertaking that while, as regards existing woodcutting licences, granted in respect of the said area of 25,000 acres, Government would not revoke such licences, yet no further licences would be granted; provided that the Company shall pay royalty on all timber, wood and charcoal removed from the area granted under the lease, but not rent as charged in respect of a woodcutting licence;

(c) The admission, duty free, of all plant, machinery, tools, materials, etc., imported for use in cultivating the land, and in erecting a canning factory;

(d) An undertaking that no tax would be levied in respect of the produce of the industry for a period of twenty-five years.

3. Government has, however, made it clear to the Company that it will not enjoy a monopoly as regards any favourable treatment that may be accorded its venture, nor the privilege of mining for metals, minerals and precious stones within the occupied area on any terms or conditions which would confer any particular advantage not enjoyed by any other person, company, or corporate body, in virtue of a mining permission.

4. A Bill amending the Fourth Schedule to the Customs Duties Ordinance to provide for the admission, duty free, of such articles, as in the opinion of Government should be so admitted on importation will be introduced during this session for your consideration.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,

Officer Administering the Government.

31st May, 1932.

PAPERS LAID.

The following documents were laid on the table:—

Report on the Deeds Registry for the year 1931.

Report on the accounts of the Walter Mitchell Fund and the Mitchell Foundation Scheme for the year 1930.

Report on the Georgetown Fire Brigade for the year 1931.

Report of the Official Receiver for the year 1931.

Report on the Government Industrial School, Underneeming, for the year 1931. (*Colonial Secretary*).

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council leave would be asked to introduce and have read the first time the following Bills:—

A Bill further to amend the Tax Ordinance, Chapter 37 (*Colonial Secretary*).

A Bill to amend the Post and Telegraph Ordinance, Cap. 185, by making provision for the grant of licences for wireless broadcast reception sets.

A Bill to amend the Patents Ordinance, Cap. 62, with respect to patents granted in the United Kingdom.

A Bill to amend the Designs (United Kingdom) Registration Ordinance, Cap. 61, with respect to the registration of designs in the United Kingdom (*Attorney General*).

A Bill to appropriate the supplies granted in the last session of the Legislative Council. (*Mr. McDavid*).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 14 of the 30th May, 1932, this Council approves of the additional items of supplementary expenditure for the year 1931, shown on the attached Schedule, which have not been included in the Supplementary Estimates (First, Second and Third) for that year passed by the Council.

Dr. KELLY (Surgeon-General) gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move that the following Regulations be made:—

Regulations as to the terms and conditions upon which patients may be treated as out or in-patients in any public hospital, and the recovery of expenses from persons who have improperly received gratuitous treatment.

Mr. D'ANDRADE gave notice that at the next meeting of the Council he would move the following motion:—

THAT, with reference to Officer Administering the Government's Message No. 15 of 31st May, 1932, this Council approves of the action which Government has taken to assist the British Guiana Fruit and Canning Company, Limited, to cultivate the pineapple within the Colony, and undertakes to pass the legislation required to give effect to the arrangement which Government has made with the Company, as indicated in the Message referred to above, and to any similar arrangement which Government may make with any other Company undertaking a similar venture to the satisfaction of Government.

Mr. D'ANDRADE gave notice that he would move the following amendment to the Petroleum Bill when the Committee stage is reached :—

That the following clause be inserted as clause 4 :—

"4. Section twenty-seven of the Principal Ordinance is hereby amended by substituting the word "or" for the word "nor" in the fourth and fifth lines thereof."

ORDER OF THE DAY.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

The Council resumed the debate on the second reading of "A Bill to make provision for promoting the Public Health of the Colony."

Mr. CRANE: After the Surgeon-General concluded his statement on the motion for the second reading of this Bill I moved that the debate be adjourned in order to afford the public more ample opportunity than it had before of considering not only the Bill which had been recently published but the statement made by the Surgeon-General. The adjournment of the debate gave something like two weeks for further consideration of the matter, and during that interval I have taken the opportunity to consult that portion of the country which I have the honour to represent and to discuss the details of the Bill at some length with them. I found in some districts a complete absence of any knowledge of what the Bill contained and in other districts full knowledge and appreciation of what is proposed. I obtained very helpful assistance from some parts of the country, especially from the one which I visited last, in fitting me to make the representations which I propose to do on this measure.

The hon. mover of the motion declared

that the necessity for this measure arose from the fact that the Local Government Board, although vested with ample powers to carry out public health provisions, had not done so in the past because the time of the Board was taken up with matters of finance, local administration and a great deal of disputes as regards the several Local Authorities. I am not going to join issue with him as to the reason why the Board has not performed its primary duty in regard to public health in those areas. I know that the Local Government Board did not possess the machinery requisite nor the staff and equipment for carrying out those measures, and if it did not possess it then it was a matter for Government which had it within its power to place the Board in possession of the machinery for carrying out public health measures on the countryside. I think the truth can be found more in this fact than in the statement made by the Surgeon-General. As a matter of fact he merely stated the fact that those measures were not carried out but did not give the reason. The truth is more to be found in the fact that the measures of public health which were necessary on the countryside involved the expenditure of a very large sum of money which was not in the possession of the Local Government Board and the Local Authorities.

