

# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1954

The Council met at 2 p.m. His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Woolford, O.B.E., Q.C., in the Chair.

## PRESENT

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

*Ex-Officio Members:—*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Mr. John Gutch, C.M.G., O.B.E.

The Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. F. W. Holder, 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.

The Hon. G. A. C. Farnum, O.B.E.

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

Mr. J. I. Ramphal.

*Nominated Unofficials:—*

Mr. T. Lee.

Mr. W. A. Phang.

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

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

Mr. C. A. Carter.

Mr. E. F. Correia.

Rev. D. C. J. Bobb.

Mr. H. Rahaman.

Miss Gertrude H. Collins.

Mrs. Esther E. Dey.

Dr. H. A. Fraser.

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

T.D.

Mr. R. B. Jailal.

Clerk of the Legislature—Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature—Mr. I. R. King.

*Absent:—*

Mr. Sugrim Singh—on leave.

The Speaker read prayers.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, March 24th, 1954 as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

MR. SUGRIM SINGH ON LEAVE

**Mr. Speaker:** The application of the Hon. Member, Mr. Sugrim Singh, for leave of absence from attendance at meetings held between 25th and 29th March, 1954, inclusive has been granted.

I do not think there is any other application.

#### DOCUMENT LAID

**Mr. Cummings** laid on the table the following document:

The Burial Grounds (Amendment) Regulations, 1954 (No. 4 of 1954).  
(P.H. 72/43/10).

#### GOVERNMENT NOTICES

##### CONTINUING IN FORCE PART IX OF THE HOUSING ORDINANCE, 1946

**Mr. Cummings:** I beg to give notice of the following motion:

"Whereas by Resolution No. XLIX of the Legislative Council passed on the 26th day of November, 1952, Part IX of the Housing Ordinance 1946 (No. 24 of 1946) was continued in force up to the 31st day of March, 1954;

And whereas it is desirable that the said Part of the Ordinance, shall continue in force for a further period;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Part IX of the Housing Ordinance, 1946 (No. 24 of 1946) shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st April, 1954."

Sir, I have obtained the permission of His Excellency and I beg to give notice of my intention to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to proceed with the motion at this meeting.

**Mr. Speaker:** Members may want some information about the motion.

**Mr. Cummings:** It is well known to everybody.

**Mr. Speaker:** But I have no means of providing copies of the Ordinance for everybody.

**Mr. Cummings:** I am sure, Sir, that as I develop my speech you will recall the provisions of the Ordinance.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am the least concerned: it is the Members who represent the Colony. Is it of a contentious nature?

**Mr. Cummings:** It is nothing contentious. I beg to move the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to allow me to proceed with the motion.

The Attorney-General seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Relevant Standing Orders suspended.

**Mr. Cummings:** Part IX of the Housing Ordinance 1946 deals with the speedy remedying of insanitary conditions in slum areas and of overcrowding in dwelling houses, and provides for the establishment of a Slum Clearance Committee which takes care of, I think, houses unfit for human habitation. Sub-Section (3) of Section 58 says that this part of the Ordinance may be continued in force by resolution for one year at a time. The resolution in force at the moment expires on 1st of April, 1954, hence the necessity for a new resolution being passed.

The reason for this, as hon. Members are well aware is the implementation of the housing programme at La Penitence. It is found that after tenants have been cleared out of the slum areas, other tenants occupy the houses, and it is necessary to have some

provision in force to prevent this, otherwise the Ordinance will be defeated, and I now seek approval of the Council to continue in operation Part IX by way of a new resolution.

**The Attorney-General** seconded.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion has been moved and seconded. Would any one else like to speak on it?

**Miss Collins:** I would be grateful for a copy of the Ordinance. The hon. the Member for Health and Housing referred to the moving back into slum clearing areas. Up to now no house has been cleared from what we call 'slum clearance areas', and I am warning Members to go through the Ordinance and study it carefully because some land holders have had possession for as many as 33 years. Some proprietors who are in their declining years have to depend on the rentals from their houses. I have seen about five deputations on the matter and I am appealing to this Council: we want slum clearance and town planning, and especially more residential buildings, but please study the Ordinance carefully, otherwise we are going to find these areas in a worse situation than before.

**Mr. Lord:** I think I should make some explanation with regard to the comments made by the last speaker. Actually, the slum clearance was started as a result of the housing survey which was carried out as long ago as 1945, and with the inauguration of the Central Housing and Planning Authority in 1948 certain areas, as a result of that housing survey, were declared Slum Clearance and Redevelopment Areas. The particular block to which the hon. Member referred happens to fall within that Slum Clear-

ance and Redevelopment Area, and the Greater Georgetown Plan having been accepted by the Governor in Council, and having the force of law now, that particular area has been designated as an industrial zone. As a result, a special Slum Clearance Committee, provided for under Part IX of that Ordinance which the hon. Member now seeks to have extended, provides for the clearing of those blocks, but as a pre-requisite there must be provision of alternative accommodation for the tenants of the houses in the slum clearance area. That has all been done, and it is unfortunate, perhaps, that the particular block which the Authority has decided to clear may have one or two buildings of a more or less substantial character. Alternative accommodation is provided at Laing Avenue, and the buildings which are now being erected at La Penitence will take care of the persons whose houses will be affected by the Slum Clearance Ordinance.

I think that if the hon. Member cares to discuss the matter with me I can give her a full explanation as to the measures we are now adopting. I do not think it would be politic at this stage to cease our action in regard to slum clearance, because the Authority has already been in negotiation with most of the proprietors of that block with a view to its acquisition by the Authority.

**Mr. Raatgever:** I rise to support the plea by the hon. Member, Miss Collins, for further consideration of this matter. I have been for many years a member of the Central Housing and Planning Authority, and only came off last year. As a matter of fact I do not know if I am off, because I have had no letter from any Minister, or from the Government, telling me I was no longer a member,

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and thanking me or otherwise for the service I have given from the inception of the Authority.

**The Attorney-General:** We seem to be getting away from the object of the motion, which is really to extend the operation of Part IX of the Ordinance. What the hon. Member, Miss Collins, has referred to is the manner in which the Central Housing and Planning Authority is carrying out its function in relation to this particular project. That is a matter of policy being adopted by the Authority. I would suggest to hon. Members that it is essential that the Council should pass this motion to extend the operation of Part IX of the Ordinance, because nobody would suggest that it is not necessary to continue with the slum clearance of that area, and if that is so, then power must be given to the Central Housing and Planning Authority to continue the work. I suggest that the hon. Member's comments would be considered by the Authority in due course.

**Mr. Luckhoo :** I rise to support the motion but I feel I should point out that it is unfortunate that the notice of motion should coincide with the moving of the motion itself. I feel that on future occasions—and I speak for several hon. Members—we should be given an opportunity to peruse the legislation before coming into Council, instead of having it thrust upon us at short notice. We owe it not only to ourselves but to those who are dependent upon our judgment, that we should have full and ample opportunity of perusing whatever legislation is to be enacted in this Council.

