

STATE COUNCIL

MONDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 1953

The Council met at 2 p.m., His Honour the President, Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E., in the Chair.

PRESENT :

His Honour the President, Sir Edwin Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Mr. W. J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Mr. Lionel A. Luckhoo.

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

Mr. R. B. Gajraj.

Mr. P. A. Cummings.

Mr. U. A. Fingall.

His Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies, the Most Reverend Dr. Alan J. Knight.

Mr. G. L. Robertson.

His Grace the Archbishop read prayers.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Monday, 10th August, 1953, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM THE GOVERNOR

The President: Hon. Members, I have received from His Excellency the Governor two letters, both dated the 14th

of August, acknowledging the receipt of two Resolutions which were passed by this Council on the 10th of August—the first Resolution, No. 4, with respect to the remuneration of Members of the State Council, and the Second Resolution, No. 5, with respect to the representation of this Legislature in the welcome to Her Majesty the Queen in Jamaica during her visit there in November next.

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS

The Clerk read the following list of documents which were laid on the table:—

Schedule of Additional Provision to meet Expenditure in excess of the provision made in the Estimates for the year 1953 from Revenue (May/June, 1943).

Schedule of Services to be met from Funds raised under Loan Ordinance No. 13 of 1951. 1951 Issue of \$10,464,000).

Schedule of Provision required during 1953 for Development Plan Services to be met from Surplus Balances (June, 1953).

The following Resolutions passed by the House of Assembly:—

- (a) **Resolution No. I** passed on the 17th of June, 1953, expressing appreciation of the Message from Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the opening of the House of Assembly, and reaffirming the sincere loyalty and devotion of its Members to the British Crown.
- (b) **Resolution No. II** passed on the 17th of June, 1953, recommending transmission of an appeal to the President of the U. S. A. to exercise his clemency towards Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.
- (c) **Resolution No. III** passed on the 26th of June, 1953—an Address in reply to the Message delivered by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the opening of the Legislature under the new Constitution.
- (d) **Resolution No. IV** passed on the 26th of June, 1953, approving the appointment of a Select Committee to consider the question of the revision of the

[The Clerk]

Standing Rules and Orders of the House.

- (e) **Resolution No. V** passed on the 26th of June, 1953, recommending the examination by the Minister of Communications and Works of a proposal to construct a road from Atkinson Airfield to Mackenzie.
- (f) **Resolution No. VI** passed on the 26th of June, 1953, recommending enactment of legislation to provide for the holding of State Lotteries.
- (g) **Resolution No. VII** passed on the 1st of July, 1953, recommending the award of an additional number of scholarships to candidates who qualified at the last examination for the County Scholarship but who failed to gain scholarships.

The President: The first three items on the list relate to Schedules of Additional Provision passed by the Finance Committee of the House of Assembly, and before we adjourn I shall take opportunity to initiate discussion as to our procedure for dealing with those and other financial matters. With regard to the other items in the Schedule, that is the Resolutions under item (4), they are tabled merely for information. The last three Resolutions are in terms of recommendations to the Government to take action in certain respects. That is to say that no definite action has been decided upon by the Government or the House of Assembly with respect thereto, and they do not call for any action by this Council. Nevertheless, of course it is open to any Member of this Council to initiate, by way of motion, any action which he deems fit with respect to them, but as matters now stand they are tabled for information only.

ORDER OF THE DAY

REMUNERATION OF MEMBERS BILL DEFERRED

The President: The only item on the Order of the Day is the first reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance to make provision for payment of remuneration to elected Members of the House of Assembly and for payment of travelling expenses and subsistence allowances to Members of the State Council and the House of Assembly".

In view of the fact that we have passed a Resolution which, as I have said, has been forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and has been acknowledged by him, I think it is proper that we should continue to defer any action on this Bill until I have received a communication from the Governor intimating the decision of the Government on our Resolution. Consequently, I propose to defer the first reading of the Bill.

DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURE IN FINANCIAL MATTERS.

That, therefore, closes our formal agenda, but as I said, I propose to initiate a discussion on the three documents which have been tabled with respect to Supplementary Provision. Hon. Members will have received copies of those documents and I should like, first of all, to explain what the procedure is in the Legislature in connexion with Supplementary Provisions. Under the Standing Rules and Orders there is set up a body called the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, and the House of Assembly has, I think, adopted that institution. The Finance Committee of the old Legislature consisted of all the Unofficial Members with the Financial Secretary as Chairman, and the procedure was that each month the Finance Committee met and had submitted to it all financial matters which required consideration and approval. Such matters, of course, normally take the form of requests for what is known as Supplementary Provisions, that is requests for approval of excess votes. The Finance Committee usually discussed those items very fully and very freely. The meetings were not held in

[The President]

public. Heads of Departments and other Public Officers were invited to attend and were questioned by the Members. As I said, the discussions covered a wide field and were extremely free, Members taking the opportunity to elicit information about what was going on in connection with each Department which appeared on the Schedules put before them, and about many other matters. The result of those meetings was that the Schedule of excess expenditure or supplementary expenditure, as the case may be, was approved by the Finance Committee, and on that approval the Governor issued a warrant authorizing the Financial Secretary to incur the expenditure. That in itself was not, of course, final authority. There followed every quarter a Supplementary Estimate which was put before the full Legislative Council, and such Supplementary Estimate was usually considered—not in very great detail—and passed by the Council.

That procedure is, I think, continuing, and what has been sent to us and has been tabled is the First Schedule which has been approved by the Finance Committee constituted under the new House of Assembly. Now this is the position. Excess expenditure has also to be authorized formally by law, but a Supplementary Appropriation Bill is never introduced in the Council until well after the close of the financial year. Now we as a State Council shall have to pass that Appropriation Bill as well as the House of Assembly, and it is usually introduced three, four or five months after the close of the year to which it refers. If we waited until that time to pass the Appropriation law it would be long after the expenditure has been incurred. Therefore we should, I think, take some concurrent action with the House of Assembly. I am not suggesting that the monthly

Schedules should come before this Council formally. I think it would be sufficient if they were laid as they have been laid today, and if any Member on examining them feels that there is some item which he wishes to bring formally before the Council, he can do so by way of question or motion. But I do propose that the Quarterly Supplementary Estimates which were the subject of firm resolutions in the old Legislative Council and now in the House of Assembly, should come before this Council for formal resolutions also quarterly. So that we could then have at least some opportunity before expenditure gets out of hand, so to speak, to take action or join in approval of expenditure which is going on outside of the provisions of the Annual Estimates. That, I think, would be sufficient. So that at the end of the year when the Supplementary Appropriation Bill comes before us we shall have taken part in approving of those excess items quarterly. That is my suggestion and I should welcome any other views Members may wish to express. I know that the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, followed the procedure in the Legislative Council very closely. Until very recently he was a very keen attendant at the meetings of the Finance Committee, and he knows the procedure well. So also does my friend, Mr. Macnie.