The question of drainage of the villages has only been undertaken recently and not by the Local Government Board or the Local Authorities but by the Central Government, and involved the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars a settlement of which has not yet been arrived at although the schemes have been completed for a good many years. The Local Authorities shortly had no money to carry out any large comprehensive scheme of drainage in the villages, and one of the foremost matters connected with public health in these villages is the drainage of the immediate vicinity of the residences of the people. The question of water supply has only been taken up recently. It was only during the regime of Sir Graeme Thomson that Government took up the matter which has been demanded in this Chamber by the Elected Members for the last two decades. It is only during the last eight or nine years that Government has undertaken the very large expenditure which was necessary to give a water supply to the most popu-

ious districts on the Coasts. Even that scheme has not yet been completed. At another and more opportune time this Council will again have to reconsider the question of these artesian wells and the use to which they are being put. I observe that Government is now leading the water practically to the doors of the people. I regard that as a public health matter and I regard it as a matter of more importance than a mere measure of convenience of giving water to the people. A good potable water supply is necessary for the health of the community. All these years the villages have never been in a position to obtain it for themselves. Equally important is the question of sewage disposal in these villages. That is yet to be undertaken even by the Central Government. The real reason therefore why the Local Government Board was unable to achieve anything in the past, even though it was in possession of the law, is apparent. The primary measures of public health in the villages could only have been carried out by the expenditure of large sums of money which neither the Local Government Board nor any Local Authority possessed.

As regards the more personal and domestic side of public health in the villages, I confess that I met with the difficulty in the way of saying that the people themselves are responsible for the lack of progress in that direction. My view is that Government is equally responsible. Government has been proceeding on the method that "precept is better than example," and Government has reversed the maxim. In the country all compounds owned by Government are overgrown with bush, water receptacles are unscreened while mosquito prevention is preached to the villagers, the drains are dirty and gutters sagging, and there is generally ample opportunity for breeding mosquitoes. I hope that this measure is going to lead to a reversal of that maxim. I hope Government is going to commence to show an example to those villagers on the most important aspect of public health administration—the domestic one of keeping their premises in a fit sanitary condition. Government claims to represent 92 per cent. of the inhabitants of the country and should show the example to the proletariat by adopting public health measures which are needed in

the Colony. What we want is public health education disseminated throughout the villages. What we want is to encourage the people to adopt methods which have proved useful to other communities in more advanced parts of the world. We want less compulsion than Government seems to be inclined to exert over the people, and we want less penal provision and less prosecution than seem to be included in this Bill. We want a combination of the forces of all Government Departments, not merely of the Public Health Department but the Education Department, which can commence in the schools to teach the children public health habits and the virtues for which that Department stands. The Bill is not going to do it alone. You cannot govern people by laws alone but by educating them and showing them the example. That is so far as I may refer to the remarks of the Surgeon-General as to the reason why the Local Government Board had failed in its primary duty to the country. That simply means, coming from a responsible officer of Government, a confession that Government has failed because the Local Government Board is Government. Government had the power to change the personnel of the Board from time to time.

The Bill is not important at all from the point of view of being an innovation. It is no innovation at all. It is important because every repeal of existing law and re-enactment of its provisions, either implied or otherwise, make it incumbent on those of us who are responsible for legislation to see that the provisions Government propose to enact are proper ones. In 1878 the Legislature enacted the Public Health Ordinance which endeavoured to do precisely the same thing as this Bill proposes to do. That Ordinance created Sanitary Districts and Local Authorities and established a Central Board under the name of a Central Board of Health. It provided similar sanitary provisions with regard to drainage, water supply, sewage disposal, scavenging and cleansing, offensive drains, trenches and collections of matter, common lodging-houses and letting of tenement rooms, nuisances, infectious diseases, mortuaries, and other miscellaneous matters. In 1892 when village government was handed over to the people—a limited measure of it I admit—the Central Board of Health

Ordinance was retained and the Board was given the superintendence of those villages, and by that Ordinance we had a combination of the functions of the Local Authority and the local administrative body. In 1907 a further stage was reached when the Local Government Ordinance was passed. That was an Ordinance which consolidated the law as it stood in the two previous Ordinances, giving a single Ordinance under which both public health administration and the ordinary village administration were vested in the Local Authorities under the Local Government Board, which it should be remembered was given an over-riding power by section 10 of that Ordinance. It was enacted that the Local Government Board might exercise any or all of the powers of Local Authorities whenever it considered it expedient so to do. The Board therefore had ample powers in cases of emergency, incompetence or ignorance to carry out the duties which the local bodies ought to perform.

There can therefore be no contention that the law was not ample enough to enable Government to step in and handle affairs as they ought to have been handled, and any confession that Government was not what it ought to be is rather a confession of failure of Government than a confession of anything else. The Local Authorities failed because Government attempted to run the villages from the point of view of public health administration in the wrong way by a Public Health Department which was subject neither to the Local Government Board nor stood in any legal position to the local sanitary authorities. It was a third body which in itself had no legal power or status and could not enforce its powers. In fact its interference with the villages was the occasion of strife and dispute and less good resulted from its existence. What Government should have done was to supply the Local Government Board with the necessary officers to carry out public health measures in the villages where the villages failed to carry them out. I am not here to say that you must entrust the villages with extraordinary powers or to claim for them exclusive rights of any functions at all. All communities have to develop from the lowest stage to the highest, and I say without fear that the villages have not yet reached

the stage when they can be entrusted with full and complete self-government. (Mr. Eleazar : Question). The most enlightened Authorities in England to-day are not so entrusted and they have had the blessing of 2,000 years' civilization and possess the pride of having created and established those institutions and worked them for themselves. The Ministry of Health exercises control over those various Authorities and only quite recently I came across a statement that even such an advanced City as Manchester has its proposals with respect to constructive works scrutinised by the Ministry of Health. If that is necessary in the heart of the Empire itself it is more necessary and a necessity in this country that the people must be under the control of a competent Central Authority, and I could not subscribe to the view that the villages are themselves capable of controlling matters without the guiding hand and advice which the Central Authority exercise.