**Mr. Gajraj:** I rise to support the motion which has been moved by the hon. Member for Labour, Health and

Housing. The explanation which has been given by the hon. Member, Mr. Lord, who is the Chairman of the Central Housing and Planning Authority, is very correct. I have had the opportunity of serving on that Authority for two years, and during that period the question of clearing that area in Albuoystown was discussed. Hon. Members of this Council who also served on that Authority will remember that time and again the Authority was faced with applications by individuals and firms to erect structures which were to be used for industrial purposes, and because of the lack of land within the industrial areas upon which buildings could be put up, the Authority had from time to time to grant conditional permission for buildings to be put up in zones other than industrial zones so as not to stifle the expansion of small industries. So that when the decision was arrived at, that particular block should be cleared in order to begin the distribution of the people living in the slum areas, we realised that we should provide an area wherein industry could be concentrated, and provide the land for those who desired to expand their industries, particularly the small men.

I remember very clearly that an application came before the Central Housing and Planning Authority for permission to put up a factory for re-threading rubber tyres. The application was in respect of a site in Water Street, North Cummingsburg, in an area laid out for commercial purposes in the Plan. It was because we had no alternative site in the industrial zone that the applicant was given conditional permission to put up that factory. I think the hon. Member who had associated himself with the lady, was the one who urged that that particular site should be given for the pur-

pose of a factory to rethread motor car tyres, as it was necessary that we should give encouragement to that form of industry by the small man. But if we had a plot of land in the industrial zone whereon there was no building that we could have offered to the individual, we would not have gone to the trouble of spoiling the zoning of the city which had been done at so much cost to the Colony and to the city of Georgetown. I merely make that observation to show the necessity of having land in the industrial area, so as to impress on hon. Members that it is not a case of removing people from one place to another but a question of providing the right type of land in the correct areas for industries.

**Mr. Raatgever:** I rise to a point of correction! My point is, the buildings in good condition should be removed to some other area.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am speaking to the hon. Member, Miss Collins! Are you satisfied that the necessity for putting through this motion today is that the legislation expires on the 31st of this month? In view of what has been said, perhaps, you would see that notwithstanding what appears to be a substantial objection it might be cured. I am not disposed to a motion of this kind to be rushed through the Council but, although due notice has not been given, if hon. Members have any strong feelings about it and it receives some support I would allow it to be moved.

**Mr. Cummings:** May I be permitted to say this: As the hon. the Attorney-General has pointed out, this resolution continues the operation of Part IX of the Ordinance. The question that is worrying the hon. Member, Miss Collins—and I feel there is some justification for that worry — is the question of the policy of the Slum Clear-

ance Committee. I readily agree with the hon. Mr. Raatgever that if you have substantial buildings erected at great expense, the Slum Clearance Committee should give some consideration to the removal of those buildings to other sites. Those are things that do not necessarily interfere with the passing of this resolution. This resolution can be passed and, I am quite sure, as the hon. Member, Mr. Lord has pointed out, he would be willing to receive any person who feels he has a grievance and he would endeavour to get his Committee to act if he considers that person's point of view favourably. But I do not see that that should in any way affect the resolution it is sought to be put through today.

**Mr. Speaker:** As far as I can see, Miss Collins, whatever the difficulties are they can be cured in the execution of the policy, but as far as the measure is concerned, it is a good one. Do you agree with that?

**Miss Collins:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** If there is an adverse vote today in respect of the motion it would mean there is no legislation dealing with slum clearance.

**Miss Collins:** As far as what exists on slum clearance the whole policy is a farce. I am appealing to this Council that in the near future we will have to go over the whole Plan as it will not work in the next ten years. We will then find ourselves in a very serious position as far as human habitation is concerned.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

### PROPOSED LEGISLATION

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member for Health and Housing ! Have you any

[Mr. Speaker]

request to make in respect of some proposed legislation?

**Mr. Cummings:** Yes, Your Honour. There is Item 9 of the Order Paper, but I see it is in the name of the Chief Secretary.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it your Bill?

**Mr. Cummings:** It is my Bill.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there any urgent necessity for taking the Bill?

**Mr. Cummings:** There is necessity, but no urgent need for taking it through its stages now. But if it is your desire to deal with it now, it may be taken. It is a Bill to provide for provisional registration as medical practitioners, but there is no great urgency in the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. the Financial Secretary! What about your Bill?

**The Financial Secretary :** I am not ready.

**Mr. Speaker :** We will then resume the debate on the motion of the hon. Member for Agriculture.

#### DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Council resumed the debate on the following motion by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines (**Sir Frank McDavid**):

Be it resolved that, with reference to the Report on the Economic Development of British Guiana by the Mission organised by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, this Council approves in principle of the expanded and accelerated development programme for the years 1954 and 1955 presented to Council on 11th February, 1954, and of the financial arrangements for its implementation.

**Mr. Smellie:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion, and in doing so in company with the many other Members who have spoken I wish to thank the hon. Mover of the motion for the excellent service which he did in emphasizing to Members of this Council and to the outside public the immense amount of careful and exhaustive background work that had taken place and on which this present Development Plan is based. Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of sympathy with the remarks made by the hon. Member, Lt.-Col. Haywood, yesterday afternoon. Put briefly, he said that we should be in a better position to discuss the Plan when we have gone thoroughly into the various items in Finance Committee, and consequently he thought this Council should meet more often.

The hon. the Attorney-General said in respect of his first statement that it was of paramount importance, especially in this interim Legislature, that every Member should be given the fullest opportunity of expressing his views on the Development Plan. I think the hon. Lt.-Col. Haywood's point was that such contributions from Members would be more valuable had the Council gone into Finance Committee and got down to discussing the various items before coming back to the full Council. I myself, Sir, am of the opinion that we ought to go into Finance Committee right away. With respect to the hon. Col. Haywood's second submission you, Mr. Speaker, referred to the extra burden of work which is now being laid on the Official Members of this Council. I thoroughly appreciate your point of view and, I think, the hon. Col. Haywood would appreciate it too.

I do not agree with the views expressed by the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, about rice expansion, but I endorse every word that he said about

making haste slowly in spite of the urgent and imperative need for us to get on with the job with which we have been entrusted. In my view the implementing of this Development Plan lays a very heavy burden indeed on all Members of this Council, and we have to be extremely careful that there is no waste and that every dollar is expended to the best advantage. In this connection I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming the valuable advice given by the hon. Member, Mr. Carter, who said that not only should we go most thoroughly into all the items but that supervision of some kind or another should be exercised throughout the continuance of these works, with periodical check-ups and reports. I agree with him entirely.

I feel in regard to the Development Plan that it is essential and proper that the accent should be on production. The total expenditure envisaged for economic development over the two-year period is \$32,712,602 and for social development \$11,385,250. That is a ratio of 3 to 1, which seems to me to be about right. I feel that it is only by means of economic development that we shall eventually be in a position ourselves to pay for our social services, and we cannot expect those social services to be indefinitely a charge on H.M. Government. Therefore, I disagree with the view of the hon. Member, Mr. Lee (who, I see, is not in his place), when he suggested that the \$761,560 earmarked for forest projects should be diverted to providing bigger and better hospital amenities. I would like to say right away that much remains to be done in connection with hospitals, but I do not feel it would be right and proper to take away anything from the allocation for the forestry projects in order to increase our social services.

I will now turn, Mr. Speaker, to the various heads under the Development Programme on which the hon.

Member who moved the motion wishes to have the views of Members. I have very little to say at this stage since, in principle, the majority of the items commend themselves to me very strongly. But, as the mover of the motion has also invited criticism and an expression of any divergent views, I should like to mention just one or two items about which I am not entirely happy. I wish to say, however, that I am quite prepared to modify my opinion after we have had a full and frank discussion in Finance Committee. As regards item 19—Livestock Station, Ebini—I wish to say that although I am not an agriculturist or a stock farmer, I have always felt that the expenditure on this project was not justified.

