

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 1955

The Council met at 2 p.m.,

PRESENT:

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

Ex-Officio Members:

The Hon. the Chief Secretary,
Mr. F. D. Jakeway, O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney General
Mr. F. W. Holder, C.M.G., Q.C.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary,
Mr. W. O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council:

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

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

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

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

The Hon. G. H. Smellie.

The Hon. R. B. Gajraj

The Hon. R. C. Tello.

Deputy Speaker:

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

Nominated Officials:

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

Nominated Unofficials:

Mr. W. A. Phang.

Mr. L. A. Luckhoo, Q.C.

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

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertie H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

Lt. Col. E. J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.

Mr. Sugrim Singh.

Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—

Mr. E. V. Viapree (acting).

Absent:

Mr. W. T. Lord, I.S.O.

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. E. F. Correia—on leave.

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

The Speaker read prayers.

MINUTES CORRECTED

Mr. Speaker: The next item is the confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council, held on Thursday, February 17.

Mr. Smellie : There is a small clerical error on page 4—at the bottom—where there are the words “on a motion by the Financial Secretary seconded by Gajraj”.

Mr. Speaker: What is the hon. Member's suggestion? Shall we say “the hon. Mr. Gajraj”?

Mr. Smellie: The point is that there is no prefix to the name “Gajraj”, and I think “Mr.” is quite good enough in this case.

Mr. Speaker: Very well; with that amendment the minutes will be confirmed.

The minutes, as amended, were then confirmed.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Attorney General: I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Appeals) Ordinance.”

Sir Frank McDavid: I beg to give notice of the introduction and first reading of a Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance further to amend the Mining (Consolidation) Ordinance with respect to the payment of royalty on timber cut on concessions and leases granted under that Ordinance.”

THE LATE SIR ALFRED CRANE

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines): Sir, before we proceed with the Order of the Day, I would ask your permission to move the suspension of our Standing Rules to permit me to introduce and move a motion having reference to the death of Sir Alfred Crane,

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Motion put, and agreed to.

Standing Rules suspended.

Sir Frank McDavid: Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to refer to the death of Sir Alfred Crane, late Chief Justice of British Honduras, and to introduce a motion which I shall read later, recording the deep regret of this Council together with an expression of condolence to his relatives. Mr. Speaker, before entering the Public Service Sir Alfred was, for about seven years, a Member of this Legislature. His distinguished record as a legislator, quite apart from his subsequent pre-eminence in public service—on the Magisterial bench, in the Legal Department and, ultimately, in the office of Judge and Chief Justice—entitles him to a high place in the history of our times.

I remember Sir Alfred best in his capacity as a legislator. I had the privilege of being a Member of the Legislative Council during the last period of his occupancy of a seat around this table. I recall the capacity which he displayed as a skilful, resourceful and logical debater. He brought to bear on all the subjects on which he spoke the resources of a brilliant intellect, a profound thinker, and an earnest and enlightened student of public affairs. As I look back over the years, I feel that it was perhaps a tragedy for British Guiana that Alfred Crane had to drop out of the political life of this country. We had in him the makings of a great political leader. Even in those middle years of his life he displayed all the characteristics of a great statesman.

There comes to my mind now the last days during which Sir Alfred took part in a legislative occasion. It was the ceremonial opening by Sir Edward Denham of the suspension bridge across the Potaro river and named after him—the Denham Bridge. On that occasion,

the Governor, Sir Edward Denham, accompanied by the whole Council, journeyed down the Bartica-Potaro road for this ceremony. It was on the return journey, while on the steamer, that Crane and I talked of the future. Eager as he was then to pursue a legal career to the highest pinnacle, I well recall how deep was his regret at the necessity which compelled him to deprive himself of service to his country and to his people in the political field. Well, he made his choice, and that choice, as we all confidently predicted at the time, led him to the highest honours to which a lawyer can attain.

Sir Alfred Crane has left his mark on the period in which he lived. He has served his generation well. He has bequeathed to the legal profession permanent records of legal erudition in the form of some valuable works of reference, and his name will endure in the codified editions of the laws of St. Lucia and British Honduras. But, for us Guianese, he has done much more. As a son of Guiana, his life and work caused Guiana and Guianese to be respected and honoured in the territories of the British West Indies. He was one of our ambassadors abroad, and at his death he may well claim honoured citizenship of the whole of the British Caribbean.

When Sir Alfred returned to British Guiana on his retirement I visited him at his home, and he did me the honour of returning the visit to my home, accompanied by his devoted friend and medical adviser, Dr. Fitz James. I had hoped that Sir Alfred would live to recapture his position among us as an elder statesman and, at least behind the scenes, to become a leader of the leaders. But it was not to be. Death has claimed him at a time when we in British Guiana could least afford to lose him.

Personally I have lost in Sir Alfred Crane a former colleague whom I deeply respected and admired, as well as a

friend. May he rest in peace. I now beg to move:

"That this Council records its profound regret on the death of Sir Alfred Victor Crane, late Chief Justice of British Honduras and a former member of the Legislature and Public Servant of this Colony.

"This Council further desires to express its deep sympathy with his relatives and directs that a copy of this Resolution be conveyed to them."

Mr. Macnie: Your Honour, I beg to second the motion. It was my privilege and honour, Sir, to be associated with the late Sir Alfred Crane in his public service in this Colony and in one of the other Colonies in which he served. I can add no more to what has been already said.

Mr. Speaker : I ought to have anticipated that this motion would have been moved this afternoon but I am afraid I did not do so, because I had hoped that on a not too distant future occasion I should have been allowed the privilege to state in public what I knew and felt about Sir Alfred Crane. I doubt very much whether there is any member of this community who enjoyed his confidence more than I did, or who knew more of his early troubles. At a time when he was quite young he was a clerk with the late Mr. J. S. McArthur and I often saw him accompanying Mr. McArthur whenever he had any matter in the Magistrate's Court or the Supreme Court. He had an insatiable appetite for work and an ambition to succeed in life. He was the son of a very humble and respected citizen who was once an employee at the Demerara Foundry, but, like most Barbadians, he shared his son's ambition to improve his status in life although he had very limited means.

As time went on Mr. McArthur offered him an opportunity to become an Articled Clerk in his Chambers, and I think I am right in saying that he was responsible for the change which permitted an Articled

[Mr. Speaker]
 Clerk to sit his examination in this Colony and not have to go to London to do so after having served his five years of articleship, which is a prerequisite to becoming a Solicitor. He was not a conceited man as some persons thought. He was a proud man, and I think he had good reason to be so. I think I am a fair judge of the difference between conceit and pride.

Perhaps I may be allowed to say that after he had been appointed to the Magisterial Bench a great deal of criticism was levelled at the late Sir Edward Denham's decision to appoint him over and above other Magistrates in the Colony, to what was then called a Senior Magistrate. He was not altogether satisfied with this appointment. While serving as a Magistrate he qualified as a Barrister and became somewhat impatient of the delay in his promotion. He actually prepared his resignation, or what he said was his resignation, but I advised him not to send it in. I told him he had nothing to grumble about, as he had stepped over the heads of many Magistrates; that his appointment was what was looked upon as a political job not without parallel in the United Kingdom. He was eventually appointed to the Legal Department and I told him that he was on the way to higher promotion.