Mr. Raatgever : Mr. President, I think I can be called the 'father of the Finance Committee' because the Finance Committee was instituted as a result of representations made by me while you were in the United Kingdom on leave—I think it was in 1946.

Sir, I do not agree with the procedure outlined by you I think it is the duty of the State Council, as part of the Legislature of this Colony to see these estimates monthly and approve of them or otherwise, and not wait to do

[Mr. Raatgever]

so quarterly. Expenditure is a very important thing in the Colony, and finance, so far as I am aware, under the Constitution should be approved by both houses—the House of Assembly and the State Council. So far as I am aware—and I will be glad if you can correct me—that is the case, and I would suggest that we form ourselves into a Finance Committee similar to the old Legislative Council and discuss all items of Supplementary Expenditure monthly after they have been approved by the House of Assembly.

Mr. Luckhoo : If I understand you aright, we would be permitted the opportunity of seeing the monthly statement and we can by way of motion or question raise any particular point which may have aroused our attention. I think if this was to be mere formality and we would not be permitted to investigate any particular item, I will certainly agree with my hon. friend. I think that to see them bring any question to the attention of the Council, and then go into greater detail when the quarterly statements are brought forward are, to my mind, more satisfactory.

Mr. Macnie : Can we consider ourselves in committee, Sir? On the answers given to questions we might like to speak again.

The President : Let me say at once, I may allow this to be an informal discussion. We are not going to take any vote on this.

Mr. Macnie : Thank you, that makes it easier. I am inclined to think, Sir, that there is a great deal of substance in what the hon. Member Mr. Raatgever just said. I think you should know I had this hope that the Finance Committee

of the Legislature should have a joint meeting with this Council. With the old Finance Committee as we knew it, it would not have been possible to have two houses meeting together and dealing with these Supplementary Provisions as the need arose. I gather, however, that getting together in this respect is not possible, or if it is possible, it is not acceptable. If that is so, then it is so, but it is a pity because I am a great believer in affording opportunity to get together and exchange views around the table. But let me say, it is not to be thought that I do not think there are opportunities other than meetings of the two bodies. I am very happy to say that Members of the present Government and I talk on the telephone at least twice a day, and I am very happy to have these opportunities to speak to them as well as other Members of the House of Assembly. Perhaps it won't be accepted by the 'powers that be'.

I notice on the last page of this Schedule of additional provisions, it ends up, "Passed by the Finance Committee this 16th day of July, 1953." Today is the 17th day of August of the same year—about a month has passed. May I ask when the expenditure is going ahead?

The President : Yes, I can explain. His Excellency has authorised this expenditure by issuing a warrant.

Mr. Macnie : A warrant has been issued but it still remains to be ratified by the House. I use the word 'ratified' advisedly. I feel if that body has any comment to make on any item in the Schedule, they should do so as soon as possible after the Schedule reaches them. We are free to raise questions and make comment on any item, but I do not think it would always be as fruitful as what the hon. Member Mr. Raatgever has in mind: a monthly get-

[Mr. Macnie]

together on all items. In respect of the old Finance Committee I find that for the short time I was on that body—two or three years—it was very refreshing and interesting for me, although meetings were somewhat prolonged; and sometimes, you will remember, Sir, meetings gave me the opportunity to have a crack at the Administration.

The President: And at me!
(*Laughter.*)

Mr. Macnie: I beg your pardon, Sir, but I am sure you took it in the spirit in which it was meant—and you gave me the opportunity to apologize.

There is one item on which I would like to be clear, and that is the "Decanting Centre". I went there incognito. . . .

The President: It is difficult for you to be incognito:

Mr. Macnie: I imagine so. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Housing some questions on that the next time we meet, but it is an item which I think we can get together on as soon as possible. If we have anything to say, we will say it then.

Mr. Raatgever: I am rather perturbed to hear His Excellency has signed a warrant authorising this expenditure before this State Council, which is an integral part of the Legislature of this Colony, has approved. I take very strong exception to the Governor's action in this matter. I am not a rubber stamp. I can never be. I am a Member of this State Council, and I am here representing the people of this Colony just as much as elected members of the House of Assembly, and I shall never allow any individual whether it is a Governor or anybody else to usurp the functions of this

State Council so long as I have the honour of being a member of it.

The President: There is no necessity for any heat in this matter. His Excellency is perfectly within his right, given to him under Colonial Regulations, and the reason for signing a warrant authorising expenditure by the House of Assembly is because the function of that body is finance, mainly. I cannot accept the criticism that the Governor has done something which he is not entitled to do.

Mr. Raatgever: Sir, I think His Excellency can only do so if the House of Assembly and the State Council are prorogued, or in an emergency. It is here (*Mr. Raatgever points to the Letters Patent and B.G. (Constitution) Order in Council, 1953*) and you, as President should know that.

The President: I will ask you to state the Section to which you refer.

Mr. Raatgever: Well, I will find it.

The President: Does anybody wish to speak while the hon. Member Mr. Raatgever is looking up his quotation?

Mr. Cummings: What will be the effect of our comment on the decision of the House of Assembly with regard to these Estimates?

The President: At the moment the House of Assembly has not seen them. The Finance Committee has passed them.

Mr. Cummings: Let me put it this way. The Finance Committee comprises the whole House, with the exception of the three *ex officio* Members.

The President: With the Financial Secretary in the chair.

Mr. Cummings: After the House has approved, what will be the effect of any adverse comment by this Council on anything put forward by them.

Mr. Macnie: It might not only be adverse, Sir.

Mr. Cummings: Any comment.

The President: Does any other member wish to speak?

Mr. Macnie: My impression, Sir, with due respect to you, is that the matter is covered by Colonial Regulations, and that the Governor's position is safeguarded fully; and that the Governor in signing the warrant after the presentation of these documents is acting perfectly correctly, and in fact, reasonably, but by doing otherwise he would be acting unreasonably.