As regards item 20 — Coffee Processing and Marketing Research—I am not at all convinced that there is any future for Liberian coffee except to supply the needs of the inhabitants of this Colony.

With respect to item 43—Transport and Communications (Rehabilitation Programme)—while it is necessary in my view that the steamship service of the T. & H.D. should be maintained and improved, I still have not arrived at a conclusion satisfactory to myself on the difficult problem of Road *versus* Railway. With these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I will take my seat and, with Col. Haywood, I should like to say that the sooner we get down in Finance Committee to the facts and figures relating to these items, the better it would be.

**Mr. Gajraj:** I rise to support the motion which is before this hon. Council, and would like to say that the motion itself has been most ably presented to us by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, to whom I shall, at this stage, refer as the Deputy Chairman of the Economic Council, because I think it is agreed in relation to the very exalted position

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he holds in the economic life of this country, we should get him to give us the benefit of his experience in these particular matters. He has, as you know, Sir, very skilfully interleaved the history of the past five years with the present, and its relation to the development of the future, so that those who might have thought otherwise, would know that the Development Programme as presented in the report of the World Bank Mission, is not something which was thought of overnight, but that it bears relationship to the spirit of progress which permeated us when we conceived the idea of producing something better for the people in future.

This Programme sounds the death knell for the development pessimists that we have had in the past. It is a great programme, since it certainly opens a new vista and offers real hope for progress in the realm of social and economic welfare in this Colony. This, I submit, is essentially and necessarily so—the bare outline of a great plan. It is based, as hon. Members know, particularly on the Report of the International Bank Mission, amended with the object of accelerating the tempo which the Bank experts considered desirable for the convenience of this Colony. The emphasis, as I see it, is on the implementation of these projects as quickly as possible within the limits of our financial capacity, and also bearing in mind the fact that that should be done with economy foremost in view. In the framing of this accelerated programme, the question of time had to be taken into consideration.

When this Report of the International Bank Mission was in the hands of the last Legislature—I refer to the one that has been dissolved by those in higher authority — no action was taken by this Government—and one

can easily see how imperative it was that, prior to the formation of this Government, some proper programme in terms of a provisional Budget had to be prepared in order that the task which should properly have been the responsibility of the previous Government, could be carried out in anticipation of the work which we now have to perform. And so it is that this accelerated programme that has been put before us, was prepared by His Excellency the Governor and his Official advisers.

Therefore, Members of this Council and members of the general public, in criticising the evil machinations of a certain party as being responsible in some respects for the shortcomings of others, are realising that this is the official programme or a programme prepared by Officials, of which we are now endeavouring to give consideration and offer our advice. None of the members of what I may very well call the Unofficial Section of the Government Bench, have had anything to do with the preparation of the programme. Nevertheless, I feel I speak on behalf of my colleagues in this Council, when I say that we realize how important and necessary it is for the programme, in its bare outline even, to be approved in principle, because the development of our economy and this accelerated progress and prosperity depend very urgently upon the decision of this Council.

We feel, I think, that it should be agreed upon promptly because we see in it an attempt to create conditions whereby the farmer can find more lands to plant—land that by the skill and ingenuity of engineers we hope to protect from floods and drought. We hope to be able to teach the farmers the practice of modern agriculture—improved mechanization as regards farm lands and protection of his crops

on the whole in order to increase his efficiency—something that is very necessary in these days of fierce competition and a return to free markets. We definitely want to see increased returns for our efforts so as to bring our land—I mean all our land—into beneficial occupation within the limits of our capacity. It is the desire of all the members of the Government today—and I am sure it is also the desire of all the members of this Council and of the inhabitants of this Colony—to increase our national income and so provide checks against the many hazards of life; to offer facilities for free education to all; to pinpoint the location of our mineral wealth and to make the interior more easily accessible—not only are those areas expected to bring in large sums of revenue, but also to assist those people about whom I have spoken before and who, I feel, should continue to enjoy every possible opportunity to exploit, within their own limitations, the mineral wealth that is hidden in this their own country.

We desire to provide facilities to assist them by way of credit and otherwise, and we are asking every honest and hard-working British Guianese to carve out for himself an appropriate niche in this the land of his birth. We ask him to accept that as a general principle and to qualify for the help that it is the desire of the Government to give to every man, woman and child, so that in the course of time he would have some standing in his country. There is no doubt in my mind that this proposal is of tremendous magnitude. But, at the same time, we all know that the task before us is not an easy one: we realise that there are many difficulties ahead, and that as we go along we shall encounter still more difficulties. Yet I think we can say we are a people with 'backbone', therefore we welcome these challenges along our path. Because it is only in

facing them that we will be able to use our God-given intelligence and find the very best means of conquering obstacles.

On the other hand, I also want to say that the schemes we propose are not in themselves a magic wand, and that the funds—funds which, I might say, are greater than others we have ever handled in the Legislative Council—should not be regarded as the fabled Alladin's Lamp. These schemes have been prepared by the best brains in their particular fields, but I for one do not call them the final answer to our particular problems or say that after they have been completed there will be nothing more to be done toward the developing of the country.

My view is that, when completed, these schemes will merely serve to open the door to the realisation that there is so much more to be done in our country. We know how vast is the extent of our land; we know how rapid is the increase of our population, the demand for work, the cry for greater production. These latter things will continue as our country progresses, and we must not sit upon the laurels of the past: we must realise, the present no less than the future will make challenges, and unless we are prepared to take them up, we might as well give up. So, we who are charged with charting the future course of British Guiana must realise how grave and how heavy is our responsibility, but at the same time express deep humility, feel our own limitations and let the people know in no uncertain terms: "We do sincerely want your help and we do welcome your goodwill, for unless we can obtain your goodwill we shall not be able to achieve that spirit of co-operation and that measure of comradeship which alone" I claim, "must be the foundation of the success of this country."

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I wish at this stage briefly to express appreciation of Colonel Haywood's desire to see us proceed with the utmost despatch, with the business of this Council. I am sure other Members would agree with me that he has expressed the impatience of the people of the country as a whole to see us get on with the job; on the other hand I also feel—as the Attorney-General expressed himself yesterday—that having regard to the form of the present Government it is most necessary that Members of this Council—every Member at that—should take every opportunity to discuss matters which come before it. Bearing also in mind the importance of the future development of this country, I do submit that every Member of this Council should make his contribution to this subject. It is something which will either make or mar our country for the next 10 or 20 years. If this plan goes through as those who prepared it hope it will, and if it is carried out in a spirit of co-operation, then we can see nothing but prosperity for this country.

But if on the other hand this programme is embarked upon and we find ourselves in a position, such as that referred to by some Members, where some of the people of this country are prepared to wreck it and prevent it from being carried on by way of a policy of sabotage and non-co-operation, then the people of this country will suffer at the hands of some of their own who are traitors to the cause of progress. It is my own hope and feeling that some of the fears expressed in this Council will actually not be realised, for I have great faith in the fact that it is found—as it is bound to be found—by people who think, that the development programme is for the

benefit primarily, of the small man in this country: that we particularly want to give every man a proper stake in his own country, and to give him something which he can cherish for himself and those who come after him. Therefore I do not believe our good sense will allow us to accept willy-nilly every rumour of plans and schemes to wreck the work which is proposed for us to do. That is my view and I believe that Members, upon very sober reflection will realise that the view I have expressed is one that is reasonable.