We come now to the Bill itself. I said there was nothing extraordinary in the Bill from the point of innovation. Legislation cannot be regarded as extraordinary but merely as a further stage in development from the public health point of view. It is very important to note the means by which Government proposes to obtain that control which it said it lacked under the Local Government Ordinance of 1907. It proposes to obtain that control by the establishment of a Central Board, by the establishment of what is called a Public Health Department, by the creation in various parts of the country of officers called District Medical Officers of Health, and by vesting them with a number of powers which they do not possess under the existing law. The whole Bill discloses an attempt to snatch power which I think is wholly unnecessary. I would prefer to see Government working out a scheme for the amelioration of the condition of the people rather than snatching power. A number of officials and a great number of persons who come to this Colony as experts seem to claim that it is impossible for them to function in this community unless they possess power which seems to me to be either arbitrary or absolute in some degree or other. These experts after a week's excursion over the country and banquetting are persuaded that the natives must not be

entrusted with power. I have no respect for the man who is going to presume to advise upon public health conditions or any other aspect of local conditions after a short stay in the Colony. I am not referring to any particular person but to experts who come here overnight and attempt to prescribe a panacea for all our ills. Government is taking power from the people and vesting it in officials to go over the country like prancing pro-consuls and insist on people doing this and that. That is what is being enacted in this Bill. I am willing to support Government in its endeavour to establish a Central Board of Health with the fullest control over the villages, nothing excepted or reserved, but I am unwilling to give to officials as individuals power to suppress the aspirations of the people on the countryside. I am willing to admit that guidance by and instruction from those officials are necessary and that benefits accrue from officials coming from England and bringing up-to-date knowledge on public health, but I deny their right to deprive the people of any measure of government which they possess. If the claim of the British Government that it is the aim to teach local people to govern themselves is genuine, then Government must begin by giving those people an opportunity to learn administration. You are not going to give them an opportunity to learn administration if you seize all the powers and use coercion and warrants instead of education, persuasion and example. Government has merely governed in the true sense of the word and has not been teaching the people. The people must be given the opportunity to learn to govern themselves. They can only do that in their local bodies by arranging matters affecting their own drainage, road building, sanitation and other matters which come up from time to time.

The intention of this Bill is to create a Central Board with functions which seem to me to be particularly limited. The Board is to advise the Governor on all matters relating to the public health of the Colony; and to have and exercise the general supervision and control of all Local Sanitary Authorities. I have a great suspicion of advisory bodies. Advisory bodies are worthless and merely pawns in the hands of clever officials and contain usually "No, sir" and "Yes, sir" men who

have got "no guts," to use a colloquialism, and are without energy and enterprise. I want to see a Central Board established with definite executive functions, a true live body and no namby-pamby institution parading more to deceive people than the public is represented when in fact the true rulers of sanitary matters will be the Public Health Department. After the establishment of the Local Government Board as a legal entity an attempt was made to set up what is called a Public Health Department. I take it that the Medical Department has been mainly responsible for the drafting of this Bill and therefore cannot expect them to appreciate the nicety of the legal position of what is attempted in clause 10. I am astounded that a measure of this kind should have filtered through the Law Officers of the Crown to this House in the state in which it is presented. As a humble Member of this House I expect greater assistance from that Department than to allow the Bill to come here in a state in which Members are given far more trouble over passing it than they should have. Government will be ridiculed if it carries a man before the Law Courts under clause 132; and the Bill should never have been brought before the Council in this state. The functions of the Central Board are to advise and to exercise general supervision and control. How is the Central Board to exercise that supervision and control if the officers do not go about the villages? The officers are placed not under the Local Government Board but under the Public Health Department, neither of which is subject to the control of the other. You may have the Central Board decreeing that certain work be carried out and find the Public Health Department refusing to carry it out. In England there is no Public Health Department but a Ministry of Health controlling and exercising its functions in the interest of the community. The Bill sets up a Central Board merely as a blind. The Board would be impotent and useless. It is the Public Health Department that is going to have all the power and have all the friction and disputes the Surgeon-General told us about, because the villages are not likely to submit tamely to the absolute discretion of a Government Department whereas they will submit to a body on which they are represented, whether in the minority or otherwise. If you want the occasion

for disputes and the possibility of actual disturbance in the villages vest these powers in the Public Health Department. If, on the other hand, you want wise government in the villages, and to teach the villagers to develop themselves and to learn public health measures, give power to the Local Authority with over-riding power to the Central Board. I ask Government to accept the second alternative.

Again, the distribution of the powers provokes ridicule. I am concerned more with results than with giving power to any particular individual. I think the scheme is wrong. It should provide mainly for two bodies—the Central Body taking the place of the Ministry of Health and the Local Bodies in the country districts. All the power of the primary administration should be vested in the Local Authorities with the fullest power of over-riding them vested in the Central Body, which should be in a position to set up an executive or working Committee as it would be an unwieldy body. It should be a live Committee with which the Medical Officer of Health will work and which would give him full support in any measure which he considers necessary in the interest of public health in the villages. As regards the composition of the Central Board it seems that the original suggestion came from the 1878 Ordinance. But conditions are not the same now as they were then. Probably in those days there was not such a live and active public interest exhibited in matters of this kind. The only improvement suggested is that three Members of the Board should be Elected Members of this House. If the Board is to perform useful service to the community it must be representative of every interest affected by its administration. Certainly it should have representatives of this House, but it should also have representatives of the Municipalities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam and of the Village Councils in whose confines the officers are going to function. From my knowledge of the people I can say with truth that so long as they are represented on that body they would not mind whether they are in the minority or in the majority. To have a Board without representatives of the Village Councils is to defeat your object. Government must remodel the Bill in order to give effect to this proposal. I am going to sug-

gest that the personnel of the Board should be the Surgeon-General (who might be made President), the Mayors of Georgetown and New Amsterdam (*ex officio*), two Elected and one Nominated Unofficial Members of this Council, two Chairmen of Village Authorities, and one representative of the planting interests in addition to Government Members. I think assent to this Bill going through would depend on Government accepting that position. No provision is made in respect of Rural Sanitary Districts, which affect the lands of sugar estates, and some provision will have to be made in that respect.