The President: I rose because I did not wish it to go unchallenged that His Excellency had acted unreasonably. We must be realistic about it: our powers as regards Money Bills are very limited indeed. We can defer and invite reconsideration of some matter, but in the end it is the will of the House of Assembly that will prevail. I think the period for which we can defer a money Bill is three months. All I was trying to ensure by bringing this to you was that we are kept fully cognizant, so that when the Appropriation Bill comes before us we should not be caught unaware—over and above the Estimates—how each Supplementary Bill arose. On the subject of effectiveness of any comment, how can I answer if our criticisms or comments are constructive—as I hope they would be. If we wish to deal with them monthly, I shall ask you to constitute ourselves into a Finance Committee. But whom would it report to? To this Council? I do not know. These documents are

not effective acts of the House of Assembly at all. They are merely steps by a Committee of the House, so we can only act in a similar way—by a Committee. And if our Committee reports something adverse on these Schedules...? My personal view is that we should do as I suggest. If the hon. Members feel we should go into finance committee so as to go into greater detail, then I shall, of course do so. One difficulty is that we do not have the Ministers with us, as in the case with the present Finance Committee. If we have such a Committee, who are we going to question? Are we going to summon Heads of Departments and invite Ministers? I do not think it would be realistic, and so we must face up to these facts.

I prefer to adjourn this discussion to let members have an opportunity of thinking it over if necessary before a formal motion is considered.

Mr. Raatgever : I do not see the necessity for postponing the matter. In the old Legislature the Governor did not have the power to approve expenditure prior to the Finance Committee considering it and approving. The Legislature discussed all items of expenditure before the money was spent. Now the State Council is part of the Legislature we will have to make Standing Rules for conducting the business. Something would have to be done so far as the State Council is concerned, and I see no reason why the House of Assembly and the State Council should not sit together and consider the estimates.

We have the right to hold up any financial matter that is not in the interest of the Colony for three months and then have it reconsidered. We have the right to hold up any other matter for twelve months and then have it recon-

[Mr. Raatgever]

considered. Speaking as a Member, I cannot delegate the authority of this State Council to His Excellency the Governor or anyone else. If I do that I would be wanting in my duty to the public. I have very much at stake in this Colony and I represent the people as much, if not more, than the Elected Members, and I say it definitely here that under the Constitution all expenditure must be approved by this Council before being sent to His Excellency for a warrant to be signed. That is definite, and I want it to be recorded.

Mr. Cummings: May I rise to say this: Personally I find myself somewhat at a disadvantage and would like to lend support to Your Honour's suggestion—that this discussion be deferred—in order to give persons like me and opportunity to familiarize themselves with the authority under which His Excellency acts in these matters.

The President: Hon. Members, I regret having brought this matter up for this informal discussion in the full Council like this. I shall adjourn it and at a more convenient time we shall meet informally and thrash the matter out. I will say again, I join issue with the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, and will not accept for myself his strictures on His Excellency the Governor continuing to sign warrants, which he is perfectly entitled to do. That closes the discussion, and, as I have said, it will be brought up at another time.

HER MAJESTY'S VISIT TO JAMAICA

Mr. Raatgever : Before you adjourn, Sir, I would like to find out whether you have received a reply from Government to our request for funds to be provided to pay the expenses of the delegates to Jamaica.

The President : Under the Head "Announcements" I did say that I received an acknowledgement from His Excellency of the Resolution which we passed and which I forwarded to him, I take it that on consideration of our resolution I shall have another reply. We shall, of course, await that reply unless the hon. Member has something to say. He can do so now.

Mr. Raatgever : I think the Government has treated this Council with very grave discourtesy in not replying to our letter before. Dr. Jagan (Hon. Leader of the House of Assembly) gave an interview to the Press on the matter. The report was published in the three daily papers last Saturday. With your permission, Sir, I will read the Press Report from the "Daily Chronicle" of Saturday, 15th August:

"B. G. NOT TO SEND LEGISLATORS TO GREET QUEEN IN JAMAICA

EX CO. DECLINES INVITATION 'FOR FINANCIAL REASONS.'

"British Guiana's Executive Council has decided that it cannot accept the invitation of the Members of the Legislature of Jamaica to send two representatives of the local Legislature to participate in the welcome to be accorded Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on her visit to the Island from November 25 to 27 this year.

"This decision taken by the Executive Council was announced yesterday afternoon by the Leader of the House and Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands and Mines, Hon. Dr. Cheddie Jagan, who gave the reason to be financial, even though the two representatives from British Guiana were to be guests of the Government of Jamaica during the period of their stay."

I do not know whether this is a correct report of what happened in the Executive Council, but I think that any communication from the Executive

[Mr. Raatgever]

Council should be made by the Clerk of the Executive Council. Therefore I do not know whether it is in order for the Leader of the House of Assembly to make that statement. I am, however, going to accept the report as being correct. I feel this matter very keenly. First of all, this Council has been treated with great discourtesy by the Government in not receiving a reply to our representation. This is a sovereign body; it is part of the Legislature. The reply should be sent here before the information is given to the Press. Secondly, the Executive Council exceeded its power in refusing to accept an invitation sent to the Legislature of this Colony by another sovereign body. The Government was requested by this Council to provide funds for paying the expenses of two representatives of our Legislature who are invited by the Jamaica Legislature. It was not the function of the Executive Council, and they were not asked to decide whether the Legislature of this Colony should accept the invitation or not. That is a matter for the Legislature—the House of Assembly and the State Council—to decide. The Government is only asked to provide the money for the expenditure. I repeat, they were not asked to decide whether the invitation should be accepted or not.

If the House of Assembly for reasons best known to themselves—it might be lack of finance; it might be disloyalty; it might be anything—choose not to nominate a representative from the House of Assembly, this State Council can nominate both representatives to proceed to Jamaica, provided the Members selected pay their own expenses. If Members of this Council are prepared to foot the bill—pay their own expenses—I see no reason why this State Council cannot nominate both representatives if the House of

Assembly is not prepared to do so. It seems to me, Sir, very unsatisfactory that this Colony, the very great majority of whose people are loyal to the Throne—that was amply demonstrated during the Coronation festivities—should not send representatives to Jamaica along with the other Colonies in this area to welcome Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. We would be wanting in our duty if we allow the opportunity to pass without taking part in what is an epoch-making event—the first visit of a reigning sovereign of the British Commonwealth of Nations to this part of the world. I say it would be a disgrace if we allow the opportunity to pass without taking advantage of it, and I am certain that the Members of this State Council would feel it an honour and a very great privilege to pay their own expenses to go and demonstrate the loyalty of the great masses of our people in this Colony.