I also want to say that when this motion for the acceptance of the development programme is accepted the responsibility will be imposed upon every Member of this Council to go out into the country, meet Members of the Development Committees, sit down with them and discuss the proposals, get some idea of what they think, and in that way give as well as receive some good advice, because, there is a lot we can learn from the farmer in the country and the miner in the field. Without this, the schemes will only bring partial returns. We must let the people be convinced that whatever is to be done is being done with an honest and sincere intention for their benefit.

Now, those are my general remarks. I do not wish to be looked upon by my colleagues as a very long speaker in this Council, but I do feel that Members will appreciate the great importance of the development before us and bear with me while I make reference to one or two points which have been raised by Members.

A very important fear has been expressed—a fear that is felt by nearly all Members and, moreso, by people outside—and that is, that this large sum of money for our development programme might be unwisely spent. In

other words quite a lot of it may be lost in perhaps bad administration, bad supervision, and things of that kind. I think that is a very real fear, and one which my hon. friend, the mover of the motion, will, I believe, tell the Council that Government will take into very serious consideration and will do everything possible to ensure that every dollar spent will bring full return. That, I think, is the view of all of us, and whilst it is true that in large undertakings a certain amount of wastage occurs, we will have to do everything in our power to reduce wastage to the barest minimum, so that the country, not individuals, will benefit from the expenditure of the sums earmarked for the particular schemes.

We have heard from hon. Members that people in the country districts are very anxious to know how soon will loans be available from the Credit Corporation. Members of this Council know fully well that the establishment of a Credit Corporation is proposed in the report of the International Bank Mission which has been accepted by the Government of the country and by the Colonial Office, but before a Credit Corporation can begin to function this Legislature will have to enact an Ordinance to give it legal status. I believe that the hon. mover of the motion will assure the Council that it will not be long before this Council will be in a position to discuss such legislation. Of course hon. Members will realise that it is the first time we are proposing to set up an organisation of that type, therefore the legislation is perhaps a little more complex than usual, and will, of course, take some time. It has been, I know, under his particular consideration for a while, but Members will be pleased to get some form of assurance that speed will be the deciding factor in the future.

**Sir Frank McDavd:** We are making haste slowly.

**Mr. Gajraj:** I appreciate the feeling of urgency among the people outside. They have heard and read of the \$44 million to be spent on development and of the establishment of a Credit Corporation to help the small man, and they are anxious to see these schemes put into effect. They are anxious to know when money will be available for them to improve their existing industries or start new industries. Dr. Duthie, the Chairman-designate of the Credit Corporation, in a Press interview expressed the hope that the people of British Guiana would recognize the establishment of the Corporation as an honest, straightforward effort to improve conditions in a spirit of public service, without the slightest taint of political colour.

I mention that because we have heard criticisms in this Council of the composition of our Regional Development Committees. The criticism is being levelled that some of the members of those Committees are not experienced enough. We have also had the criticism that some of the members of those Committees are pledged to the policy of non-co-operation by the subversive political Party, and in other respects they are actually members of the Party. It was, and still is, the desire of His Excellency the Governor that on all of those Regional Development Committees the small man must be represented, and I think Members will appreciate the desirability of having the small man on those Committees. We want to emphasise that this Development Programme is aimed at assisting and improving the lot of the small man, who must not feel that because a man may not be blessed with much of the

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material things of life he does not have the intelligence, the knowledge and the ability to assist in making proposals for the benefit of his people or his country.

In regard to the alleged political complexion of some of the members of the Committees, I do not believe it would be in the interest of the large majority of the people of this country for us to adopt the attitude that because an individual may have expressed himself as being sympathetic with some of the declared election promises of the members of the last Government, he is in fact a Communist, or someone who belongs to a group of subversives. So many people voted for the winning Party at the last general election that if we were to charge all of them and lay it down that they should not be assisted, we would create such a large body of opposition to schemes for genuine progress that we would find it very difficult to make much headway. We must understand and realise that had conditions in our country been as we would like them to be there would have been no need for us to be discussing this great Development Plan which is before us today.

There is no doubt whatever that the people of this country, the young men particularly, had many a legitimate grievance, and it just happened that it was only the leaders of the winning Party who, not only at election time but long before, were able to come forward and tell them "If you put us in we will improve your conditions." I ask the question of my colleagues, that if they were in the position of those people and they were offered better conditions in a short while, wouldn't

they have done likewise and cast their votes accordingly? I do not agree that because a man may have cast his vote in that way he should all the time be stigmatised and discriminated against. Rather, I say that we should take such people in our hands and try to bring them around to our way of thinking, and improve their lot as we propose to do by the development schemes. By such means we would be able to do a greater service to the Colony than the mere spending of the money.

We know that the appointments to the Regional Development Committees were made on the recommendations of the District Commissioners who are also charged with making changes in the composition of those Committees if they find it necessary to do so. I hope it will not be found necessary or expedient to make a single change, because it is obvious that the strength of our programme must depend upon the sincerity of the people who are placed in a position to give advice and to assist in carrying out the schemes. We will find in every part of the country groups of people and individuals who will say that the Regional Development Committee in their area does not express the views of the people in the particular area, but it must be appreciated that the members of these Committees are small in number whilst the desire to serve on them is expressed by very large numbers.

The answer to that is an obligation on Members of this Council to go to the areas and tell the people that it is their responsibility to come forward and co-operate with the Regional Development Committees. If there are a dozen or two dozen persons in an

area with views which they think should be put before the Economic Council through the Regional Development Committees it is their duty to put those views before their respective Committees. If they do not, then they would not be doing their duty to their country. We must build up in the mind of every individual a spirit of community service.

I think I have already spoken a good deal on the more or less general aspects of the Development Programme. I have made a few notes with regard to individual items of the programme, but I have already taken up much time and I know that it is the desire that we should get through this motion today, if we can. I would, however, ask permission to make a quotation from the International Bank Report at page 15, where it states:

"Nevertheless, as the mission has tried to make clear in its commendations for a development programme for the next five years, the mission believes that, with energy and good will the problems of the colony can be resolved and its continued progress assured."

A little further down in the same paragraph they end by saying:

"The degree to which the economic problems outlined in this report can be met will be a crucial test for both the Government and the people of the colony."

Those last words I desire to emphasise to Members of this Council.

**Mr. Farnum:** I rise to support the motion moved by the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, and, like other Members who have spoken before me, I would like to congratulate him on the comprehensive review which he gave us, showing the work that has been done and the activi-

ties of Government over the past quarter-century. I think it was very timely because it served to remind us—lots of us I feel forget these things—of what has been done and also to let the young people of the Colony know that the Government has been doing things for the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the Colony.

In the statement made by the hon. Member for Agriculture, he named certain persons as being responsible for the progress which has been made in the economic, social and health conditions of the Colony, but, I think, there was an omission. That omission was the name of Sir Frederick Seaford. I know that we can never repay him for the tremendous amount of work, guidance and advice he has given this Government in connection with the drainage problems of this Colony. We must also remember that the establishment of the Mahaicony-Abary Rice Development Scheme is due in a great measure to his knowledge as an engineer and to the interest which he took in bringing that scheme into being.