Part III. of the Bill has given rise to great public agitation. For some purposes the definition of Infectious Disease would be quite alright but for other purposes the definition would lead to a state of things which would make it impossible for citizens who happen to be inflicted one way or another with some of these diseases to go about ordinarily on their business. Some of these diseases would decimate the community in a short time while others are not immediately dangerous. The definition proposes to go very much further than it does in England and in some Colonies too. Our definition purports to follow the English Act but we propose for all purposes to have a wider definition and that is going to cause trouble. Here we have added chicken-pox, pulmonary tuberculosis and all other forms of tuberculosis, anthrax, septicæmia, and ophthalmia neonatorum. The effect of this definition is that "any person who while suffering from any infectious disease wilfully exposes himself without proper and necessary precautions against spreading any such infectious disease in any street, public place, shop, hotel or boarding-house, or public conveyance, or enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner, conductor or driver thereof that he is so suffering" is guilty of an offence. Do you want anything more absurd than the case of a man who discovers that he is suffering from incipient pulmonary tuberculosis being unable to enter a cab or car unless he notifies the driver of the vehicle? Those diseases which are infectious by mere contact should remain but as regards the others the definition should be withdrawn. We are attempting to blunder here by grouping all these diseases

under the head of infectious disease and not distinguish, as in England, between dangerous infectious diseases to which these provisions apply and other diseases which are treated in a different way.

These diseases should be treated in a manner different from the other infectious diseases and should not cause grave inconvenience to the public. One Member of the public remarked to me that the Surgeon-General would have to enquire what would be the effect of this provision even on the Civil Service. The remark was only meant to imply that in any large body of men in a Colony such as this one would find a large percentage suffering from pulmonary consumption, but it would be a wanton case of inflicting hardship on the unfortunate people to subject them to the treatment proposed in the Bill. Clause 22 proposes something that I would not be able to assent to, namely, powers to enter premises and examine any person found on such premises for the purpose of ascertaining whether such person is suffering, or has recently suffered, from an infectious disease. That is an attack upon the liberty of the subject and would not be tolerated in any free country. In England power is given to inspect houses but not individuals. There the examination of a patient can only be done with the consent of the patient, and the co-operation of the medical practitioner should be secured, if possible, and the only persons who can be compulsorily examined are the inmates of common lodging-houses. From clause 24 (2), which deals with the destruction of infected bedding, etc., is omitted a very important provision in the English Act of compensation for unnecessary damage. Clause 37 is a very good provision, except for its far-reaching effect that the Medical Officer of Health may examine every person engaged in a dairy or resident upon the premises or who may be resident in any premises where any person employed in such dairy may reside. You cannot examine a person compulsorily in that way. Power to prevent the removal of milk should be vested not in the Surgeon-General but in the Central Board, and the Surgeon-General as President of the Board will have ample scope for making his suggestions.

While Government is withdrawing most

of the provisions with regard to Venereal Diseases, I dislike the suggestion that the Governor in Council shall make regulations with respect to those diseases. There is nothing to prevent the Governor in Council promulgating on the community the identical provisions objected to in this House. There is no safeguard that these or worse provisions will not be enacted. All regulations should be made by the Central Board on which all public bodies would be represented, and that would lead to general satisfaction. I am opposed to the invasions which the Governor in Council is making on the prerogative of this House to formulate legislation and I am not prepared to delegate its powers to the Executive Council for this purpose. We want to enable Government to enact rational provisions to the feelings of the people. The amendments I propose are too many to be dealt with now and I will refer to them in Committee. But take clause 84. A woman who is frying fish is carrying on an offensive trade, and a man who makes bedding is also carrying on an offensive trade. An animal is defined to include a bird and meat to include fresh fish. Clause 91 makes it an offence to slaughter any animal intended for the food of man in any place except in a slaughter-house, so that a fowl will have to be killed in an abattoir. The power of definition is too greatly developed, and you are impeding people in the prosecution of their trade. This Bill should be subject to more and fuller consideration. Government does not want more delay than is necessary and I suggest that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee to consider it in all its aspects. By this means I think that the whole of the Bill can be reconstructed, the scheme and design greatly improved and the machinery enabling it to work without hardship on the community installed to give the maximum efficiency. A great deal of these irksome provisions can be modified without impairing the Bill. I have discovered not antagonism to the Bill as a whole but resentment against a great many of its provisions. I have been asked throughout my constituency to inform Government that they are not opposed to a measure of this kind and the establishment of a Central Board of Health, but they complain that Government has not given them the amendments to village administration which should have been

brought up concurrently with this Bill. All that remains for me to do is to give notice that when the Bill reaches the Committee stage I shall move that it be referred to a Select Committee as the only means of rectifying it as it should.

Mr WEBBER: I wish to join in the general appeal made to Government both in and out of the Council to give fuller consideration to this Bill. I doubt whether the course suggested by my hon. friend will entirely meet the case. A Select Committee would be useful in changing words here and there and constructing sentences, but the general complaint against the Bill is against many of its provisions, and I doubt whether it will be competent for a Committee of this House to take charge of the question of principle. For those reasons I am tempted to move that the Bill be deferred for six months, but I know that it would be futile to move such a motion. This morning I received a letter from the Chairman of Lichfield Village District, one of the oldest Village Chairmen perhaps, asking me to use all my endeavours to get a postponement of the Bill. Government has been contemplating this Bill for two years or longer and it has given the community three weeks to consider the Bill and the amendments. The amendments bear abundant evidence of haste and that Government's policy has not yet crystallised itself. The excuse that the Surgeon-General is leaving the Colony and should pilot the Bill through is not sufficient to warrant haste on the part of the Legislature. I doubt even its wisdom. The officer responsible for the Bill is going into retirement and I do not think he should shackle the community with his convictions. Would it not be better to have the new Surgeon-General, who is coming on the scene fresh with all the latest developments, and give him the opportunity to study the Bill and advise Government? The new Surgeon-General will be responsible for the working of the Bill, not the present Surgeon-General, and like some of us he will look aghast at some of the provisions of the Bill. If you have a Surgeon-General enforcing a Bill which does not carry conviction to him you will have a dead-letter on the statute books of the Colony. I think the proper person to advise on a measure of this sort and to pilot it through the House is the officer