Mr. Luckhoo: May I crave your indulgence to say a few words in this matter. We have received an invitation from the Government of Jamaica to what they term in the invitation a historic occasion when Her Majesty the Queen would be visiting Jamaica. It is felt by that Government that all the sister territories of the British West Indies should be associated in extending a loyal welcome to Her Majesty. The Legislature of Jamaica has invited us and is willing to be and to act as our host on that occasion. The Legislature of Jamaica has invited the Legislature of British Guiana. In my conception the Legislature of British Guiana refers to the House of Assembly and the State Council and to the Governor, as the Governor is very much a factor in the Executive Council and as such he should be included in the term "Legislature". That is subject to correction, but I believe I am on firm ground in so saying.

[Mr. Luckhoo]

We have signified in unmistakeable terms our acceptance of the kind invitation, and one views with alarm this declaration or press statement which was issued because, Sir, that was issued by a responsible individual, the Leader of the House of Assembly, who has really slandered and maligned the Colony in the eyes of the world. The excuse sought to be put forward is one which is pitifully weak and an unprepossessing variety of what one would term "a malicious act". What is the passage and return fare for an individual to Jamaica? It should be remembered that we are going there as the guests of the Legislature of Jamaica. The fare is \$524.90 return. What I would like to ask is, how much have we been paying the Ministers? Who are running around the Colony, for travelling expenses and subsistence allowances since they assumed office? Yet they turn round and offer an insult to Jamaica and an affront to the Throne.

We have as much voice in this matter as the House of Assembly. Although I have read in the daily newspapers of various suggestions in respect of public subscription, I must say that the idea of that is repugnant. Further, I feel that to ask an individual to go, although that individual would be very happy to pay his own expenses, to my mind it does not seem proper. We should call upon the Government on the question of principle to provide the necessary funds to send two delegates to represent us in Jamaica. Should they for any good reason, a reason which may be good to them, feel that the money should not be voted, then there are several other avenues which can be explored for the money to be forthcoming. For example, the Governor himself can sign a warrant for the amount and say that it is a fitting occasion for which that money

should be spent. If the representatives are chosen from the State Council I have no doubt that the Members of this State Council would willingly contribute to the passage cost not because of their ability to do so but because of the principle that is involved. In like manner, perhaps, the Minority Group in the House of Assembly may wish to do the same thing.

The point I am making is that in the eyes of the world such statements do irreparable damage and harm to this Colony. We are British subjects. We owe allegiance to the British Crown. As British subjects we enjoy protection and privileges and with that goes necessarily allegiance to the Crown. It is in the nature of reciprocity. One is therefore alarmed when one sees a responsible individual — I refer to the Leader of the House of Assembly — making such a statement as "I owe allegiance to none other than my Party and British Guiana" when a few days before in this very Council Chamber he rose and took the Oath of Allegiance to our sovereign Lady the Queen. If that no longer holds then let those who do not wish to bear allegiance to our sovereign the Queen be bold enough to say so and come out of the Legislature, because they can only remain there as long as they realize their obligation under that Oath of Allegiance and maintain that particular stand in relation to the Crown.

This is a very important matter and I feel that the views expressed here today, which are the views of the State Council, should be transmitted to the Governor and to the House of Assembly because we must accept the invitation of the Jamaica Legislature and send our two representatives to extend a loyal welcome to Her Majesty the Queen in that Colony.

Mr. Gajraj: I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the hon. Members, Mr. Raatgever and Mr. Luck-

[Mr. Gajraj]

hoo, on this most important matter. There is not very much more I can add to the eloquent speeches that have been made, but I do wish to say that to my way of thinking the excuse which has been thrown out for refusing to send our delegates is one that has been used to cover up something else which is felt by the Members of the Government Party. If we would but look back to the Hansard Report of the first business session of the House of Assembly we would see there that it was left to the Members of the Minority Group of that House to move a resolution thanking Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen for the message sent on the opening of our Legislature. Such should have been the function of the Government of this Colony, the Majority Party of the House, but they sat silently on that occasion and allowed His Honour the Speaker to make the suggestion which fell upon their deaf ears. When we think of that, and see what has been done on this occasion when the Legislature of Jamaica has referred to the proposed visit of Her Majesty the Queen as being epoch-making, we must realize that the people placed in charge of the government of this country seemed certainly and without any doubt prepared to cast an insult to Her Gracious Majesty the Queen. We can only feel that there is some great connection between the two acts.

As the hon. Member, Mr. Luckhoo, said, if they swore loyalty to Her Majesty but a short while ago and have changed that and no longer consider themselves loyal, then they should come out in the open and tell the people of the country exactly what they feel. It is no use their cloaking under this Oath of Allegiance in order to maintain the stranglehold they hope to have upon this whole country of ours. We must, I think, in this Council by our deliberations and by our frank statements cause them to come out in the open and say exactly

what they feel. It is a duty we owe to the people of this country. We are also part of this country, and this country does not owe a duty only to the Majority Party of the House of Assembly who are the Government. We must, most strongly and vigorously, protest against acts by the Government which only serve to besmirch the fair name of our country. We have to make our living here and we hope to make this country a better place for our children, so that we must not permit our seemingly ineffectual voice to cause us to remain far behind. We must express our views whenever the opportunity arises, and express them boldly and frankly, because only by so doing will we be able to bring back to a proper sense of balance people who seem to think they can do whatever they wish at this particular time in the history of our country.

I do feel that this State Council must make a very firm decision. We must let the Governor know that we are resolved that representatives should be sent to Jamaica from the Legislature of this country. As to how the cost of passages should be met is a matter we could discuss a little later. I am not going to move a motion, but if it is the will of the Council Your Honour will convey it to His Excellency the Governor. We cannot allow the fair name of British Guiana to be besmirched by people who have no regard for the Throne.

Mr. Macnie: I wish to associate myself with the remarks made by the previous speakers, but before I speak on the general question I wish to deal with two points for the purpose of record. I have in my hand a copy of a letter which was circulated before the last meeting, from the clerk of the Legislative of Jamaica, in which it is clear that the invitation has been extended by the President of the Legislative Council of that Colony and by the Speaker of the House of

[Mr. Macnie]

Representatives of that Colony. Secondly, the invitation is extended to the Legislature of British Guiana which comprises two bodies, and two representatives of the Legislature have been invited. That means that the representatives could either be one from each of the two bodies which make up the Legislature, or both could be chosen from one of those bodies. As I read it there is nothing to show that there should be one representative from each body. Therefore I think it is open to either body, if the other does not desire to send a representative, to select the two representatives. Incidentally I think it should be noted that the House of Assembly has not discussed the matter, and I will deal with one aspect of that later. It is however significant that the House of Assembly has not discussed the matter although it has had ample opportunity to do so, long before this Council had. The Members of the House of Assembly have not discussed it but we have done so and expressed our views unanimously. There was no opposition, Sir, to your motion urging that the Government provide the funds necessary to cover travelling and subsistence for the delegates. So it is still open to this Council, if the House of Assembly does not want to send anybody, or even to discuss it, to send the two representatives.