Many of us will remember that that scheme was started in the days of the last World War. The question of the selection of machinery was a very important one, and many will remember the number of times Sir Frederick flew from this Colony to the U.S.A. in the face of the danger of enemy aeroplanes, in order to select the machinery and to do other things that he thought would benefit this Colony. I do not think, there is any doubt whatever in the minds of the people of this Colony, especially the rice producers, that he has rendered great service to this Colony especially in the establishment of the Mahaicony-Abary factory. Not only is there a factory but experi-

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ments are being carried on there in respect of the industry whereby the rice producers are saved having to do experiments of their own.

Sir, it is clear to me and I think, to every one that the improvements in the health and economic conditions in the country that we have were brought about by professional men and technicians from overseas, the "Limeys" I think they are called. It is clear that if we had not the "Limeys" there would not have been the progress that we have made, and it brings this fact home to me, that for our Development Plan to succeed we will have to depend a great deal on those "Limeys" because we have not the local technical staff to undertake the work. I therefore throw out the suggestion, Sir, that we should consider very seriously the question of creating a fund by means of which the Government can make loans to the parents of young fellows with high academical honours who had not the privilege or good fortune of winning scholarships, so that those lads can be sent away to be trained as technicians, and on returning we would then have a large number of technicians of our own.

It is true to say, and I think every one would agree with me, that we have the material here. Queen's College turns out quite a number of these lads every year, but unless they win a scholarship they just have to become clerical assistants or enter the Civil Service. I would say the same of St. Stanislaus College. I think the time has come—in fact I do intend to move a motion to the effect—that the Government grant to St. Stanislaus College be increased.

Sir, I do not intend to go into the details of the Development Plan, because I feel that when we go into Finance Committee that can be dealt with. But I do feel and hope that by the implementation of this Development Plan a better day would dawn for the small man or the common man and the youths of our country. Sir, I think, one of the greatest problems we have in our country is to find work for our youths, to know what to do with the youths who are coming up. I have been an Official Visitor of the Prisons for several years, and it is a sad experience to see the number of youngsters between the ages of 16 and 22 who are in prison and come before us. Their complaint is "What shall we do when we go out?" They are told that the After-Care Committee would look after them, but the experience of other lads who had served prison terms and left has not been a happy one.

It has been brought to my notice, Sir, that one of these lads who had served a short prison term happened to secure a job with one of the mining firms operating in the Interior of this Colony; he did so well that he was promoted by his employers. Some official thought he should notify the employers that the lad had been to prison, and the moment his employers got that notice he was sacked. Now he would most likely become a confirmed criminal. Those are things, I feel, we have to look after, and I think and hope that this Development Plan, when implemented, would assist in that direction.

I would like to see the farmers engaged in more diversification of crops, and just at this juncture I would like to say in defence of that very much maligned Department of Agriculture

that they have been conducting quite a number of experiments in order to have diversified crops. I know there had been experiments in bananas which did not succeed, and they are carrying on experiments in cocoa in the North West District, at Atkinson Field and in other parts of the Colony. They are also carrying on experiments in cotton and in jute. They have been responsible for the improvement in the strain of cattle in the rural districts, and in various other ways, I think, they have done something and should not be maligned as they have been. We also have a canning factory which functions under the Agricultural Department and also the Government Produce Depot, where ice is being manufactured for the fishermen; and there is milk which today is stabilized at an economic price. Every milk producer is not only sure of getting a fair price for his milk but of disposing of his milk, an advantage he did not formerly enjoy.

But, Sir, I am sorry to find that the World Bank Mission made no special reference to electricity in our villages. To my mind, that would make a tremendous difference in the social and economic conditions of our people in the rural districts and would bring about contentment. I am also sorry to find no reference to the extension of what is known as the Essequibo East Bank Road from Parika to a point opposite Bartica, in respect of which I had moved a motion in the last Council. The position there is this: Since the Boerasirie Scheme has been started a large number of people have gone and settled some distance from Parika and are farming and doing cattle rearing. My information is, that the road there is so bad that the farmers have to take their

produce to Parika by boat on the Essequibo River and, as those of us who have travelled on that river know, the Essequibo River is exceedingly "rough" at certain times even a danger to life, with the result that, the farmers there are thinking very seriously of giving up the land they occupy. If that portion of the road from Parika to Bendor is put in order it would certainly encourage those farmers to remain in the area and others to go there. But that is only one part of the picture. My idea is, the road should go to a point opposite Bartica and a ferry service placed to cross the river to Bartica.

**Sir Frank McDavid:** I may remind the hon. Member that provision has been made for surveys for such a road to a point opposite Bartica.

**Mr. Farnum:** My information is that since the days of Sir Cecil Clementi, who wrote a very exhaustive minute on the economic and other potentialities of the Colony, the extension of the West Coast Railway and that road were among the things suggested. My information is that the survey was made since 1928 and the plan is somewhere in the archives of the Public Works Department. With a little research that plan may be found. If you would allow me, Sir, I would just read what the World Bank Mission said about that road at page 288 of their report:

**"Essequibo East Bank Road.** The road on this bank terminates at Maripa; beyond the terminal point rough trails connect a few individual settlements scattered along the river. The possibilities for agricultural development are considerable in the stretch ending in the Makouria river region opposite Bartica. The area also contains stone quarries which, as has already been suggested, could be utilized for the trunk road programme. Extension of the east bank road would serve agricultural development in the area and would also provide a transport link to Bartica and the Potaro road, which are at present isolated and

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only accessible by water. A simple ferry at Bartica could be established at no great cost. It is recommended that an early survey be made and a preliminary line of alignment prepared at an estimated cost of \$25,000."

We are talking quite a lot about the cattle industry. We want to develop that industry, and the recommendation is that we must go to the riverain areas. It has been proved that Bartica is an ideal place for cattle rearing. The Agricultural Department has a station there and, if the hon. Member for Agriculture would pay a visit there and overnight at Bartica, he would see that what I am saying is correct. Not only that cattle are increasing in numbers at Bartica but that it is a question of finding more land for grazing. There are several settlers there who are doing quite well in cattle rearing; and as a result a certain person in the city has applied for 1,000 acres of land for cattle rearing at Bartica. I venture to say that if the road is extended to opposite Bartica many businessmen would invest in cattle rearing or after the close of business in the city on Saturdays would be able to go to Bartica and return to the city in time for work on the following Monday. That would materially help in the development of that place. That is one of the ways, I think, in which we can certainly increase our cattle production.

As I have said, I hope that this Development Programme would mean better living conditions for the small man and the youths of this country, and for the farmer of this country in whom I am particularly interested. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member for Agriculture the grievances of several of these small men. Let us take first the fishermen. The fishermen claim that they are just neglected; nobody worries to listen to their complaints and there are no means of their

getting their complaints heard and remedied. One of their complaints is that they are all men of small means and are supposed to get tackle, tar and various other materials for fishing free of duty, but when they purchase them in the stores in Water Street they are made to pay the market price which includes the duty. While a refund of duty is payable to them very often it takes a year before they get it. Those and other grievances they feel very keenly and I intend to bring them to the attention of the hon. Member for Agriculture. The Commissioner of Lands and Mines told us plainly some time ago when I brought the matter up, that the policy of Government today is not to give a small man large concessions, because he would not have the capital to develop them. The policy, as I knew it in the past, was different, Sir, and I think you were also familiar with that policy. I am speaking about the days of Sir Alexander Swettenham (a former Governor). His policy was to encourage the small man — the small miner—and if anything was discovered by him he was encouraged to develop it. Sometimes he was given as many as six claims.