who is going to be responsible for its execution. I welcome a measure of this sort. I think the laws as they now stand require serious amendment. They require consolidation. I am a public health enthusiast. I am prepared to infringe the liberty of the subject for the good of the State, and the mere suggestion that it is infringing the liberty of the subject is not sufficient for me; but I am questioning the general utility of the measure and in some cases the inadequacy, the unsuitability and impracticability of its provisions. I do not propose to deal with the general technique of the Bill because that has been dealt with by the hon. Member, but I will address myself generally to the Bill.

The first part of the Bill deals with the question of Central Administration. Many of my notes have been met by Government but I certainly object to the Chairman of the Board being the Surgeon-General. The Chairman should be what I would describe as a deliberative Chairman, not a participant, not an advocate, not an autocrat, with technical knowledge of the subject which would make him almost intolerant of conflicting views. He might be somebody occupying a high ecclesiastical position who would weigh arguments on both sides, or a judicial officer trained in the ways of debate and freedom of discussion. When you have a technical officer presiding over debates affecting questions of public health and sanitation, if he is an enthusiast in his profession we might have him almost intolerant of other people's views. The idea is to place the Surgeon-General in the position of the Minister of Health in England. The Minister of Health is responsible to his colleagues in the Cabinet, he is responsible to the House of Commons, and in the last resort he is responsible to his constituency. Here you are putting a salaried officer in the position of Minister of Health, and he has nobody to answer to except the Governor to whom he is technical adviser. The personnel of the Board also has not been wisely chosen. There should be distinct representation of the Municipalities of Georgetown and New Amsterdam. There should also be representation of District Administration, and here I feel Government has not been fair to us. It was expected that this measure would be a corollary to the District Administration Scheme. Until Govern-

ment has made up its mind on the larger question I do not think this Bill should be pressed forward. I deprecate the appointment of a Secretary at the salary proposed. Government should have had sufficient experience in appointing Secretaries to Boards and abolishing those Boards and having to find places for those Secretaries whose salaries soared far above those of their colleagues in the Service. An officer should be paid according to the class to which he belongs. In other words, I am arguing against the creation of new ranking of Secretaries to Boards in view of the unfortunate experience Government has had in that respect.

The Council adjourned for the luncheon recess.

Mr. WEBBER: I had reached Part IV. of the Bill when the adjournment was taken. Those of us who take an interest in public health matters are all alive to the great danger of the prevalence of venereal diseases to the life of the community, and therefore we would welcome any measure that seeks to reduce that threat as much as possible. At the same time we do not wish to place provisions on the statute books which would be merely irritating and annoying without producing some commensurate good to the community as a whole. I welcome the withdrawal of the most objectionable clauses, but even those which remain can be subject to adverse criticism. My chief complaint against the Bill is not what it contains but what it does not contain. To seek to suppress the evil here and there while leaving the door of infection and re-infection wide open seems to me a very unwise precaution. It is well known that the principal source of infection of these diseases in the City of Georgetown is the shipping, and from the City of Georgetown infection spreads to the provinces. I say that with considerable authority. It is a delicate question and one has to choose his words in pursuing it, but it is a fact recognised throughout the world that the merchant shipping is the source of infection, therefore the first line of defence must start at the port of entry. To provide a remedy here and there for one or two isolated cases and leave this gateway entirely open is simply to perpetuate the evil for all times and the provisions in the Bill will serve no purpose at all. In many

parts of the world, and some of the most enlightened parts of the world, proper precautions are taken against infection from the shipping. I therefore deprecate the absence of the slightest attempt in the present Bill to meet what is a real threat to the community. And where the Department has its biggest job is to stop the source of infection. I hope I will be excused from going into details. I have discussed the matter with the Surgeon-General and he said it is a very controversial subject. The whole Bill is controversial, but the main issue, apparently, Government has not the courage to face. If you have not got the courage to face the whole issue drop these irritating provisions which will practically be of no benefit to the community. I would jeopardise the liberty of the subject for the good of the subject, and if Government is minded to tackle this question heroically you must tackle this threat to the life of the community. The vital statistics of the Colony exhibit to those who understand them the great threat that venereal diseases carry to the community, infantile as well as adult. Hundreds of instances clothed in other names as the cause of death the medical fraternity know too well take their rise from venereal infection. In clause 44 (†) there is, as it appears to me, a gratuitous insult to the whole medical fraternity. It is like telling a lawyer what advice to give his clients when they go to him.

Dr. KELLY (Surgeon-General): That clause has been amended. The only part of it that stands is (a); the others have been eliminated.