Reference has been made to the cost of the passages, and I think we should be accurate. If people are talking about economy let us give them credit for all the dollars we can find. It is not correct to say that all the money required is for return passages. That, to my knowledge, is not the case. More money than that is required. I think the hon. Member, Mr. Luckhoo, gave us the figure \$524.90 as the cost of return passages for each person, but even though the two representatives and their wives are to be the guests of the Government of Jamaica for four days,

as stated in the invitation, they will surely have to stay longer than that, which will involve some additional expenditure. Let us be fair to the Leader of the House of Assembly and say that the expenditure would probably be to the tune of something like \$1,000 per person, and let us give him credit for saying that the Colony cannot find \$4,000.

I regard the announcement made by the Leader of the House of Assembly, the Leader of the Government of the day, as one of the most deplorable decisions ever made in this Colony. I will not go over the ground which has been so ably and fully covered by those who have spoken, but what is even more deplorable is that the Leader of the House of Assembly and the Government did not have the courage to give the true reason for not wanting to send representatives to Jamaica. He did not have the courage to say that it is because he, and a good many of his colleagues, do not believe in the Throne or anything connected with it. All this talk about the Colony not being able to afford it is cowardice. It is just that he has not the courage to say what is the truth, because I have heard from his own lips that he and some of his colleagues have no use for the Throne.

And, Sir, what is the value of the Oath? Where is the sanctity of the Oath? The taking of the Oath by certain Members of the House of Assembly is a mere expedient. An absolute expedient, and they know it. They know it. I challenge them to deny it. Standing up and holding the Bible in one hand is accepted toward an end. They have not got the courage to speak the facts. They attach no value whatever to the Oath of Allegiance. I am not saying this of the whole House of Assembly or the whole of the Majority Party or representatives of the Majority Party sitting

[Mr. Macnie]

at the table here, but some of them, and I know who they are. They merely use the Oath for the time being. Men who do that are cowards, and men who hide under talk of "cannot afford it" are also cowards. The true reason is that the Government of the day has no intention of nominating anyone to go and represent the Colony and show allegiance to Her Majesty.

It is true that the Government of the day has shirked its responsibility by not having the courage to bring it into the open and discuss it in the House of Assembly. You will remember, Sir, a week ago I made some remarks. I made those remarks with a point. They preferred to deal with the matter first behind closed doors; in what is known, I believe as their "inner council," and then, having decided, they take it behind the closed doors of the Executive Council. A decision is reached there without giving the House of Assembly, a fully elected body — their own members and the minority—with the exception of the three Official Members an opportunity to discuss it. I have not the slightest doubt that somebody will go and that people here will be proud. Somebody will go despite the answer of the Leader of the House who is hiding behind the Executive Council rather than having it discussed by the House of Assembly.

His Grace the Archbishop: May I ask who has the duty to reply?

The President: A reply has been sent on behalf of this Council. You will remember, Your Grace that the resolution which was passed was double-barrelled in that it authorized me to tender sincere thanks to the Legislature of Jamaica for the invitation, and went on further to invite the Governor to consider and direct, through his Ministers of course, the provisions of funds

to enable representatives to go. I think I am right in saying that, am I not Mr. Clerk?

The Clerk (Mr. I. Crum Ewing): Correct.

His Grace the Archbishop: Can you give us the assurance that since these announcements in the Press, no nomination has been sent?

The President: I think I am right in saying that none has been sent, because, actually it would have to be sent by the people to whom the invitation was addressed. Of course, I permitted this discussion because it is obviously a very important matter and one which exercises the minds of members of the public of this Colony considerably. I am not sure I was right in allowing it to go on because, as I have said, we sent a resolution to the Governor on which we have not yet had a reply. I said that I received a letter from him acknowledging my communication enclosing this resolution, but it must not be assumed that the release emanating from the Leader of the House was a reply to our resolution at all. It may have been released as a communication to the general public of what had been decided, but it must not be taken as a reply to this Council.

I feel sure, His Excellency will give us a formal reply, whether of acceptance or rejection. However, this discussion has been useful and it has indicated clearly and fully the position of Members of this Council. On the previous occasion no member had the opportunity to speak his mind. Now that has been done. Speaking for myself, I reserve my own decision in my own mind until a later stage. But I say this: it is undoubtedly the duty of the House of Assembly to acknowledge receipt of the invitation from the Legislature of Jamaica. This is the first step. I feel it is the duty of the House of Assembly also

[The President]

to arrive at a decision to send representatives in response to that invitation. Whether they will approve expenditure to do so depends on the decision of the Government.

I have not the slightest doubt whatever, that if this Council decides to send representatives (a) that one or more of us would be prepared to go at our own expense, and (b) that if public subscriptions were asked for, the money would be subscribed within an hour. Nevertheless, my feeling is that this course would be wrong. I think that the Government should invite the House of Assembly to vote funds. I also believe—and my colleagues might not agree with this—that if the Government of the day decides not to do so, and should put obstacles in the way of anyone going, we should not send representatives. This is the Government we have. They are those who have been elected by our people to take charge of the Administration, and what the Government do is a reflection of their views. I know it is a distressing thing to the majority of people in this country that the reputation of the country has been sullied in that way, but it is a fact.

Whatever happens—whether this Council sends them by public subscriptions or on their own—representatives will go to Jamaica “in a cloud.” I am open to conviction, but they will not go with the same *cachet*. However, this is only a preliminary talk. We shall have to talk about this again when I receive a formal communication from His Excellency the Governor in response to the formal resolution which was sent. So, I think, we had better adjourn the discussion at this particular point. I do not think there is anything else.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN BERMUDA

His Grace the Archbishop: Before the Council adjourns I beg, Sir, to draw

your attention to a matter, which I consider of very great importance and which I regret to say may cause you some personal embarrassment. My attention has been called to a report in the newspaper which is called “The Sentinel” in which there is an article said to be copied from a paper in Trinidad alleging that you were very improperly treated while you were in Bermuda. You were in fact insulted. You and your wife were put to very great inconvenience on account of the Bermuda Colour Bar. I am not sure whether the report is correct, but I feel that it is of such great importance that I must bring it to your notice and ask you, however embarrassing it may be to you, to give this Council either the assurance that it did not happen or the facts of what did occur.