I would say that he created a vacuum in the professional world in this Colony. There are today too few Solicitors in the Colony (I would not say too few Barristers as I am a Barrister myself) who should accompany counsel to the Courts to take notes of cross-examination, and otherwise help counsel in the conduct of their cases. That came naturally to Crane, but it is a duty which is practically abandoned by Solicitors today even when they are present in Court when cases are being heard.

A similar vacuum is reflected in this Chamber. There has been since

his time no Member of the Council who took a greater interest and delight in subjecting draft legislation to critical and incisive examination. The then holder of the office of the Attorney General often took very grave exception to his method, contending that if a Member proposed to criticise a Bill he ought to give him notice of his intention to do so as a matter of professional etiquette, but the deceased would not allow that claim, as it was within his constitutional right.

There are things to be said about his book on "Law of Workmen's Compensation"—a most valuable guide to the legal profession and, I am sure, to the insurance companies. I have forgotten when it was published, but his book on the "Law of Unlawful Possession" was also a very able piece of work indeed. There is another valuable legal publication of his to which I have not seen any reference. I refer to the fact that he undertook the revision of the Magisterial practice and procedure, and prepared, almost alone, the Summary Jurisdiction (Civil Procedure) Rules, 1938. It is a volume which should serve as a model for County Court work and practice which would, if and when put into practice, relieve Magistrates of certain work which is now being performed by them. I mention these matters because we must at some time face up to the situation and give Magistrates a wider jurisdiction. Crane was undoubtedly a man of rare ability. I have a letter from him now in which he makes indirect reference to the encouragement I gave him to remain in the Service, and recalls what I used to say to him—"You will one day make your own way in the world."

In this Chamber on many occasions his suggestions led not only to the postponement of consideration of Bills but sometimes to their abandonment. He was a very able politician, and I think it will be a very long time before we find

a professional man who would be prepared to surrender his professional practice for public service as a legislator.

I shall not delay the Council any further, except to say that it is one of the most unhappy duties I have ever had to perform—to pay tribute to his memory. I was very fond of him. I shall now read the motion.

Motion put, and carried unanimously, Member standing in silent tribute.

ORDER OF THE DAY

B.G. CREDIT CORPORATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to amend the British Guiana Credit Corporation Ordinance, 1954.”

In doing so I should like to explain that the law as it stands at the present time requires both the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Corporation to attend Transport Court for the purpose of signing mortgages. It is not only inconvenient for either of those officers to attend Court but on some occasions they are not available. As a result, therefore, this has caused a great deal of delay and waste of the time of persons attending the Transport Court. It is therefore proposed to amend the Ordinance in order to give the Corporation the power to authorise a person or persons, either specifically or generally, for the purpose of executing those documents. That is what clause 1 of the Bill seeks to do.

Clauses 3 and 6 seek to provide a form of statutory charge and conditions relating thereto for securing loans made by the Corporation, similar to the form and conditions used by the Co-operative Credit Banks prior to their dissolution.

Why this form of statutory charge was not included in the Principal Ordinance it is difficult to say. I can only suggest that it was an omission.

Clause 4 seeks to provide that the financial year of the Corporation, which now ends on the 31st December, should end on the 30th June. The Corporation finds it more convenient for the financial year to end at that time of the year rather than on the 31st December, which is provided for in the Ordinance.

That is all the proposed amendments seek to do, and I hope hon. Members will have no difficulty in passing the Bill. I move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and approved of the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

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

The Attorney General: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BILL

Mr. Farnum (Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development): I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

“An Ordinance to make provision for the adoption of children.”

[Mr. Farnum]

In February, 1953, a motion was tabled in the Legislative Council by Mr. Debidin, a Member of the Council at that day, which read :

"That this Government should enact an Ordinance to contain similar provisions as the Adoption of Children Act, 1926, and that a Committee be appointed for the purpose of considering the provisions of the said Act or otherwise which should be used in such Ordinance".

This motion was quashed on the dissolution of the Legislative Council and, therefore, was never debated. On the 21st May, 1954, Miss Collins, Member of this Council, tabled a similar motion and, I understand, her intention is to withdraw that motion. The Bill now before Council is the outcome of that motion which was tabled by Mr. Debidin. It is felt that the need exists for such a measure because cases have arisen where persons would like to adopt the children of their relatives or friends and in some cases from institutions, but are diffident to do so from the fear that after having bestowed care and affection on those children the parents or persons concerned with those children very often come forward and claim those children. Consequently they find that the adoption of children is not as satisfactory as they would like, as very often they have to hand over the children. Under this Bill legal machinery is provided so that there can be no interference by the parents or other persons after a child has been adopted. Before proceeding further I would like to point out that I propose to move amendments to clauses 18 and 20 of the Bill.

The Objects and Reasons, as set out at the end of the Bill, are as follows :—

"This Bill is modelled largely on the provisions of the United Kingdom Adoption of Children Act, 1950 (14 Geo. 6 Ch 26) and seeks to make provision for the adoption of persons under the age of twenty-one years who have never been

married. Clause 3 seeks to make provision for the establishment of a Board to be called the Adoption Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board"). Clause 4 seeks to provide that arrangements for the adoption of children shall only be made by the Board. Clause 5 seeks to provide that the Board shall receive applications from parents, guardians and adopters in respect of the adoption of children, make investigations concerning the adoption of children for the consideration of the Court and act as guardian *ad litem* of any child in respect of whom an adoption order is sought....."

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not read the entire Objects and Reasons, as they have been seen by hon. Members. If there is any clause he proposes to amend, he may take the opportunity of enunciating the principle in explanation of the amendment. I do not think Members wish the hon. Member to read the entire Objects and Reasons which are very long. The hon. Member may call attention to any particular clause with reference to any amendment he proposes to make.

Mr. Farnum: The amendment I propose to clause 18 is the addition of a third subclause to read:

"Any child adopted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon the death of the adopter, be deemed for the purposes of the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance, to be the lawful child of the deceased adopter."

There is no provision in the present draft Bill by which a child who is adopted can inherit any property belonging to the adopter, and this is really to give the adopted child some claim legally. The next amendment is to clause 20. It is a very long one, and is in substitution for the printed clause relating to intestacies and wills. It seeks to give certain rights to an adopted child as if it were the child of the deceased adopter born in lawful wedlock.

Mr. Speaker: Is there anything in the Bill to permit a person who has

adopted a child in good faith for some good cause to be relieved of the responsibility of an adopter?

Mr. Farnum: Yes. He can make representation to the Board which will take the child back and put it in some Home.

Mr. Kendall (Member for Communications and Works): I beg to second the motion.

The Attorney General: I should like to add to what the hon. Member has said in regard to the motion of Mr. Debidin when he was a Member of the former Legislative Council. We had begun to draft the Bill, but there were several matters of more pressing importance, which came along and had to be done. The drafting of the Bill was in process of being concluded when I went away on holiday, and it was completed during my absence and sent to the hon. Member, as Member charged with this particular subject, for his consideration. I think hon. Members would agree that this is a very desirable piece of legislation, and there are other members of the community who had at some time expressed the desire to adopt children. I believe hon. Members would find all the necessary safeguards provided in the Bill.