Mr. WEBBER: It is (a) I am addressing myself to. I have eliminated the others, and I take it that Government will eventually delete that also. Clause 47 (1), as renumbered, provides that no person shall, unless he is a duly qualified medical practitioner, treat any person for venereal disease or prescribe any remedy therefor, or give any advice in connection with the treatment thereof, whether the advice is given to the person to be treated or to any other person; but that where in any area no medical practitioner is in the opinion of the Surgeon-General resident within a reasonable distance, he may authorise any Government dispenser resident

in such area to examine and treat in manner to be prescribed by the Surgeon-General any person or persons suffering or suspected to be suffering from any such disease. Government admit that a Government dispenser is qualified to advise people under certain conditions, but other dispensers, chemists and sicknurses are not qualified. If there is one disease on which patients should be encouraged to seek advice it is this, and the greater the privacy the greater likelihood there would be of the sufferers seeking that advice. This Colony is not like London where a man can walk into any hospital or clinic and is simply known as a cipher or number and no one knows who he is. In this Colony if any Member of the Legislative Council were to enter the gate of a hospital he would be known by every passer-by, and so in a lesser degree it is almost with every person in the community. The ordinary man walks into a dispensary and nobody knows whether he is going there to buy a cake of soap, a bottle of sweets or a box of chocolates. If he is suffering from a venereal disease he has a whispered conversation with the dispenser and gets a little homely advice, and it is better for him that he should have that little bit of advice than go on concealing the disease he is suffering from. You are compelling that man to go to a doctor who is perhaps of his social class and whom he is ashamed to face. Then you say no person shall treat. There are phases and classes of this disease which require nursing treatment daily, sometimes more than once daily, and you are telling a man he must not go to any dispenser or sicknurse who would treat him in this manner but go to a doctor and pay that doctor's bill. You are driving this disease underground by these provisions, and that is the great threat of this hidden disease. I do not think Government is well advised in pursuing this provision. The average sicknurse-dispenser is a man who has undergone a certain course of training and there is no grave danger in allowing him to offer what I may call first aid. Dispensers are wise enough to know when tertiary stages are setting in and to leave the case to a medical man.

I now come to the craziest part of the Bill, which forbids advertising and printing. The greatest enemies of this disease are the opponents to publicity and know-

ledge. The greater the knowledge and the more you can awaken consciousness to the danger of the disease, the better for the community as a whole and those who unfortunately suffer from it. Nothing is to be gained by secrecy. Advertisements play a part in the campaign against this hidden disease and nothing is to be gained by forbidding publicity. I have come across no English statute forbidding advertising of specifics for these diseases in any form, but I have seen in England the windows of chemists' shops blazoning forth their message to the community. These remedies are more helpful than the reverse. Men of the highest medical skill and repute are not above taking these chemists as consultants to prepare their remedies, preparatory and otherwise. I can see no danger in allowing these people to offer their ware to the community. It is better to put those simple remedies within the reach of people than to deny them all remedies whatsoever. To close all those channels which are open to those who now feel ashamed to seek remedies is not going to achieve the object which I believe Government has sincerely at heart, and that is the suppression of the disease. I do not intend to delay the House any longer with other portions of the Bill because I have no doubt that my colleagues have notes on the subject, but I may be permitted a word on Part VII. before I resume my seat. I observe that the owner or occupier of any premises is required to keep all canals free from overgrowth of any bush, weeds, grass or other vegetation. I know myself that canals and ponds in which the water is obstructed offer prolific breeding grounds for mosquitoes. But the water supply in villages for drinking as well as culinary and household purposes is frequently a very precarious one, and experience in the villages is that vegetation in these canals and ponds which are dependent on the rainfall for their replenishment prevents evaporation of the water in dry weather. The mosquito problem is a very great one. At the same time Government must take care that the remedy is not worse than the disease and that a greater burden is not being imposed on the community. If Government is not prepared to withdraw the Bill then I ask that it be postponed for reference to a Committee to make recommendations on those principles which have

engaged the attention of the House to-day.

Mr. GONSALVES: The hon. Member for Demerara River anticipated me in suggesting that this Bill be referred to a Committee for further consideration. On reading through the Bill yesterday I came to the conclusion that it was impossible for us to settle its details sitting as we are to-day, and for that reason I drafted a motion proposing that the Bill be postponed for six months and a Committee appointed to go into the various clauses. If it had been my privilege to move that motion I would have suggested not necessarily a Committee of this House alone but other persons, including one or two retired medical practitioners whose knowledge and experience might be useful for the purpose. I also hope, for the reasons which I gave on the last occasion, that the Medical Officer of Health for Georgetown will be given an opportunity of expressing his views on the Bill. While it is to be regretted that the Surgeon-General has to leave the Colony, I do not agree that the Bill should be left over until the appointment of his successor. When that is to take place no one can say. If we leave it over until then we might then be told that we have a new man and must give him an opportunity to become conversant with conditions in the Colony. If any mistake has occurred in regard to the Bill it is perhaps in not seeking the assistance of persons capable of advising on its provisions before submitting it to this Council. The hon. Member for Demerara River need not have gone so far as the country districts to draw attention to the fact that Government property is not being properly looked after. I have heard criticism in another Chamber of the condition of Government property within the Municipal area. These are things which invite people to say that Government ought to look after its own affairs before it attempts to tell others what they ought to do. There are several clauses in the Bill which, to my mind, ought to be deleted and others to be deleted which might be allowed to remain. Several of them have been already referred to, and if a Committee is to be appointed I need not refer to them again now. It has taken seven years to bring forward this Bill. In the report of the Douglass Commission, dated 8th June, 1925, it is

stated: "After full and careful consideration of the matter, we have reached the conclusion that the present decentralised system of sanitary control should be abolished and that the regulation and control of Public Health and Sanitation should be transferred to a separate central authority, to which end we recommend that a special Ordinance to be termed the Public Health Ordinance be enacted to deal with all matters appertaining to Public Health administration, to make provision for the necessary machinery and staff, and to give power to the Health Authority to make by-laws." For that reason I am not prepared to be a party to the Bill being held up longer than is necessary. The request to refer it to a Committee is reasonable and experienced persons would assist to bring forward a Bill which is more acceptable.