The President: Your Grace and hon. Members, in view of what Your Grace has said, and of this publication which I myself saw, I think it is only right and proper that I should make a statement of the facts as they occurred. The British Overseas Airways stratocruiser in which my wife and I were travelling from Jamaica to London round about the end of June had been very much delayed on its outward journey from London to the West Indies. When we left Montego Bay on the 2nd July, we were already more than 24 hours late. We left Jamaica midday on the 2nd July and touched down at the Bahamas. We were due at Bermuda on the evening of that day, but just before we arrived at Bermuda the Captain of the aircraft announced on the ship’s loudspeaker system that owing to “operational difficulties” the passengers would be off-loaded at Bermuda and would have to spend the night there; the ship would proceed the next morning at 7 o’clock; the passengers would be taken to hotels for the night,

[The President]

I may say that the "operational difficulties" referred to were not in any way due to a mechanical fault in the aircraft. It was merely due to the fact, as I said, the aircraft had been delayed on the outward journey and it was essential that the crew have a good night's rest. We touched down at Bermuda and after some considerable delay at the airport we were all taken to motor vehicles in order to be transported to hotels. I must say at once that I knew of the racial difficulties existing in Bermuda. I have myself however never experienced any, having on a previous occasion with my wife been entertained at one of the hotels during a temporary stay at Bermuda. Therefore I did not at all appreciate that any such difficulty would arise.

When we were put in the cars I did not notice myself nor did I appreciate there was any attempt at racial segregation. We took a very long time to arrive at the hotel, and as a matter of fact it was so long that I wondered where we were going. It was only when we got to Hamilton that I realized we had gone from the airport to Hamilton. When the car stopped and I alighted from the vehicle, I realized that we were being taken to what is known as a "coloured hotel". In the car with me there were my wife, another Guianese, a West Indian gentleman and two American women who went on somewhere else. We then entered the hotel and I realized what had happened. There had been segregation at the airport as my other fellow passengers had been taken somewhere else. The hotel itself was managed by a very courteous gentleman with whom I became very friendly in the short time that I spent there. I explained to him what happened and said that I was going to make very strong protest about

it. The place was in the nature of a night club and quite a number of people were going in and out at that time, which was already after 10 p.m. I went to the telephone, got in touch with the British Overseas Airways Offices and told them what occurred and made my protest, to which I got the reply that the Manager would come and see me at once and I must wait. While I was waiting in the hotel a gentleman, who turned out to be a Member of the House of Representatives of Bermuda, entered and having been introduced to him by the Manager of the hotel we got into conversation. He became aware of what was going on and he wanted to bring the Press in, but I prevented him from doing that.

After a short interval the local Manager of B.O.A.C. arrived, Wing Commander Fountain, D.F.C., a most courteous gentleman. He at once tendered profound apology for what happened and expressed regret. He remarked that he and his company were very much embarrassed by the situation in Bermuda; it was very difficult but he would try to set it right. He thereupon telephoned to the hotel to which the other passengers had been taken and, having been assured that there were two vacant rooms, asked for accommodation for my wife and myself. He explained what happened and he was refused. He came back and told me that he would try another hotel. He then telephoned two others with the same results. He then explained to me that those hotels were bound together by some Rule of the Hotels Association of Bermuda which precluded them from taking in people who are other than white. I then said "Let us put an end to this. I am going back to the airport along with my wife." He was horrified at the suggestion and very courteously invited me to become his guest for the night. I felt myself that I could not

[The President]

compromise on a principle of that nature, and I told him that I was determined to go back to the airport. He again pressed me to be his guest with the same result. I then tried to hire transport to the airport and he said "Oh, no: I cannot permit that." He then offered to take me back to the airport in his car, which I accepted on condition that I was taken to the airport and nowhere else.

Very reluctantly Wing Commander Fountain took me back to the airport where I arrived at half-past twelve, and my wife and I entered the lounge where we made ourselves as comfortable as possible, sitting there until dawn. I boarded the plane about 7 a.m. I did that, of course, as a matter of principle. At the time I did think of making a protest in a formal way, but during my stay in London I was invited to the Colonial Office where two senior officials told me that the incident had been reported there and they wished to express their personal regrets for what had happened, and also to convey to me the regrets of the Governor of Bermuda who wished to inform me that had he known of my presence in the Island he would have invited me to stay at Government House. My answer to that was that they should convey to His Excellency my thanks for his expression of regret, and to say that so far as the personal aspect of the matter was concerned it was at an end.

I may say that the Manager of B.O.A.C. in Bermuda duly reported the incident to the Governor and it was as a result of that report that the Governor of Bermuda addressed a communication to the Colonial Office. At the same time the Member of the House of Assembly of Bermuda, who was present during part of the time I was at the hotel, also got busy, and he and eight of his

colleagues also addressed a protest to the Governor of Bermuda. They also forwarded me a letter in London expressing the regret of the group, for which I duly thanked them.

A further sequel is that on my way out from London the aircraft touched down at Bermuda again and we were met by Wing Commander Fountain who again expressed his personal regrets and the regrets of the Governor of Bermuda, and took me to his house where we were entertained until time for departure of the aircraft. The management of British West Indies Airways also sent me a letter expressing their regrets.

I regard the personal aspect of this matter as at an end. It has been communicated to the Colonial Office and the general aspect of it, which is rather horrible, is now being or should be considered on a higher level. I myself refused to make a personal statement to the Press on my return to the Colony because I did not want the personal aspect of it to be too much emphasized. The general aspect is more important. Those are the facts, Your Grace. If there are any other points which you wish elucidated I shall be pleased to do so.

His Grace the Archbishop: The facts you have stated, Sir, are substantially what appear in the Press report. I regard the situation very seriously and I therefore ask your permission to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Rules and Orders in order to introduce a motion on the subject.

Mr. Raatgever seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Rules and Orders suspended.

His Grace the Archbishop: Sir, I ask your permission to hand copies of my motion to the Clerk for circulation. I had copies made so that every Member should have one. With your permission, Sir, I beg to introduce a motion in the following terms:

"Be it resolved:

That this Council has learnt with deep regret of an incident which occurred on Thursday, 2nd July, 1953, in Bermuda, when the Manager of the British Overseas Airways Corporation in that territory was refused accommodation in a hotel for the President of this Council, Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E., and Lady McDavid, when, as passengers on their way to England and in circumstances beyond their control, they were obliged to stay the night in the islands.

"That this Council records its abhorrence of this unwarranted and grossly discourteous treatment of two respected Guianese citizens, and its grave concern that such conduct as that of the hoteliers should be tolerated in any country within the British Commonwealth of Free Nations.