I should like to add that, in regard to clause 20 of the Bill in respect of which the hon. Member proposes to substitute another clause, it is felt desirable that we should follow the provisions of the United Kingdom Adoption of Children Act of 1950 rather than what is printed in the Bill, which does not permit adopted children to benefit in intestacy the same as lawful children. The provisions of the Bill as printed, are similar to those in the Ordinances of Trinidad and British Honduras. I think it would be fair and more in the interest of the adopted child if we follow

the provisions obtaining in the United Kingdom Act of 1950. The amendment the hon. Member seeks to introduce would be on those lines. That is the principle that is being followed in the substituting amendment.

There is one other point to which I would like to refer, and that is with regard to the proposed amendment to clause 18. The amendment to be introduced would give to an adopted child the benefits derived now under the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Ordinance the same as to children born in lawful wedlock. The Bill is a necessary piece of legislation and, I am sure, commends itself to hon. Members.

Miss Collins: I am indeed happy and must thank the hon. Member and my learned friend, the hon. the Attorney General, for having brought forward this Bill, which is very essential. For years I have been advocating for such a Bill, and I am glad that I am here at its introduction. This is just the beginning of what we are hoping for. I am hoping that the time is not far distant when we shall have several homes for the training of these boys and girls and to give them a normal home life. Again I thank the hon. Member.

Mrs. Dey: I also rise to support this Bill. It is a very lengthy Bill indeed, and I hope it will be passed. I have no doubt that it will be passed, as I know of many instances of the need for homes for children. The Bill deals with very many aspects other than that of providing homes for children. There is the aspect of the parents coming forward after these homes are provided for the children and claiming the children, just when they are at the age to provide money for the homes which keep them. There are instances of children having been taken into homes. As I speak I remember one particular case where the child was taken from the Public Hospital, George-

[Mrs. Dey]

town when it was nine days old, nurtured and given a secondary education, and at the age of seventeen the mother came along and said "This is my child, I want it." It had to be given back to the mother because there was no such Bill as this one. While on the one hand the children would find a home, on the other hand where you have people whose hearts are large enough to adopt, care and educate such children within their homes, they would no longer be victimised by the parents after they had bestowed all the care and affection on those children. When we look upon what takes place and study this Bill clause by clause, I fail to see how anybody can be against such a Bill. I am proud of it.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

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

Clause 10—*Restriction on making adoption orders.*

The Attorney General: I would just like to point out that the provisions for the making of adoption orders were taken from the United Kingdom Act of 1950.

Clause 10 passed as printed.

Clause 11—*Consent to adoption.*

The Attorney General: I think this clause deals with one of the points on which the hon. Mrs. Dey wanted some information. It refers to cases where the Court may request information relating to the child's welfare, and that information will be taken into consideration as regards the order for adoption.

Mrs. Dey: Suppose it is proved that it is a case where the parent is unable to support the child, would this prevent any person from being able to adopt it?

The Attorney General: I think the point the hon. Member made is covered by this provision.

Mr. Speaker: This deals with cases where the parent has neglected the welfare of the child.

Clause 11 passed as printed.

Clause 12—*Evidence of consent of parent or guardian.*

The Attorney General: This deals with the question of consent to the adoption, and if the hon. Member (Mrs. Dey) looks at it, she would see that this is another aspect to which she referred.

Clause 12 passed as printed.

Clauses 13—17 passed as printed.

Clause 18—*Industrial insurance, etc.*

Mr. Farnum : I beg to move an amendment for the insertion of the following new sub-clause.

"(3) Any child adopted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon the death of the adopter, be deemed for the purposes of the Widows and Orphans Pension Ordinance, to be the lawful child of the deceased adopter."

Amendment put, and agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, passed.

Clause 19 passed as printed.

Clause 20—*Intestacies and wills.*

The Attorney General: There has been some questioning about this clause, but there might be a person who might have consented to the child being taken over by someone else. I suggest that we leave the clause in Committee as printed, so that I could have it examined again along with any other points which may arise. If it is found necessary, then an amendment could be

effected. I would also ask that we do not conclude this Bill today.

Mr. Speaker: The consideration of the Bill will not be concluded today.

Mr. Raatgever: We have not seen the new clause.

The Attorney General: We did not have time to have cyclostyled copies made for Members. Nevertheless, Members will have an opportunity to study the new clause, as the Bill will not be passed today. I suggest that the new clause be included in the Minutes of today's meeting, and if Members think there is anything wrong about it they could suggest amendments.

New clause 20 substituted.

Clauses 21 to 33 were passed as printed.

Title and enacting clause passed as printed.

Council resumed.

The Attorney General: I ask leave for the Committee to sit again.

Consideration of the Bill in Committee deferred.

TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

The Financial Secretary: I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled:

"An Ordinance further to amend the Tax Ordinance, 1939."

I would explain that under the Third Schedule of the Customs (Consolidation) Ordinance any hospital approved by the Governor in Council, or any veterinary hospital is entitled to have its medical supplies duty free. The object of the Bill is to authorise the refund of excise duty on spirituous medicinal compounds manufactured

locally, so that the local article would be in the same position as the imported article. It seems so fair that I do not think hon. Members would want to debate the Bill. I formally move that the Bill be read a second time.

Mr. Raatgever: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Council resolved itself into Committee and approved the Bill as printed.

Council resumed.

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

Mr. Raatgever: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

MOTION—ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAINTS FACTORY

Rev. Mr. Bobb: In moving the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper I should like at the outset to propose an amendment of the resolution by the substitution of the words "related materials" for the words "by-products" in the fourth and fifth lines. The motion will then read:

"Whereas more opportunities for gainful employment are urgently needed in the country at present;

And whereas the number of persons now not gainfully employed is likely to be substantially increased as a result of the regular stream of school-leavers;

And whereas certain concerns outside the country have signified their desire to invest capital which will accelerate the development of the country;

Be it resolved:

That this Council respectfully recommends that the Governor in Council investigate the possibilities of establishing

[Rev. Mr. Bobb]

in the Colony a factory for the manufacture of paints and related materials, and, if such investigation is favourable, to approach the Trade Commissioners for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras in the United Kingdom and Canada with a view to their interesting persons or concerns in establishing such a factory in the Colony."

In introducing this motion I would like to refer to two documents and to references therein which I think bear on the desirability of such a motion. The first is the Budget Statement by the hon. the Financial Secretary, presented on the 2nd December, 1954. On page 3 of that Statement the Financial Secretary, in dealing with the economic and financial outlook of the Colony, referred to the position of certain products—sugar and bauxite—and pointed out that the possibility was that the seller's market for sugar was becoming less and less assured (I quote):

"with the fall in the world price of the commodity. The industry must therefore gear itself to the realisation that prices may not always remain at their present level, and that in the future the commodity may have to face greater competition than in recent years."

The Financial Secretary goes on to point out:

"In regard to bauxite we can feel particularly grateful to the Demerara Bauxite Company and their principals for the very notable way in which they have, by their efforts, been able to discover and encourage new uses for aluminium, and thus keep production of bauxite at a level beyond what we had any reason to imagine would be the case after the end of the War."