Mr. ELEAZAR: This Bill has been the subject of a good deal of criticism, adverse and otherwise. In my place here I wish to say that the Bill certainly is not wholly bad, but I think there is in it more that can be called bad than can be called good. Those who set out to frame these provisions of the Bill are to be congratulated, and I hope they will take the criticisms in the spirit they are intended, not that they have done anything but rather attempted something from which something will result. Having said that I think I have said all that can be said in favour of the Bill. It is clear from the Bill itself that the draftsman simply took sections from Ordinances formulated for other countries without the slightest attempt to think of local conditions. If that were not so how do we find in this Bill a clause that no building shall be erected on any lot or portion of a lot less in area than thirty square rods of which no one side shall be less in length than four rods. Most of the lots on the West Coast, Berbice, have a façade of $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2 or 3 rods and a depth of 700 or 1,000 rods. There are certain parts of this Bill which can only be construed as a libel on the country. I am yet to find any part of the country where it is necessary to have recourse to measures to cleanse premises infested with vermin. The person who framed that clause must have been thinking of some primitive place like Rhodesia, or it must have emanated from his own imagination.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Mr. McDowell): That particular provision is taken from the English Public Health Act, 1925, and not from any Rhodesian Act.

Mr. ELEAZAR: One will walk this country until he is grey to find conditions of that kind existing. Why can't we have a Public Health Department, as in Trinidad, with the Local Authorities carrying on on their own? The Government Medical Officer of Health visited a country district soon after he came to the Colony and recommended the filling up of inter-lot drains. Someone said he did not know what he was talking about and I have heard no more about filling up those drains. The provisions of the Bill mean oppression in some cases and I am sure Government has no such intention. This Bill savours of a man with both eyes blind trying to direct a man with one sound eye. Government is anxious, and so are we, that the public health of the Colony should be improved. We are admittedly only on the fringe of public health questions, but surely this is not the way to improve them. I should like Government to begin to put its own house in order. I wonder if the houses in connection with Government's pet scheme at Bush Lot, Essequebo, are built on lots five rods square. When you make these laws the community does not realise what is coming; it is when you come to apply them that you are going to get into trouble. It is going to mean rebellion. Surely it is better to get the people into your confidence than to tell them they shall be guilty of an offence unless they do certain things. If Government would allow the Local Authorities to employ their own Sanitary Officers, who shall be subject to the advice of the Central Board in Georgetown, it would then be going about the matter in the proper way and in pursuing any other course it cannot succeed. Government ought to be convinced from what has been stated today that the Bill should be further considered on the lines indicated. I can assure Government that it is creating trouble for itself. It is forcing on the people measures which are only half baked and which they are bound to resent, but which they would have complied with if you had taken the right course. No man who had local conditions in mind could have drafted clause 69. In that clause it is stated that if a child deposits excreta or defecates

elsewhere than in a properly constructed latrine the parent or guardian shall be liable. It is outrageous.

Dr. SINGH: A Health Bill is made principally to improve the comfort, health and safety of the community. It is the policy of every up-to-date country to introduce methods to improve public health conditions in order to maintain at least a standard of good health. The present Bill has been greatly modified in some of its essential parts, yet it does not meet with the favour of the public. Many consider it to be cumbersome. If there are objectionable features about the Bill which I do not regard as questionable, those offending parts can be remedied from time to time. At this stage I think if Government were to allow the Bill to go through a probationary period of one year, during which time the prevalent feeling against the Sanitary Inspectors and others would be obviated, the Sanitary Inspectors and others during that probationary period will be looked upon as friendly advisers and real health propagandists rather than as persecutors. During that period the community also will have an opportunity to understand the Bill, which will have corrected and shaped itself to the confidence and approval of everybody.

Mr. LUCKHOO: I do not wish to delay discussion of this important measure but I think it well to rise to support it in certain respects. We all appreciate the vital importance of sanitary measures and we are all interested in improving health conditions in the Colony. The Bill has been severely criticised by hon. Members who have spoken and I have no desire to reiterate or emphasise any of the points which have been made. I think that the Medical Department should be complimented for at least endeavouring to produce a Bill which we could reconstruct to meet the requirements of the Colony. While I have no desire to enlarge on the points which have been raised, there is one I should like to emphasise. That is the point by the hon. Member for Berbice River of house planning. The Whim Settlement was laid out in 5 x 5 rods for allotment to time-expired immigrants in lieu of back passages. It would impose a very great hardship on the people who have acquired the lands

under those conditions if they are deprived of erecting buildings on the house lots. I cannot conceive that that was Government's intention and I ask Government seriously to consider that point. There is another district, the Letter Kenny-Auchlyne-Bloomfield district, occupied by East Indians engaged in rice and other farming. Some of those people own a quarter share in these lands the façade of which is 44 feet. The façade of a quarter share in this case will be only 11 feet, and to deprive the people of building on these lands would inflict a great deal of hardship. A fine of \$500 is a serious penalty for a breach of that provision, which on the face of it is obnoxious and should be withdrawn. I wish to congratulate the Medical Department upon its laudable efforts in respect to infant welfare, and I am prepared to assist in every well conceived measure to promote a vigorous and virile community. I should like the Department to take steps to educate the people in the country districts with respect to contagious and infectious diseases. It is unwise to allow people suffering from any venereal disease to be selling in a cake-shop, and it is a question whether Government has not shown some weakness in giving way on that point. This is not a question of sentiment and we must educate public opinion to co-operate in all matters destined for its own welfare. I am extremely pleased with the provisions for school hygiene, while I hope that steps will be taken early for a better distribution of the water from wells. Public health is a matter of paramount importance and everything should be done to strengthen the hands of the Medical Department in the matter, but I hope no prosecutions will be undertaken by the Department without first warning the delinquents in writing and not merely by verbal notice.