"That this Council deplores the practice of discrimination on grounds of race, colour or nationality, wherever it may be found, and is convinced that its continuance cannot fail to do incalculable harm to the development of good relations between the peoples of divers races and origins within the Commonwealth, and to jeopardise the peace of the world.

"Further, this Council respectfully requests His Excellency the Governor to convey to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to the Governor of Bermuda, a message from this Council and on behalf of the people of British Guiana, protesting in the strongest terms against the present practice of racial discrimination in Bermuda, of which the deplorable incident referred to above is but one example; and to urge that immediate steps be taken to secure its discontinuance."

Sir, in spite of the fact that you have received apologies from the Colonial Office, the Governor of Bermuda,

the Airways Corporation, Members of the House of Representatives in the Colony of Bermuda, (i.e., the group of persons whom you met), I do urge that this Resolution should be passed by this Council in order that what is now a personal matter may receive full recognition, and official protest may be registered against this unwarranted act. It is very hard on occasions like this to moderate one's language and to speak in any way dispassionately against something which stirs one's sentiments so deeply. The first aspect of the case, to my mind, is that of a breach of what one imagines to be the universal rule of hospitality towards travellers in distress who need shelter. It seems unthinkable that there should be found anywhere in the world human beings who would deny a roof and shelter to travellers in distress. It was no design on your part to stay in Bermuda. It was due entirely to the fact that the aircraft was late that you were obliged to spend the night there.

Your request, or rather the request made by B.O.A.C. on your behalf, was in the first place a humanitarian request for henighted travellers to be given somewhere to lay their heads. That makes it the more deplorable and the conduct of those concerned the more despicable. I make my protest, first of all, as a human being and as a citizen of the world, that one should be so insulted and so treated as you and Lady McDavid were on your recent visit to Bermuda.

I would also like to make protest as a Bishop and representative of the Church; and if I have your permission, to read a Resolution of the Lambeth Conference on this subject. The Church takes precisely the same stand as I myself am taking. Resolution 43 of the Lambeth Conference of 1948 reads as follows:

[His Grace the Archbishop]

"The Conference is convinced that discrimination between men on the grounds of race alone is inconsistent with the principles of Christ's religion. We urge that in every land men of every race should be encouraged to develop in accordance with their abilities; and that this involves fairness of opportunity in trades and professions, in facilities for travelling and in the provision of housing, in education at all stages, and in schemes of social welfare. . . ."

I would like further to state, Sir, that this same resolution was adopted by the Synod of the Church of the West Indies in 1949 and now stands as an official pronouncement of the Church in this Province.

With regard to the particular issue under discussion, Sir, I would spare you all the embarrassment I can, but I must speak frankly. I feel it very deeply—as I am sure hon. Members of this Council will do also—because the persons involved are friends of mine. You, Sir, and your wife have been friends of mine for some sixteen years; and I feel it all the more deeply because you are President of this honourable Council and a colleague of mine in the Legislature. But, I assure you, Sir, I would feel it none the less strongly if the incident had occurred in connection with any other human being — whether Guianese or of any other nationality of the world—for no man should be so treated. The irony of the situation was that you, Sir, were actually on your way to receive from the hand of your Sovereign the accolade of Knighthood, an honour which the Queen saw fit to confer upon you. While you were good enough to receive that honour from the Sovereign you were, apparently, not good enough to be received by some small commercial undertaking in one of the smallest of Her Majesty's dependencies.

Sir, this discrimination between men on the ground of race or colour or nationality is a horrible thing! It must be a legacy of some long, barbaric, pagan past. It is unconscionably slow in dying. It is something that persists and persists to the disgrace of the civilized world. Of course, Sir, it will never go out entirely until men everywhere come to believe in the Fatherhood of God, because the brotherhood of man makes no sense except in relation to the Fatherhood of God. And one wonders how those who let fall from their lips the first two words of the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father" can ever forget they are all children of one Family.

Sir, before I sit down I have just one or two words more to say on this general subject, and in commending this resolution to the Council. When I hear of incidents like these, whether I know the people involved in them or not, I feel a very deep emotion of anger swelling up within my bosom; and it is not that quick kind of anger that comes out in a man and quickly evaporates. It is a deep, burning, smouldering fire of anger which cannot easily be quenched. That is how I feel today, and whenever I hear of incidents of this kind these smouldering fires are again fanned into a white heat, and I feel that I can do anything to hit this horrible thing, and hit it hard. For those who suffer such insults I have great pity and profound admiration. I sympathize with them for the wounds they have suffered and have so bravely tried to conceal. They must be very hurtful wounds. I admire them for their fortitude and their longsuffering. I wonder if I suffered such treatment as that whether I could maintain such poise and dignity; and whether I could be so charitable to some of those who mete out treatment in that way. Apart

[His Grace the Archbishop]

from its being a regrettable incident, it is but one of many which happens to have been brought to our notice, and I do hope all members of this Council will take the opportunity of stressing the principle that there should be no discrimination practised against men or women, in any place, on the ground of race or colour or nationality.

Hon. Members should take this opportunity of expressing their abhorrence of this thing. Surely discrimination in any form is of the devil. It is a most diabolical thing. How I hate it! How I hate this thing with all my heart! I do not hate those who perpetuate it because it may be that they are ignorant, they are in fear, or they are proud—for which of us is without sin? I pity them but hate this evil. It is a foul thing! I hate it with all my heart, and, Sir, I pledge myself here this afternoon in this Council: no matter what it may cost me personally, whenever and wherever I meet this evil I will hit it hard, and I will keep on hitting it with whatever power God has given me so long as any trace of it remains upon the earth.

With this, Sir, I commend to the House this motion which I have read, and I hope it will receive the full support of all the hon. Members around this table.

Mr. Macnie: Sir, I rise to second the motion so ably and so fully moved by the hon. Member, His Grace the Archbishop. His Grace has the ability and the facility to put in words what I can never attempt to do. If I attempt to put in words how I feel on this subject, I fear that I would become incoherent, not only because of my long association and high regard and the value which I place upon the friendship of yourself and Lady McDavid,

but because I have had the misfortune when travelling with friends of mine, brother Guianese from this Colony, in another country and also with friends from another Colony in which I had served, to have suffered this horrible discrimination which is practised in certain countries. I am glad to say, Sir, that I was able to do what little I could to protect them from that discrimination and, as a traveller with them, to secure shelter for them for the time that we had to be in that place. Sir, I will say no more. I feel sure there are other hon. Members who wish to speak, and I also feel sure that there are others who, like myself, are happy and proud just to associate themselves with the words which have been so ably spoken by the hon. Mover of this resolution.