**Mr. Lord:** To a point of explanation, Sir. The policy of issuing reward grants to miners still obtains.

**Mr. Farnum:** What is the good of giving reward grants when, if a small man locates anything he would be told "You haven't got the capital to develop it." I notice that there is an allocation of some \$800,000 in this Programme for the establishment of a quarry and to provide steel barges for the transportation of stone. I agree with certain Members who have said that Government should not embark on quarrying. I think that Government's experience in that respect has not been a happy one in the past. I think what

should be done is to assist people who own quarries, so that they could modernize them and reduce the cost of stone. The present methods of producing stone are, to my mind, very primitive, and that is probably the reason why the cost of stone is so very high. Only if these people are assisted to modernize their methods would the cost of stone become cheaper. I think Government should also assist in the question of transporting stone from the quarries.

As regards the question of housing, I think this acute problem would be reduced considerably if electricity is made available to residents in the rural areas, and also if transportation to and from those areas is made easier. This policy of restricting people in operating buses and other vehicles on the roads of the Colony—in the East Bank, Demerara, and other areas, should be discontinued. If anyone requires a licence to operate such a service it should be given, and we should let competition settle the matter. At present there are only two buses operating between Georgetown and Rosignol. Sometime this year, the T. and H.D., in order to reduce the deficit on their railways, decided that they would not run certain services between Belladrum and New Amsterdam, and school children were deprived of the use of these services because the buses were usually filled when they wanted them.

The people claim—and I think they have every right to do so—that the situation is purely the result of a monopoly. I think we should set our faces against any monopoly. Why shouldn't people be able to get buses to take their children to school as they like? I believe that it was during the last war that railway stock could not be obtained and the railway services were made to monopolize the bus services. It was

realized that if there were fewer buses running on the East Coast, the position of the railway would not have been as serious as it was.

As regards the question of trade schools, we have the Technical Institute; but my attention was recently drawn to the fact that the Y.M.C.A. organization sends about a dozen lads from the branch in Albouystown to the trade school in order that they should be taught some trade. They are being sent there from primary schools because of a desire that they should be given some higher education, but the authorities concerned feel that unless they had already received some higher education, they could not learn a trade. The boys could not absorb what was being taught them, and so they left.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. Member speaking about the Technical Institute?

**Mr. Farnum:** Yes, Sir, the academic part of it. The boys were being taught to use their hands. It is a matter for consideration as to what should be done. Some years ago, I wrote Government suggesting that an apprenticeship scheme be started. We have the P.W.D. which has a large foundry, and we have the T.H.D. which also has a foundry, while the Pure Water Supply and other places should also be able to benefit by an apprenticeship scheme. I was told that Government could not do anything in the matter then because an expert was coming down to go into it, and the result is that nothing further was done. In the old days we had the firm of Sprostons Ltd., where lads just from school went to be trained, and I think it would be admitted that some excellent engineers were produced there. Today there are no schemes of that kind and that, to my mind, is what is flooding the jail with

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so many prisoners. There is no occupation for these young people.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member can move a motion on the matter.

**Mr. Farnum:** I think we should start as many minor industries as possible, but we have to be very careful as regards our material. I know that there is a very promising industry in tanning; it provides work for quite a few people in the North West District. The mangrove bark which is used for tanning is shipped to Georgetown, and I know of someone who has done exceedingly good work in this respect. He does not only supply the local market, but ships his produce to a market in Venezuela. I have a letter here in which he says that it was a pity that the butchers had spoilt his skins by faulty slaughtering, otherwise a large export trade could have been built up in this Colony. In the face of this we complain that the other dealers would not be interested, and they allege that other leather is heavier and better than ours. I had the privilege of seeing a sample of our local leather, and it was pointed out to me that the trouble lies in faulty slaughtering of the animals, no particular care being exercised. The person in question was told to go to the Livestock authorities, but they said they had no authority in the matter. He was then told to go to the Town Council, but he got no assistance from them either. Another person—a layman—also pointed out that bad slaughtering was spoiling the value of our leather.

Another industry which I should like to see developed is pottery. A Social Welfare Officer has taken a course in England in this field and he thinks that a very large industry can be established in this country, catering

for local consumption as well as export. All this type of activity is very good for the small man and will bring peace and contentment to him.

Finally, Sir, I should like to say that in order to put this development plan into operation, and in order to gain the co-operation of the people throughout the country, we must obtain the people's confidence. We can obtain this confidence and co-operation by going to them and explaining things—His Excellency has already set a good lead in this respect, and I know as a fact he is going to visit other areas. The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines and the Member for Labour, Health and Housing should go and do likewise—we want them to experience a little discomfort. Then, I am sure, the development will go through easier.

**Mr. Bobb:** I heartily support the motion before this Council, and I cannot do so without adding my quota of congratulation and appreciation to the hon. the Member for Agriculture for the lucid manner in which he presented the motion, and for the very helpful comments he has been making right through the debate in order to give everyone present—Members of the Council as well as the general public—an indication of the course the motion will take, and of the objectives he has in mind. Both for its historical value and for the purpose of giving all parties some idea of the comparative size of the present development programme, I think it was a good thing that he did make such exhaustive reference to the first five years of development.

I think it was timely and encouraging not only for the fact that many of us were in the dark, but that many outside would not have been so informed as they are now about what has been done in the past. Not many

of us know that for the past five years there has been in operation a carefully planned programme and that a great deal has been achieved. Someone has already laid the blame on lack of sufficient publicity; but it is not merely a lack of sufficient publicity as a lack of effective and arresting publicity. We have so far been depending upon the Press, the Radio and to a certain extent, the B.P.I. Where we have fallen down terribly is seen in the fact that in the past it did not seem necessary for the legislators of that day to go to the people to explain to them what had been done and get their active co-operation, and accept their criticism.

I do not think the recent events would have accomplished anything worthwhile unless they had brought home to the legislators of today and tomorrow very forcibly that no longer will British Guiana be led by any kind of remote control, by which I mean, the kind of leadership which is confined to service in the Council, on certain committees—and I do not discredit those who have served in these fields notably and well. I do not think the country as a whole know the work that has been put in by people in the past. Certain matters have been mentioned and one can add many more, but the people did not know and they were ready to accept not only what was told to them but the interpretation which was conveniently presented to them in one way or another on what was actually done; and I am enlarging on this point because I think that it is rightly a part of the Two-Year Development Programme, this question of publicity and of getting the active co-operation of our people, this question of sitting with them, talking with them and allowing them to criticise and getting their minds cleared up on matters of great doubt.

The important difference between these days and the days gone is that people not only know that they are entitled to know what is going on, but they anxiously take measures to discover what is going on, and I believe that unless this and future governments are quite prepared to assist the people in obtaining information, much of the work is going to be lost; and unless we are prepared to lead people on the spot and change their ideas as far as possible, I say most emphatically, from the depths of my heart, that the time has come to change our ideas about the type of leadership the people want.

I have been up and down the country in my capacity as a Minister of Religion, and I discover things for myself. I am absolutely alarmed at certain revelations that have been brought home to me. While I am not here to criticise I am here to urge my colleagues that our people are wide awake. If the right leaders are going to come forward, well and good, if not, with all our sincerity and our good doings we will end up in a state worse than that in which we were in the past.