Dr. KELLY : Quite a lot of criticism has been levelled at the Bill, from which it appears that the Bill has been taken as something new and original. I said when the Bill was introduced that we have retained in it quite a lot of the existing law and incorporated in it other provisions which have been modified to suit conditions prevailing in the neighbouring islands. The part of the Bill which perhaps has been most criticised was Part I. which deals with Central Administration. The

points raised in the main imply that the position of the Central Board of Health should be defined in the Bill. The general points raised with respect to various aspects of the Bill in many instances appeared to take the extreme case rather than the general. Laws when made are intended to apply in a general sense and not in an exceptional sense. In connection with infectious diseases the hon. Member for Demerara River made a point of the provision in respect of tuberculosis, and on the general question he thought there might be a division from the point of view of legislation of infectious diseases of the dangerous and less dangerous types. The hon. Member for Western Berbice suggested that the Bill might be deferred for another six months and gave as his reason that as the present Surgeon-General was leaving the Colony it would be better for the new Surgeon-General to take up the matter. Another hon. Member mentioned that the opposite reason would be given if this Bill came up as my successor came to the Colony. The part of the Bill which perhaps, from the general standpoint, has received the most criticism is Part IV. which relates to venereal diseases. In that connection there is a divergence of opinion. Government has been blamed in some instances for deleting certain clauses of the Bill, in other instances Government was blamed for putting them in, but the general question in connection with that aspect of legislation in relation to public health is a very controversial one. The hon. Member for Western Berbice drew a picture of what is done in other parts of the world. It is true that in connection with shipping a certain procedure is adopted in certain parts of the United States of America, but I know of no part of the British Empire where that form of procedure is adopted and I am very doubtful if we can take those measures here.

The hon. Members for Berbice River and Eastern Berbice commented on the clauses relating to house and town planning. I admit that I am not familiar with the space dimensions, but that is a matter to be given due consideration and if necessary amended. The question of regulations relating to verminous premises has been criticised. It is true that conditions of that kind might not be so prevalent in countries like this where overcrowding does not exist as on the other side, but it

must be remembered that this Bill is not made for to-day and even to-day there might be certain portions of it which could be applied at any time. It must not be thought that this Colony is always to be free, as I am pleased to say it is at present, from diseases which are conveyed by vermin. I refer particularly to plague. If we did get plague in this Colony the necessity for having laws to deal with houses becomes imperative. Leaving that aside we have in Georgetown tenement centres which we know, unless certain precautions exist for dealing with them, may at any time become a danger to public health. When introducing the Bill I mentioned that in all things its application was difficult because circumstances in each case might vary. Magistrates in dealing with cases would certainly take into consideration the circumstances of the person, the particular circumstances which led to the prosecution, and other factors which always weigh with them. The Bill should not therefore be criticised on extreme cases alone. It is intended to serve the general purpose of promoting public health in this Colony.

The Bill contains clauses both old and new which I feel sure will improve public health in the Colony. I do not think myself, although it has been made a great point by one or two speakers, that antagonism to the Bill is great. I do not think further—and that is an important point—that the Local Authorities would view the loss of control of public health matters very seriously. By that I do not mean that they do not like the power of control—they do I know—but provided there was mechanism that could control public health, I do not think they would view their loss of their so-called control very seriously. The position Government has taken up in connection with this matter is that it is quite time that a new Public Health Bill should be brought in. The hon. Member for Berbice River has rather imputed that for my own honour and glory that the Bill should be called “Kelly’s Bill” Government is forcing it through. I can assure him that is not the case. As a Bill I feel that while I am in the Colony it should go through. There seems to be an expression with a Bill of this kind that what is passed now can never be altered. If it is found by experience that certain clauses are not a success surely those

clauses can be amended. Although on some points the Bill can be criticised, and on some points Government is quite prepared to amend it, on the whole the Bill is as good as any of its kind in the West Indies.

THE PRESIDENT: I am very grateful to hon. Members for the useful criticisms which have been made on this measure, especially to the hon. Member for Demerara River for the careful manner in which he pointed out where there were defects in the Bill and where they might be amended. I think we are all agreed now that a Health Bill is desirable and the sooner it is put in operation the better. I also think this Bill has had sufficient publicity and consideration by Members of this Council to enable it to be proceeded with. The suggestion made by the hon. Member for Demerara River, which I propose to accept, is that the Bill should be submitted to a Select Committee of the Council. I propose under Rule 44 to appoint a Select Committee to consider the Bill and the amendments in it which are desired. Divisions of opinion do exist as to the necessity for some of the clauses. Some Members think they are too severe and others think they are not severe enough and others again that some of the clauses which it is proposed to delete should remain. I therefore think the best thing to do would be to submit the Bill to a Select Committee, and I propose to appoint as that Committee the Colonial Secretary, (Chairman), the Attorney-General, the Surgeon-General, Hon. F. Dias, the hon. Member for Demerara River (Mr. Crane), the hon. Member for Demerara-Essequibo (Dr. Singh), the hon. Member for Georgetown South (Mr. Gonsalves) and the Hon. F. J. Seaford. I hope those Members will be prepared to serve and that the Committee will endeavour to prepare its report as early as possible. It has been said that we are rushing this Bill because we want to pass it before the Surgeon-General leaves. Hon. Members will recollect that when we resumed I suggested that Government was anxious—and I am sure hon. Members of the Council are anxious—to have the advice and assistance of the Surgeon-General in the passing of the Bill, and I still hope we shall be able to do so. The Surgeon-General has postponed his departure. When the Committee has reported the suggestions and amendments

then to be made would be purely a matter of form, and I should imagine that there will be no necessity to detain the Surgeon-General longer in the Colony if he wishes to leave at that time, but I do ask the Committee to get to work as early as possible and let us have its report at the earliest date.

Question "That the Bill be read the second time" put, and agreed to.

Bill read the second time.

The Council resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

Mr. CRANE : I formally move that the Bill be committed to the Select Committee to consider it in all its aspects.

Mr. ELEAZAR : I repeat my suggestion to include the doctors.

THE CHAIRMAN : There is nothing to prevent the Select Committee from obtaining the assistance of medical practitioners and that I presume they will do.

The Council resumed and adjourned until the following day at 11 o'clock.