Mr. Cummings: Sir, I rise to say how deeply hurt I personally feel about this incident. As the hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, has said, the subject has been so ably and fully dealt with by His Grace that little purpose would be served by repeating much of the sentiments that he has expressed, but I feel it my duty to rise and merely associate myself with all he has said and to fully support the motion.

Mr. Luckhoo: Our lips cannot imitate the sincere eloquence of His Grace and, therefore, with our hearts we vote with the motion.

Mr. Gajraj: There is not much I can add to the very eloquent manner in which His Grace has moved this motion and to the sincere way the hon. Member on my left (Mr. Macnie) has seconded the motion. I feel certain that every Member of this Council feels most deeply hurt at the action of the hoteliers in Hamilton, Bermuda, and that every Member here would heartily accept and support the motion that has been moved. For myself sit-

[Mr. Gajraj]

ting here, the thought has struck me that the mere voting in favour of the motion would not be enough and, therefore, I have risen to say that I fully associate myself with all the remarks that have been made. I do hope that bringing this matter into the open, as we have done this afternoon, would prevent such things happening to other people.

Mr. Robertson: Your Honour, I rise to associate myself with this motion. I agree that it was ably moved by His Grace, but there are a few explanations I would like to make. These things have been happening for years but very rarely they come to light. What I would say is this: This gives us an idea of what is an old slogan used by certain races—The Master Race. Today all the first class hotels in Bermuda are controlled by the Barons of Wall Street, and that is why you find all this discrimination going on in those hotels. It is due to American influence. You will never find that with the British. I have been to Bermuda several times and I know what is or is not permitted there. As you may know, Bermuda depends for the greater portion of her revenue on the tourist trade, and as such most of the tourists who go there are Americans and Canadians. Certain hotels there are influenced by certain interests in the U.S.A. and should a coloured individual rest in any of those hotels they would surely have to sell it. But that is the kind of thing you can always expect when you are on the top of Wall Street. I know there is much talk about Americans and Democracy, but I do know you may more find true democracy in the backwoods of some corner of the earth than in the U.S.A. No country of the world that keeps the coloured race as a second-class citizen

can ever be truly democratic. That is exactly what is happening in the U.S.A.

I may say, Sir, I fully support this motion. You had my sympathy from the time I heard of the incident. I can assure you that it has happened to several others besides you, and it will continue to happen until the American influence of Capitalism is removed. Socialism is the only thing to remove discrimination from the world. We all need to give all men an equal opportunity in this world. The time is coming, in the not too distant future, when the world would see what is Socialism. So long as Capitalism can have its sway there must be discrimination in every form. I am sure of that. Again I say that the only thing to remove it is Socialism, and we are coming to that.

Mr. Fingall: It is very difficult for one to speak after His Grace the Archbishop and to express one's feelings fully, but I wish to associate myself with all he has said and to express the hope that this Resolution will serve the purpose of removing racial discrimination not only in other countries but in British Guiana where it is practised to a great extent.

Mr. Raatgever: Last but not least, I too would like to associate myself wholeheartedly with the very eloquent remarks of the hon. Mover of the motion, His Grace the Archbishop who, since his appointment to this Council, has been noted not only for the fluency of his speech but his sincerity and the frankness with which he expresses his views publicly. I wish to associate myself most heartily with the motion.

The President: I will not attempt to reply, except to thank the hon. Mover and seconder of the motion for their kind and generous references to myself and notably to our long-standing

[The President]

friendship. I must also thank the other Members who have spoken in terms of sympathy and regret with regard to this incident. I am sorry that my colleague Mr. Robertson, should have taken the occasion to elevate this matter into a debate as between capitalism and socialism. (*Laughter*). I think it is a far cry from that, and I do not think he should go unchallenged when he says that these bad things that happen in Bermuda are attributable to Wall Street, and to the influence of Wall Street, New York; and the United States in particular. I do not think that statement should go unchallenged. I think there are other reasons into which I need not enter now. But just to illustrate what I mean I may say that I have stayed for long periods in many of the best hotels both in New York and in Canada without noticing any sort of discrimination either against myself or others like me. So I do not think it is fair to put the blame for what happened in Bermuda on anything that happens in the United States or Canada. The seat of the trouble is in Bermuda itself. Anyhow I will not pursue the matter. As I said, the personal aspect of the matter was at an end long ago, but I ought to be very pleased that it has been an opportunity for raising the general aspect in such an influential manner like this, and I can only express the hope that what has happened, and the action taken by this Council and others, will serve to remove what is a hateful blot on an island which is not too far removed from the Caribbean. I can only hope that the action to be taken with respect to this incident will help to speed its elimination altogether.

His Grace the Archbishop: Mr. President, I would like to thank you for your tolerance in sitting there listening to a discussion which must have been very embarrassing to you, and your

very great forbearance in not bringing the matter before this Council yourself. There is nothing to reply to in the debate except to say just a word to my hon. friend on my left (Mr. Robertson). I think that neither capitalists nor any other sections of a community can be said to be the only ones in possession of original sin or actual sin, and it is a matter for all humanity to regret and to share the shame. I am not going to enter into any debate about Socialism, but I would like to point out to my friend on my left that I know at least one place in the world where it is not the so-called "capitalists" but the Trades Unions which discriminate against men of another race by opposition to any plan to admit native workmen to the skilled trades on an equal footing with their own members. No country or class is wholly free from blame. The whole of a community has to uproot this evil thing, and it has not only to talk about the brotherhood of man but to practise it.

I would also like to say to my friend that while it is very courteous of him to try to exonerate British interests from blame I do not think he should put all the blame on the Americans. I do not think it is quite fair. I do not believe there is a single nation of the world which would dare to cast a stone, because it is so vulnerable itself. I do not know of any nation which has a clear conscience in this matter. I am pleased to hear that every Member has supported the motion so wholeheartedly, and I am sure we will have a unanimous vote.

May I make one request, Mr. President, that if the motion is passed you will, with the permission of the Council, instruct the Clerk to send a copy of the Resolution to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, because I notice from their literature that one of their principal interests is

[His Grace the Archbishop]
to safeguard Members when they are
travelling.

The President: Yes, that will be
done. I will now put the question in
terms of the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The President: The Council is
adjourned *sine die* but if there should
be any urgent business—if for example
a reply is received from His Excellency
with respect to the Council's Resolu-
tion regarding the remuneration of
Members of this Council—I should ask
Members to meet at short notice, and I
hope they will agree to do so.