Those two references go to show that while we have reached a fairly satisfactory position in regard to our industrial possibilities we cannot be complacent and not seek to develop within the limit of our resources the possibilities which are offered for the development of such industries which could benefit this country. I observed that the Financial Secretary had the matter

of the introduction of new industries very much in mind, for on page 3 of his Budget Statement he also states:

"There has been some recent talk of the development of such industries as plywood and paper-pulp manufacture. In regard to plywood, although there may well be possibilities for the future, figures do not bear out the suggestion that a plywood factory could operate for very long on our present supplies of Dalli, which is the only timber used for plywood in Dutch Guiana.

"The possibilities of paper-pulp manufacture are being re-investigated in the light of a process invented on the Ivory Coast for the manufacture of pulp out of mixed tropical woods.

"It may be remembered that the International Bank Mission recommended the introduction of various kinds of pine trees for trial in our fertile white sand areas. I will therefore remark in passing, that a small experimental pine tree plantation has been formed at Bartica and that, according to the latest news, the trees are actually growing."

That shows how the wind is blowing, and that the need is being recognised more and more that everything possible should be done to give the necessary encouragement for the introduction of new industries. The International Bank Mission's Report contains a very pertinent reference under this head. On page 67, Chapter 8, it is written:

"There will undoubtedly be a continued natural growth of industry, though not as rapidly as would be most advantageous to the colony's development. Since the local market is small, labour largely untrained in factory work, and industrial and craft conditions largely absent, there appears little prospect for any spectacular growth of the colony's industry in the near future. There are, nevertheless, opportunities for the expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new industries, which can improve the balance of economy."

When I conceived this motion, I took into consideration this need which has been indicated in those two documents. I also took into consideration the fact that, bad as our present position may be, unless steps were taken very seriously

and rapidly as possible to make available employment and knowledge of skills for our growing population, maybe we may sooner than we expect find ourselves in a very disadvantageous position not only in regard to the needs of our local economy but also with regard to our position with our Sister Colonies in the Caribbean.

There are three special aspects of this motion to which I would like to refer, and those are contained in the whereas clauses of the motion itself. We do not know, as the statistics are not now available, as to how many people in this country are either employable or gainfully employed, but if we are to judge from the number of persons who move about the country and seem to be either under-employed or not employed, we would have some reason to believe that there is a far greater proportion of unemployed or under-employed persons than can make us content. When I add to that situation the fact that, according to the records, not less than 5,300 children leave our schools annually—I quote there the average for the past three years—we are definitely confronted with a challenge to explore every possibility to find ways which will offer useful employment for those children who are leaving our schools. I need not enlarge upon that aspect, but I think we are all well aware of the acuteness of that situation.

I myself felt very disheartened, but I have been encouraged by the number of companies which have been coming into the country from time to time and indicating their willingness to invest capital for the development of this country. In 1953 six such companies were registered in this country, and in 1954 three more. While the nature of their business is practically the same—that is to say, mining—yet their very presence here is encouraging, and it shows that confidence outside is growing more and more, which will cause foreign private capitalists to feel safe

in investing in this country. It therefore gives a challenge to the local situation and the possibilities of capital being made available for the development of industries.

I would suggest that it is, or ought to be, our immediate concern to examine all the ways whereby new industries might be developed here. The industry with which the motion is particularly relevant is the manufacture of paints and related materials. When I was conducting my research into this part of the motion I was very much amazed at the number of items which come under paints and related materials imported into this country and are used by our sister Colonies. With your permission, Sir, I would like to mention some of these things.

With the establishment of a paint factory it is possible for projects, such as these to be developed—Colouring materials (including distempers other than of coal tar origin), metallic pigment, blue (laundry), other dry pigments (other than those of coal-tar origin); white lead, ships bottom compositions (anti-corrosive and anti-fouling), distempers (dry or not), printers' ink, prepared paints, enamels, lacquers, varnishes, artists' colours, siccatives (paint driers) and mastics, (asphalt cement) wood preservatives, putty, and other driers. Nearly all of these materials are used in this country and, as I have said, are used in other places outside British Guiana. The only one which I see on the List which would be very difficult to produce in this Colony, because one of the basic substances is not produced here, is Asphalt Cement. In Trinidad that substance is produced in large quantities because of the presence of asphalt there.

In supporting the case for a Committee to be appointed to examine the possibilities of setting up this factory, I should like to point out that our im-

[Rev. Mr. Bobb]

ports of paints and paint oils for the years 1953 and 1954 show that we are spending a considerable amount of money on those items. The records show that our imports of paints and enamels, including colours and pigments, were 1,611,882 lbs. valued at \$662,529 in 1953, and in 1954 that was increased to 1,860,054 lbs. valued at \$774,931: Under the head "Linseed oil (raw or refined)" in 1953 we imported 32,625 lbs. valued at \$82,052, and last year we imported 40,975 lbs. valued at \$81,593. With respect to "Oils, oxidised, blown or boiled (including boiled linseed oil)" in 1953 we imported 451,340 lbs. valued at \$112,903, and in 1954 the quantity was 439,128 lbs. valued at \$94,878. The total for 1953 was valued at \$867,484 and for 1954 the amount was \$951,402. "Putty" was imported from the United Kingdom, Canada and Trinidad during 11 months of last year valued at \$61,803.

It will be seen from those figures that a considerable amount of money is spent in importing these very needful and useful commodities. At once there would come to the minds of hon. Members the fact that our Sister Colony of Trinidad not so long ago set up a paint factory.

Mr. Speaker : I think the hon. Member should await the results of that factory.

Rev. Mr. Bobb : In Trinidad a paint factory has been set up and I myself feel—

Sir Frank McDavid (Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines) : Trinidad has established a paint factory, but the hon. Member rather implies that the Government of Trinidad has done it. That is not so.

Rev. Mr. Bobb : I notice that the exports of Trinidad in 1953 amounted to \$7,068, and after the establishment of

this factory their exports mounted up to \$249,300, a very large sum, and that is the net export when we deduct Asphalt Cement which is a domestic produce valued at \$1,614,900. Those materials have been exported from Trinidad to 13 different markets, including the Caribbean markets. Outside the Caribbean markets only three were on record for 1954, but in spite of that the local need was so great that in 1953 as against \$7,068 in value exported, Trinidad imported \$1,085,152, and in 1954 while they exported \$249,300 in value they imported \$2,296,900. The one deduction from these figures for my purpose is that the market is very great still. After that situation in Trinidad what would possibly develop in our own country when our housing programme gets underway? It seems to me that we have a reasonable hope in believing that, if ever it came about that a paint factory is established here, it would be able to get a market in which to sell its products.

There are two immediate advantages, one of which I have referred to and that is the provision of employment. The other advantage, which I think we cannot help bearing in mind, is the education of our people. The employees would not only earn money but they would obtain a skill. One of the things we lack in our Colony at the present time is this absence of technical skill. The more industries like those we have, the more would opportunities for developing technical skill come to our people. I cannot help referring again to the great service which is being done by two industries in that direction—sugar and bauxite—where those who want to learn have a chance of learning. I think in this particular case there would be a nice opportunity which, I am sure, would be embraced by those who are interested. I have said enough to indicate that there is a need for considering this subject thoroughly. I am not in a position to say who should invest this capital, but the

motion requests that steps be taken through the offices of the Trade Commissioner for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras in the United Kingdom and Canada to get persons interested in the establishment of such a factory. I hope that this motion commends itself to hon. Members of this Council, and with the amendment I propose, I beg to move the motion standing in my name on the Order Paper.