There has been one important criticism made here not so long ago relating to rumours of non-co-operation. This morning I noticed the headlines in one of the daily newspapers. What value these headlines have for the outside world is a matter for consideration, but there seems to be a growing apprehension that there is or is going to be started a campaign of non-co-operation. Well, for my part, it is an unfounded fear. I do not discount the idea that there are persons in this country who, because they love their country so well they would dare to embark upon a campaign of non-co-operation, even if it is to swerve the loyalty of others. But from what I have seen up to last night and from

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what I have heard, I think the truth of the matter is that people are anxious and are in earnest to 'cash in' on this programme to get the best results for themselves and the country. I say again, we only have to go out among the people to know how true this is. As Members of this Council, as Members with portfolios we should — and heads of other Government Departments—we should begin to realise that things have reached fever heat and we should get things going. I think the hon. Member, Colonel Haywood's words should not be despised.

I should next like to refer to the Regional Development Committees about which there has also been some criticism. I make no apology for referring to this, because I think this is the non-physical part of the Development Programme which has to be watched. My information is that this programme is going to be operated along three parallel lines. One line ends with the Development Secretary, another with the B.G. Credit Corporation, and the third with the regular channel of Government as we have it now. That is my information—that applications of a certain order and of a certain type will go to the Development Secretary, and that applications for loans for any kind of enterprise, small or great, will go to the Credit Corporation of which Dr. Duthie is the present head, and we know he is doing wonderful work in laying the necessary foundation in consultation with the hon. Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines (Sir Frank McDavid) and the other members of the Economic Council. That is my information.

The point I wish to make is that the personnel of the Regional Develop-

ment Committees has been announced with the object of getting assistance for ordinary people, and that those members of the Committees would be expected to recommend or share in the execution of loans which may be agreed upon. I think even before this Legislature passes the necessary instrument the people should be given a little more information in order to save them sending applications in all kinds of circuitous and devious ways, and to save them the disappointment and frustration which some people are already suffering. Let the facts be known in time, before the enemies of this programme begin to work. That is how I see it, and if there is anything the hon. Member for Agriculture can let this Council know concerning these matters, I think the information would be most welcome.

I am told that in an attempt to absorb in some measure the offices of the Co-operative Credit Banks there is going to be need for more staff and things of that kind, and that there has already been an endeavour to assess the needs of the country by the number of applications which are coming in. It is because I have certain information about one or two things that I claim your indulgence, Sir, to repeat: Let the people know the facts. I further claim your indulgence to repeat that there is going to be no non-co-operation policy to defeat this plan. If by non-co-operation we mean the people who will seek assistance I think we have to be very watchful about those things.

The criticism that on some of the Regional Development Committees certain interests are not being represented is not altogether to be discounted. The hon. Member, Mr. Lee, referred to two Committees but did not name them.

There is one which is going to function in a farming community which is 90 per cent. farmers, but there is not a farmer on that Committee. That is already causing a lot of dissatisfaction. There are on that Committee persons interested in other ways, but no one would dare to suggest that they are farmers. I respectfully suggest that, giving all the credit to the work done by the District Commissioners, the personnel of these Committees should be revised. We cannot afford to begin on the wrong foot, and wherever it is possible to have—as in the case I mentioned people who represent the largest interests in a community represented by one of their own—one of the humble ones, as the hon. Mr. Gajraj referred to just now—I think the time is just fitting to do it and so remove any trouble that might be caused.

It will be agreed that after these Regional Development Committees get going there is going to be a considerable amount of work expected of this Legislature. Perhaps the hon. mover of the motion will be able to tell us just how Members of this Council, especially the Unofficial Members, are tied up with the work of the Regional Development Committees. I personally would like to know whether 24 men and women of this Council are just expected to examine applications and schemes, vote, reject or alter them, and just how they will be tied up with the work of the Regional Development Committees. The hon. Member, Mr. Carter, made one suggestion, and there may be other worthwhile suggestions, but in keeping with what I said earlier, I think that some direct and effective working link must be established, perhaps by some measure of distribution, between this Council and the Regional Development Committees.

There is the danger, of course, of any work that may be contributed by Members of this Council being regarded as electioneering tactics, but in this, as in other instances, we have to expose ourselves to that kind of criticism and get down in all earnestness to doing something worthwhile in order to assist as far as we can in those areas of which we have close, accurate and intimate knowledge, so as to get the Committees working in the best possible way.

I throw no aspersion at all on the ability of the men on the spot. Rather I wish to bring home the point that there has been a definite and vital working link between the Regional Development Committees and this Council. I know there are two hon. Members of this Council on two of those Committees, but if my interpretation is right they are there by reason of their residence in the areas and nothing else, and I know they are going to do very valuable work. Because of their interest they are going to bring to bear all their influence and knowledge in order that these schemes might fructify. But I am thinking of the whole Council. We have to work, we need to work, and our people are expecting us to work.

I pass on to another subject. I would like to have an assurance that in another place we are going to deal in detail with many of these schemes. Therefore my remarks are going to be more or less general and confined to policy. I want to refer to the matter of land settlement. We have the benefit not only of the report of the International Bank Mission but also the last available report by Mr. F. A. Brown on the subject. Mr. Brown sees the need for a land settlement programme, and endorses fully the International Bank Mission's opinion in that respect. He envisages that in this programme we have to take active steps to ensure that

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new lands taken up will be properly used, and the aim is to settle farming communities in the most beneficial way.

Mr. Brown hints that attention must be given to those persons already settled on riverain lands, and it is to those persons as well as to others on the coastal belt I wish particularly to refer. If, according to Mr. Brown's report, there is to be a Land Settlement Board, it appears to me that that Board would do well to consider that there are several hundreds of people on the banks of the rivers and on the coastal belt who have been for years endeavouring to eke out a living under most unfavourable conditions for most of them, and those people are expecting that whatever programme of development is put forward, they are going to be taken care of first. For instance, the people in the Mahaica and Mahaicony rivers, in the Victoria-Belfield areas, to name a few places of the same type, have been trying their best to live at a certain standard which we are all now satisfied is not a proper standard, and it follows only logically that if something is going to be done in a big way for land settlement we must give prior attention to the needs of those people who have invested in lands and already have crops growing, and are naturally looking to this Development Programme for some measure of relief.

In saying all this I wish to underline the need for a Drainage and Irrigation Department to take vigorous steps to help those people to resolve their particular difficulties. I should not like to feel that attention is not going to be given to the completion of the Boerasirie scheme. We have started and we must finish it. I have told some of my audiences that I should not like to know that a lot of attention is going to be given to the Block III and Torani

canal schemes which involve shifting of the population, without due attention being given to giving the people on the spot the fullest possible benefits of those schemes by means of a suction dredge, as suggested by the hon. Member, Mr. Jailal, or any other means which have already been thought out and accepted in principle as coming from experts who have visited this country. There is no need for me to point out the moral value of that. At once you are going to make contented and satisfied a number of people who for very good reasons are now the seat of much agitation. Once these things are attended to, I feel, we will have taken a step on the up-grade for prosperity and happiness in this country. I cannot entertain — perhaps I do not have enough expert knowledge — the idea of striking out on brand new projects of such large dimensions without having some short term view which involves giving attention to the peasantry, who have been labouring under adverse conditions for a long time, in order that they may get the best possible results.