Mr. Speaker: I understand the hon. Member to say that he is suggesting the appointment of a Committee, but the motion does not say so. It asks the Governor in Council to investigate the possibilities of establishing the factory. If the motion is adopted, it would simply mean that the Governor in Council alone is to make the investigation. Does the hon. Member wish the appointment of a Committee to do the investigation, or he leaves it to the Governor in Council which may or may not do so ?

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I would like to correct the remark. I did not mean to alter the motion. I was just thinking of something else. With respect to what I have said, hon. Members can substitute "Governor in Council" for "Committee." I stick to the resolve clause as worded "that the Governor in Council investigate the possibilities of establishing in the Colony a factory for the manufacture of paints and related materials. . . ."

Mr. Carter: I beg to second the motion.

Mr. Macnie: I have listened with interest to the hon. Mover's remarks, and I share with him concern at the need for the establishment of new industries in this country of ours. I share with him the references he has made to the hon. the Financial Secretary's Budget Statement and to the emphasis of the need for new industries which was stated in the Report of the International

Bank Mission. I feel from the hon. Member's remarks that he has given this subject considerable study. He has collected data in support of his motion, but I am disappointed that he has not given us some idea of the number of persons who would be employed gainfully if a paint factory should be established in this country. I am also a little disappointed that the hon. Mover has not found it possible to say a little bit more about the potential trade or business which would be done, if such a factory were to be established.

I am in entire agreement especially with the first two of the preambles of the hon. Member's motion. I myself spoke of the need for gainful employment and the great urgency of it, and I know there are many who share that view. There can be no question that I wholeheartedly support the second preamble:

"the number of persons now not gainfully employed is likely to be substantially increased as a result of the regular stream of school leavers."

That stream actually flows from another source — the improved health condition of the Colony. The infant mortality rate has now whittled down below what it was some years ago, for which those responsible are to be praised, as our birth rate is well in excess of our death rate.

My difference with the hon. Member is when it comes to the selection he made of a specific industry in the nature of paint. I think the hon. Member did not intend, in referring to the paint factory in Trinidad, to indicate whether he was for or against Federation, or whether he was for or against Closer Association. I am certainly in favour of Closer Association. Trinidad has gone a long way ahead of this country by establishing a beer factory, a cement factory and, recently, a paint factory. I think we can do better,

[Mr. Macnie]

from the point of an experiment, than establish a paint factory. I have no details about the manufacture of paint, but I do not think that a paint factory would be found to provide employment for a good many people, as we would have to make everything out of the Colony, including the containers in which the paint would be put.

I think, in all seriousness, that the hon. Mover should see his way to amend the motion, and I will move an amendment in the hope that it will find a seconder. I suggest that the motion should stand exactly as it is (on the Order Paper) until we come to the resolve clause, then delete the word "a" at the end of the third line in the resolve clause, then delete the entire fourth line of the resolve clause, then delete the words "related material" which the hon. Mover substituted for the word "by-products" and substitute the words "new industry" therefor. Then, in the penultimate line of the resolve clause, delete the words from "establishing" to "Colony" in the last line, and substitute the words "such industries" therefor. The last line will then read: "or concerns in such industries."

I think that would widen the scope of the motion, as the hon. Member desires to do so. I think also that it would widen the field from which the hon. Mover or any Government might ask for advice, and would not restrict them to paint but give the widest possible opportunity for investigation. I am glad to move that amendment.

Sir Frank McDavid: I should like to commend the hon. Mover on his industry in securing the data which he has disclosed in the course of his speech on the motion, and also for his sincerity in

urging the development of minor or secondary industries in British Guiana. All of us share with him the hope and wish that such industries should be established. But he has selected an industry which does not appear to have much prospect of increasing the economy of the country. The first thing one must examine is the possibility of obtaining raw materials on the spot in the country, and the question whether they are available for extraction cheaply. Of all the hon. Member's selected points relating to the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of paints, the most important of all is that particular qualification. That aspect of the matter came to my notice in a recent article in a magazine entitled "Colonial Development" which is issued every quarter by the C.D.C. In this magazine—a copy of which has just come to my hand—there is a description of the new cement factory in Trinidad, and this is what it says:

"The cement factory is based on a sound economic foundation in that the basic raw materials are, for the most part, indigenous and it has been a case of using what is to be found on the spot. This means, of course, that there are not the same hazards as is the case when imported materials have to be used."

Some facts relating to the paint industry in the island have been mentioned also, and Members of the Council would be interested to hear—and I am quoting from the article—these facts:

"Some of the industries, unlike the cement factory, are largely dependent on imported raw materials. One of these is the British Paints (Caribbean) Ltd. which started production in Trinidad in October, 1953, and now employs about fifty persons." That is all—fifty persons.

The article goes on:

"About 90 to 95 per cent of the raw materials used by this factory are imported

but the manager informed the present writer that investigations are being carried out with a view to ascertaining the possibilities of using raw material such as sugar cane, wax, and rubber seed oil as well as barytes (a mineral available in one of the islands).

Now, I have quoted from that paragraph in order to show that the hon. Member (Mr. Macnie) was quite right when he suggested that in the case of a paint factory in British Guiana, there is reason to assume that we are going to have to import practically all of our raw materials and even a portion of the labour which would be used in the factory. With employment for as low as fifty persons as indicated here, there is very little hope that such an undertaking will be remunerative or that such an undertaking would bring any great economic improvement to the Colony. I have already said that if we are going to start to develop industries, let us develop what we have. Unfortunately, we cannot start a cement factory here because we haven't any limestone. In Jamaica also, there are millions of tons of this limestone which we haven't got in British Guiana.

I do not want it to appear that I am not as anxious as any hon. Member to see minor industries developed here, but these qualifications must be clear—(a) that we have the raw materials on the spot, and (b) that the venture must bring some economic improvement to the Colony as a whole.

On the general question of starting industries, I do not know if hon. Members remember that about two years ago a team of high-level industrialists from the United Kingdom came to British Guiana and carried out investigations to see what were the possibilities of starting industries here, or of transferring to this country the manufacture of certain products from raw materials which are available for use here. That report was, however, a great

disappointment; it was, certainly, to me. It did not, as far as I can remember, encourage the hope of any specific industry in British Guiana. I do not wish to go into details about it, but I wish to say that any Committee of Members would be well advised to give this motion calm consideration, as we are asked to do.

Nevertheless, I do not wish to throw cold water on the question, and would say that if this motion is accepted by this Council I am sure we would all join in making honest enquiries in order to ascertain what could be done. Obviously, we would have to put our best foot forward in order to see whether we could induce people to come here and spend their money here. As I have said, if the motion is accepted and if I have anything to do with it, I shall certainly join in making all the enquiries I possibly can.

Mr. Ramphal: I rise to second the amendment moved by the hon. Mr. Macnie in the hope that my hon. friend, Mr. Bobb, would accept it on the basis that the greater includes the lesser. I feel that we are all agreed, as Sir Frank has very aptly said, that we want industries in this Colony. The economy of the country is, Sir, a low standard economy and does not go very far, as in the case of agriculture, standing by itself with other industries to maintain it. We feel that if we are going to progress as a country, we have to begin to set our faces in the direction of encouraging new industries. I desire to associate myself with all that the hon. Mr. Macnie has said, and to repeat that we are very strongly in agreement with the first two preambles to the motion. Perhaps I should emphasise that all that this Interim Government is doing is more or less, to prepare a better life for not only the present but the future people of this Colony. Therefore as a Government, we are very much alive to the situation which faces the local peo-

[Mr. Ramphal]

ple—and especially the young ones when they leave school and go out into industrial life.

I was unaware of the third preamble to the motion and was straining my ear to catch the hon. Mover as he spoke, in order to learn, whether he was hoping or otherwise, when was it that certain concerns outside this Colony signified the desire to invest capital which would accelerate the development of the country. Outside of this indication—and I hope my hon. friend will not condemn my ignorance—I am not aware of any concern of considerable size — and I am not referring to the McBride oil people — who have any stake in this country and are manifesting a strong desire to come in. If there are we, as a Legislature, would welcome these people to the Colony.

My hon. friend on my left (Mr. Raatgever) with a very soft voice, said that big industries or capital would not come in abundance unless there is a stable Government. Be that as it may, it appears to me that we, as a people, must give some assurance to people outside—to foreign investors—that if they come to this country their investments would be, to a large extent, secure. An unhappy economic past has left in the minds of the people the impression that immediately capital has been poured into this part of the world, there would be speedy nationalisation of that capital. I feel, however, that we as a Government, should be able to give to investors abroad the reassurance that that is not the question—that that is not something that we, as a people, are aiming at.

Speaking for myself, I believe in a limited form of nationalisation. I believe in the nationalisation of things like electricity for cooking food, water

supply and other items that would improve the living conditions of the people. On the other hand, so far as investments are concerned, I am a firm believer in home-grown investments. I believe that we, as a Legislature, should be able to tell investors abroad that if they come to this country and invest their money, there would be ample security for their capital. I know that this is not something very easy to put over, but in a Colony that is very rapidly growing into Dominion status in another part of the world, a declaration was made — and the matter even went to Downing Street — that if capital went into the country the Government of that country would not interfere or intervene in the question of nationalisation of such capital. I think that, as a Government, we can give a similar guarantee and if we are going to attract capital into this country we should be prepared to do so.

I wish to support the motion as amended, but there is one aspect of it on which I would like to comment. We are asking capitalists from abroad to come into this country, but what about capital in our own country? I see around this table some whom I believe I can regard as industrialists, some whom I can describe as capitalists in the best sense of the word. I speak for myself on this occasion, and I feel there is a lot of small capital in this country. There is \$17 million in the Post Office Savings Bank. That is not a very large capital in relation to capital in other countries, but in our own country it is capital of a fair size. If we believe in our country, as the hon. mover has said we do, I feel that our own industrialists should come forward and show such faith in their country by putting money into new industries, thereby attracting larger capital to come into the country. I think we need a lot of pluck in this matter, for although others may have surveyed the scene and

given a dismal account, we must not lose faith in our country. We must set about with a will and add to our pluck some degree of vision. I therefore very strongly support the amendment which I sincerely ask the hon. mover to accept.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: I rise to support the motion. The amendment which has been suggested would convert it into an investigation of the possibilities of new industries generally. Ever since I began to read the newspapers, and long before the constitutional crisis, I have read and heard of investigations of the possibilities of establishing new industries in this country. I am no expert but it seems to me that in spite of the numerous potentialities of the Colony we hear of, the people of the Colony must continue to starve in the midst of plenty.

I wish to congratulate the hon. mover of the motion for his enterprise and industry in placing it before the Council today. He has suggested a particular industry, but the fact that Trinidad's paint factory is not on a large and profitable scale does not mean that on investigation British Guiana may not be able to do better. We have a Trade Commissioner in London and all the machinery at our disposal. What harm can there be in an investigation of the possibilities of establishing a paint factory in British Guiana?

I see another motion on the Order Paper recommending an investigation of the possibilities of establishing a plywood industry. I do not wish to steal the thunder of the hon. Member who has given notice of that motion, but I may say that right now I am, and the Conservator of Forests is, in correspondence with an American Company which is willing to set up a plywood factory in this Colony. Why should plywood be imported in to this country?

Mr. Raatgever : To a point of order! Are we dealing with plywood or

paint? I do not think we have reached the plywood motion yet.

Mr. Sugrim Singh: The hon. Member should credit me with some intelligence. My point is why should the raw material of this country be exported to start a factory in another Colony? Why can't we set up our own factory here? There is some talk that investors abroad want to know that we have a stable Government. Should we fold our arms and talk about stability? Trinidad supplies us with oranges, grapefruit and gasolene. What are we doing with our "Magnificent Province" and our potentialities? Even in the export of rice we are limited to a contract for two years, and we do not know what the small islands will be doing about our rice after two years. There is one thing we produce which all the West Indian Colonies take, and that is Limacol.

I support the motion which merely calls for an investigation. The report which was read by the hon. Member for Agriculture (Sir Frank McDavid) was very helpful in this debate, but it is not the answer. Perhaps the effort made in Trinidad to establish a paint factory was a feeble one. Further investigation may be successful in British Guiana. I do not know why we should always be at the receiving end. I shall continue to support any motion which might lead to the establishment of a new industry. The hon. mover has painted a clear picture in regard to the imports of various items into this country. Although we are an Interim Government we have to do something and not merely sit here and talk about a stable Government.

Mr. Farnum: I rise to support the amendment which gives the motion a wider range, because it would not confine the investigation to the possibilities of establishing a paint factory but new industries of any sort. I would like to say, however, that one has to be very

[Mr. Farnum]

careful, in thinking about the manufacture of any product, that the raw material will be available. I remember that some years ago there was discussion about the establishment of a cement factory in this Colony, and it was pointed out that we lacked one of the most essential ingredients — limestone — and that we would have to import it. In the circumstances we might some day find, after having established the factory, that the country from which we imported limestone had decided to cut off the supply because of the desire to set up its own cement factory. In such an event all we would have would be the factory.

The question of the establishment of minor industries is being actively pursued. The Cottage Industry Section of the Social Welfare Department is very much alive and is now conducting experiments in certain directions. There is an officer in that Branch who has had training in England in several types of minor industries. At present he is engaged in making pottery, for which he has obtained some machinery from England, and I am glad to be able to say that the materials he is using is local clay obtained from as far as Kwakwani. We hope he will succeed in his effort, but he requires more machinery. As soon as his experiments appear to be on a sound footing we will approach this Council for more money.

There is another minor industry to be developed—the manufacture of a certain type of chair in the Pomeroun and the North West District from local material. The chairs are selling very well, but an effort is being made to improve the quality so as to create a greater demand for them. We feel sure that with some machinery we would be able to turn out a much better chair and provide employment for some of the people in the North West and the Pomeroun.

Another minor industry is the manufacture of a condiment known as ketchup. On the Corentyne there is a large cultivation of tomatoes, most of which is not of a sufficiently good quality for shipment to Georgetown, but there are large fields of the produce and experiments are being made with the object of utilizing the supply for the manufacture of ketchup. Samples have been reported on favourably, and it is hoped that this minor industry will provide work for a great number of people in the area.

Only this morning a goldsmith approached the Cottage Industries Officer for financial assistance for the manufacture of silver filigree jewellery. There is a large export market for such jewellery, and a great demand for them by tourists. With financial assistance the jeweller says he would be able to employ quite a number of boys in the City.

There is an oil seed which grows very largely in clusters in various parts of the Colony, chiefly on the Corentyne, from which an oil is extracted which is said to be as good as olive oil. Experiments are being made with a view to developing a minor industry in that direction. There is need for financial assistance for the development of these minor industries which I hope this Council will provide in the near future.

Mr. Tello : I desire to say only a few words to associate myself with the debate, as I am not in a position to offer an amendment, and both the original motion and the amendment commend themselves to me. I just want to take this opportunity to throw out a suggestion. Rather than we should miss the opportunity of investigating the possibilities of establishing a paint factory in this Colony and also court the danger of just restricting the investigation to a

paint factory alone, I think, both the original motion and the amendment can be amalgamated into one motion so as to have the desired effect.

I agree with the hon. Member for Local Government (Mr. Farnum) that a wider scope is necessary. There are so many industries that could be developed in this Colony, and we should not restrict ourselves in our investigations. The hon. Member by giving thought to this motion and doing research work has brought so many facts to us, that our investigation of this new industry may be the instrument of introducing or discovering some new technique that may make our paint the captor of the entire world market. Probably that is only a dream, but the greatest ideas and the greatest accomplishments were once dreams. Having thrown out my suggestion to the hon. Mover, I am going to take my seat but I want to add that I am not quite certain if the hon. Mover is a private Member as indicated on the Order Paper, because we all come through the same door.

Mr. Gajraj: I, too, would like to join my voice in commending the hon. Member who has moved this motion, calling upon this Council to ask the Governor in Council to proceed with an investigation in regard to the possibilities of establishing in this Colony a factory for the manufacture of paints and by-products. I understand there has been a change of the word "by-products" to "related materials". There is no question whatever, Sir, that we in this country must attempt with whatever resources we may have to diversify our economy. We have been told, and quite truthfully so, that for many years to come Agriculture must remain the mainstay and backbone of the economy of this country. Nevertheless we cannot be satisfied with having all our eggs only in one agricultural basket. It is necessary, I think, for us to use our vision and

to attempt to try and foster any form of industry which would utilize that ingredient which so far we plentifully enjoy. I refer to Labour, Mr. Speaker, because even though in considering the establishment of a new industry we might be faced with the prospect of importing in a large measure the raw materials needed, it is my view that so long as we can absorb a proportion of the labour force of this country, however small that may be, it is still to the benefit ultimately of the economy of this country, because we would have found work for some people, and certainly if we can multiply the number of such enterprises we would be astonished at the large number of working people for whom we might find employment.

I am in no position whatever to say whether the investigation in regard to the establishment of a paint factory would prove that such a proposition is an economic one, but certainly at a time like this, when we are thinking of the future, thinking of expansion, when development is in the air all around, it is incumbent on this Legislature, when proposals of this nature are put before it, certainly to agree to make every investigation in those matters. I can quite see the force of the argument which the hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, has used in trying to widen the scope of the motion and the scope of the deliberations, and I do agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Ramphal, that theoretically the larger always does include the smaller, but we have to remember that if we make the scope of this investigation so wide and so large we may lose sight entirely of what the hon. Member had in mind when he gave notice of this motion. Then there is the question of time which would be involved in carrying out this investigation. We may find that we entirely missed the bus. So that for the moment I would be quite willing to accept the motion as moved by the hon. Member, Mr. Bobb.

[Mr. Gajraj]

When we realize there is another motion which deals with another natural product of ours, we should deal with each of them independently and on their own merit, because I infer that if we deal with one at a time we would get through faster and be able to come to a decision earlier. If the proposition is found to be an economic one, then we can go right ahead and try to implement it, but if it is found to be uneconomic then we would clear the decks and start to investigate something else. We have to continue in our investigations in order to satisfy ourselves and be an inspiration to the people of the country in showing that we are not merely content to sit down and mark time. We do want so to do our job as to leave very solid marks on the sands of Time.

Lt-Col. Haywood: I am most interested to see this motion before us and the one which will follow it very soon. I support this motion as it originally stands because, if the greater includes the lesser, I am afraid what the hon. Mover has asked would be lost in a number of enquiries and investigations some of which have been already made. Surely there have been a number of investigations into the possibilities of establishing minor industries. I feel that once they are established their magnitude is often exaggerated out of all proportion. Even in this present Interim Government reference is made to large capitalists and so on, whereas the reference should be to minor industries. We have very few major industries. Most of our industries are minor ones with minor people from the point of view of capital—people who have capital problems to face with the rapid drop in the purchasing power of money. A great many of us who are concerned with these minor industries have no capital to spare, as we are fully extended by those we have already established. I feel that on the whole most of the money

for the establishment of any new minor industry has to come from outside, and I am afraid it would not be readily forthcoming until we are more stable politically. But we can try during this interim period, as this Interim Government has to make the best of this interim period.

To come back to what I have said, reports have been already made on many minor industries. I remember reading such reports made by the late Mr. Gerald O. Case. One hopes that these reports are not just gathering dust, but are taken out from time to time and studied in order to see whether the passage of a few years and the growth of the population and other factors make them more possible now than when they were originally written. They should be looked at from time to time and studied in the light of changing circumstances. That really is the reason why I support the motion as it originally stands. Another hon. Member has said much the same thing. Let us take these things one at a time. I feel it fits in with the work that all of us in this Government are doing in any shape or form—mainly to try and obtain development.

All these investigations take time and effort and, to some extent, money but they are all worth making, even if we fail with some particular recommendation. Even if, perhaps, this one is going to turn out to be a disappointment, we shall at least know that we have gone into the matter, that we have studied it and have not really brushed it aside or allowed it to be swallowed up in a much wider investigation which would take a much longer time and probably bring about the same results only in a much longer period of time. I feel that it would be good and well for this honourable Council to accept these motions as they come, one by one, provided in each instance this Council is satisfied that the hon. Mover has

put some thought behind it. It is obvious that in the case of this motion the hon. Mover has done that.

The Financial Secretary : I, too, would like to commend the hon. Member for moving this motion. He has quoted from my Budget Statement, and for that reason alone it seems that I must support the motion which merely asks that the Governor in Council should investigate the possibilities of establishing in the Colony a factory for the manufacture of paint and related materials. On behalf of the Government I accept such a motion, but I certainly would like to warn the hon. Member that it may not be quite easy to implement because there is already established in these parts a paint factory in Trinidad, and they are looking for export markets in the nearby territories. Like several hon. Members I am somewhat at a loss to know what resources other than labour we would be able to put in this factory. It does seem to me that the only resource we have is our labour and my hon. friend on my right (Sir Frank McDavid) has told us that the factory in Trinidad only employs 50 persons. Nevertheless, I feel that even that small number should be something to go after in providing employment.

I would say, Sir, that quite apart from what the Governor in Council might do in the matter of investigating the industries that should be established. I can mention that there is already under very active investigation the establishment of a local brewery. Then there is the establishment of a modern soap factory and of one to manufacture margarine and vegetable compounds. So Government is encouraging people to come forward and establish these industries in which they see there is a distinct possibility of their being economical.

The hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, has moved an amendment which would give

the motion a much wider scope. He suggests there should be an all-out enquiry into industries as a whole. I want to say that we had in this Colony in 1953 the British Industrial Mission and, I think, they did quite a thorough job in investigating possible industries in the Caribbean area. I have their report with me here, and it is quite a document to read. I am not aware that hon. Members have seen it, but it seems to me that this document contains much of the basic information the hon. Member, Mr. Macnie, would want the Governor in Council to investigate. I do feel that if the hon. Mover says we must investigate the manufacture of paint, that is one mentioned by the British Industrial Mission in their report. I do feel that if we go off at a tangent we would merely be covering the same ground as the Industrial Mission had covered and possibly with much more success than we can do it.

I am prepared, Sir, to gather all the information I can and send it on to the Trade Commissioners mentioned in the motion, together with the other factors, such as the assistance which the industry might obtain under our Industries Encouragement Ordinance and relief from income tax. So together with the statistics of the imports of the nearby territories, I think, the Trade Commissioners would be in a position to interest industrialists to come here and investigate the project. In view of the establishment of the factory in Trinidad I hardly think, however, that industrialists would be attracted to come here and put up a factory, especially as we have no resources that would be able to compete and outbid the Trinidad factory in the market. That is how the matter appears to me. Nevertheless there is no point in saying it cannot be done. We will get together all the facts and information and send them to the Trade Commissioners which this motion has asked to be done.

Mr. Smellie : I do not know whether the hon. the Financial Secretary has overlooked the first part of the motion which says:

“Recommends that the Governor in Council investigate the possibilities of establishing in the Colony a factory for the manufacture of paints and related materials; and if such investigation is favourable to approach the Trade Commissioners....”

It seems to me, if I may say so with due respect, the hon. the Financial Secretary has rather committed himself to bring the matter to the notice of the Trade Commissioners before the Governor in Council has investigated it.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to say how the position appears to me. I have heard Members' contributions to the debate, and I cannot anticipate what the result of the division would be. It has to be divided on because I shall have to put the amendment as well as the motion. As I see it, I think that if the hon. Mover would adopt the amendment, or part of it, a good many Members would agree with that being done. I think we may be able to get one motion, and this is what I am suggesting. Such motion should read :

“That this Council respectfully recommends that the Governor in Council investigate the possibilities of establishing in the Colony new minor industries, especially the manufacture of paints and related materials; and if such investigation is favourable to approach the Trade Commissioners for the British West Indies, British Guiana and British Honduras in the United Kingdom and Canada with a view to their interesting persons or concerns in establishing such industries in the Colony.”

If the hon. Mover adopts that suggestion, embracing the idea of other industries. I think we would reach agreement. How does that appear to hon. Members? I am afraid that if the matter goes to a division, supposing by any chance some Members prefer the amendment, it may leave the hon.

Mover's paint factory hanging in the air. By embracing both motion and amendment it does not destroy the value of the original motion, and it incorporates what some hon. Members are in favour of. How will that do?

The Attorney General: It cannot do, Sir. I cannot see how the hon. Member's original motion might be lost. That is an expression of opinion.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot anticipate that. I will do anything hon. Members like.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I would like to have an opportunity to answer some of the points raised.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot put the motion this afternoon as you have the right to reply, and the time for the adjournment has come. As I see it, we may be able to effect a compromise by embodying both motion and amendment in one motion.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: May I reply to Your Honour's observation? I have been benefited by the very generous suggestions which have come from all quarters of this Council, and I am fully convinced that the motion should remain as it is.

Mr. Speaker: You are convinced that the motion would be carried!

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I would like to give due credit when the time comes for me to reply to all that has been said. But just in answer to Your Honour's suggestion, I say it is my desire to let my original motion remain as it is.

Mr. Speaker: You know how easy it is for a Member to speak in favour of a motion and not vote at all.

The Financial Secretary: I would ask that we continue the debate and not adjourn now.

Mr. Macnie : May I have an opportunity to reply to the debate now?

Mr. Speaker: I am not quite sure that you should reply now, or that the hon. Mover should reply to his motion this afternoon. I do not know if I should allow a reply to the amendment because it is not consistent with the motion.

Mr. Macnie: May I explain, that I only wish to reply to Your Honour's observation and not to the amendment. I have no intention of speaking on the motion again, and I will not be available for the rest of the week.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, the hon. Member may proceed.

Mr. Macnie: Your Honour, I wish to make this clear. I have no intention of speaking about minor industries. My hope is for the establishment of new industries—and large ones, not only minor ones. I deliberately avoided the use of the word "minor"; there is no question of "minor". My other observation touching the question of my amendment is that the Governor in Council should not be limited in their investigations to paint only. I am not suggesting, however, that paint should not be examined.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: Will you permit me to reply, Your Honour?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member may do so.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: I will say in a few sentences that I thank all the hon. Members for their very valuable contributions. It is difficult to single out any particular contribution for special mention. There are a few things to which I would like to refer, beginning with the amendment by the hon. Mr. Macnie. I

do not think that my motion excludes the Governor in Council examining other industries. This motion deals with something specific, and the point of view of most Members seems to be that the motion should be withdrawn as regards examination of this particular industry, and give way to one dealing with all new industries. But this motion does not exclude the examination of new industries.

There is one thing I did not mention in my opening remarks, and that is the fact that there is a great psychological reason for this motion being accepted.

Mr. Speaker: It is limited to paint, but it mentions "by-products," of course.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: "Related materials."

Mr. Speaker: That is even more restricted.

Rev. Mr. Bobb: So far as the minor industries are concerned—I am referring to the remarks of Mr. Farnum—it seems to me that they are in very good hands. We are concerned with paint now and I want to emphasise that. When the time comes for us to make a start with other industries I am sure that support would not be lacking.

I want to say finally that we should deal with this motion now and take others when they come up later. I am not so hopeful that we are going to have much money made available within the country to develop British Guiana, so that our hope must be for money to come from outside. If we are going to grant the concessions usually accorded to new enterprises, we have at least one thing on which we can base our confidence that this Government is going to do its share to contribute towards the develop-

[Rev. Mr. Bobb]

ment of any industries which may come into being during this Interim Government. In conclusion I desire to thank all those who have contributed to this debate and given me the benefit of their views.

Mr. Speaker : The amendment remains, the mover having decided not to incorporate it in his motion. I will therefore put the question "That the words of the question stand as in the

original motion." Those are formal words which I hope hon. Members will try to understand. The effect of saying "Aye" to that question would be to negative the amendment. I will now put the question. *Motion put.*

I declare the "Ayes" have it. The motion, as amended by the mover, is therefore carried. Council will adjourn until Thursday next, 24th February, at 2 p.m.