There is another item I would like to refer to. Under Education we know that we are going to spend over \$½ million, and we are going to spend that money mainly on better school buildings and more school buildings. I am very disappointed to find that whereas in other respects physical changes are contemplated as well as changes in the attitude of the people who are to benefit from those particular changes, when it comes to the education set-up we are going to have better school buildings and more school buildings but the plan for reforming the system of education is not going parallel with that. Is it not time for us, since we are going to start on these buildings and are going to site buildings in different areas, to get that Committee which sat when the

Ten-Year Development Programme was planned and made certain recommendations—if not the same personnel, with the same terms of reference—to review the whole education system? We must sympathize with views, such as those expressed by the hon. Member, Mr. Raatgever, a minute ago. There is a terrible need for doing something to give the lads and lasses — our coming men and women—of proved ability better opportunities within and outside the Colony. But to award scholarships, good as these scholarships or bursaries may be, is only a method of touching the matter lightly. Good as they may be it does not go to the heart of the matter. Something is wrong with our general system of education.

When, do I ask, we are going to regard this matter seriously enough as to work out a plan, even if it means experimenting with the plan in some areas, as our sister Colony of Jamaica is trying to do? When are we going to begin? Unless we do something of the kind we are going to be in the same position ten years later on as we are at present. With better school buildings and, perhaps, better teachers, but the same kind of curriculum, the same kind of educational process, we would be in precisely the same position. That is to say, at the ages of 14 to 16 the boys and girls would be leaving school with no definite place to go to, a larger number of them not being able to go to costly educational institutions and many hundreds of them never absorbed in industries. We are going to be just where we are now.

But if that is not a fair estimate and if it is said in reply that any industry may absorb them, what manner of people are we going to send in that industry? What contribution can they make of an enduring nature, unless there is going to be a satisfactory preparation which would be a necessary

part of a reformed educational system? We have a disjointed system, so to speak. We have valuable work being done by all our schools, no one can deny, but there is need now for integration, need for a new slant, and I daresay, I say nothing new in this Council today. I may just remind hon. Members of efforts made not so long ago to point out how the new slant can be given, and while some of us who are intimately concerned with Education may be in doubt as to those methods being successfully applied, the people are awakened to the need for a change in the whole education set-up in this Colony.

Let us not be deceived that all is well. Not only among the teachers but I am talking of the adults and the young people who are thinking and are being made to think in a certain way, and unless something concrete, practical and urgent is undertaken I fear, Sir, that with all the changes in the physical environments which we envisage by the spending of these sums of money we are going to have our human resources poor, and we are going to find that while we have beautiful houses for our people to live in we have not put the people we want to live in them. I urge, therefore, very strongly that those responsible for action in this direction will begin to see this thing in the light I am trying to convey.

**The Chief Secretary:** I do not want to interrupt the hon. Member, but I am interested to know what new slant the hon. Member is advocating; what changes he has in mind?

**Mr. Bobb:** I would like to say that the slant I see is to have something less academical than we have now. The primary school system is distinctly an academical one; whatever we see. There is handicraft teaching for two half-hours in a whole week. That is a joke, with all due credit to the ability of the teachers and the ability of the children who absorb it. I understand

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it does not take the children anywhere practically. The value of most of those things to them later on is practically nil: we need to have a curriculum in which the emphasis is going to be more on vocational training, and if after the primary school we have the vocational school taking one stream of children not of the grammar school type and the grammar school absorbing another set of children from which school they emerge to the University standard, we would be especially preparing the children to suit the economy of the Colony.

At the present time what is the point of sending children at the age of 14 off to some other school to learn shorthand and typewriting for them to come back in three years' time for a job when we know quite well there is no chance of such a job? What is the point of asking children who have a definite technical bias to go to a secondary school, which their parents cannot afford, to absorb languages and non-technical subjects and to finish up with commercial subjects and then to start the employment search again? I am afraid we have reached the stage when many of us are becoming very unhappy with this kind of life. I think those people who have the job of writing recommendations for some of these people seeking employment must have their sympathy greatly taxed, for in many cases we know they are on a fruitless hunt.

I can only see some future for the Education of this country when there is a definite vocational bias—not something just put in but something included in the curriculum from the beginning. It has been done in other places, and there is no question that it can be done here. Some people have tried in an experimental way and have succeeded. I think the time has come when we should pool the resources of the people

of this country, the people who have the ability to do something that would be of interest and value to other people. I should not like to be found guilty, like the hon. Mr. Gajraj, of being a lengthy speaker, but there is one last point I want to refer to. It follows on this matter of unemployment.

When we go from this Development Programme we find that all the employment that may be offered would not create a small dent in the unemployed and employable numbers of this country, but we recognize the fact that we are now laying the foundation for greater expansion. There are many able persons who still have to bide their time in a way, and we can be certain that when the money is in circulation some people who cannot find anything to do with a little bit of enterprise would be able to eke out a living. But we also have on record a number of valuable reports of all kinds of industries, and those reports have been the subject of admirable comment in the Press and in public speeches here and there. Unfortunately we are not able to say yet—I hope we shall be able to say soon — that something tangible has been done in order to create more employment.

I want to take this opportunity of supporting those hon. Members who are so keen that private enterprise should be given every possible encouragement to come into this country, and to come with all the advantages that one can possibly give them, in order to build up the economy of this country. As I see it, side by side with the execution of this Development Programme, as we have it, must go out the invitation and the attraction for private enterprise to develop the resources of our country. I am not referring to people outside the Colony only. I wish I was capable to sound a call to those

in the Colony who are able to pool their resources—if not by one or two men then by co-operative venture, because by means of co-operative effort it is possible to get the assistance required, technical and financial and otherwise—in order that there may be a step forward in this direction. Indeed, one of the industries that needs to be carefully looked into — and I think it comes within the portfolio of the Member for Agriculture — in order that some assistance should be given to it—is the pig-rearing industry.

I have some information here which tells me that the Government, working through the Cane Grove-La Bonne Mere land settlement scheme last year, was able to make a profit of \$12,394.59 on copra. The amazing thing is that they were able to take advantage of the selling price of copra—11½c. per lb.—and make a profit of 7c., so that the cost to them was only 4½c. That means a profit of 4½c. on every three nuts because, according to their figures, three nuts produce a pound of copra. At that rate, 1,000 nuts would only cost them \$15. That sounds to me ridiculous, compared with the price outside, but it is possible because they are producing in a big way. It is impossible for the small copra dealers to make anything like that. I have been thinking for a long time how this problem could be tackled in order to assist the small man. According to these people, the man of means can produce copra at a great advantage—making a large profit—but the small man cannot do so.

I think it is time for the Department of Agriculture to come to the help of these small people by providing them with a kiln in a central area to which they could take their dry nuts and produce co-operatively, thus deriv-

ing a profit from their operations. In this way also they would be able to get in touch with the group of manufacturers of crude oil and get their support. These people are content to produce the oil which brings them no profit, because they say they would get some sort of returns in the form of feed for their pigs. These are items which I think should be tackled urgently and at once. There are areas in this country which I think can be profitably used for settling people and letting them engage themselves in pig-rearing and things of that kind. I make that appeal to the Member for Agriculture—with his known interest in the Colony and his ability in his field—to organize practically anything—to look favourably upon these people who have been working at such great disadvantage all these years — and to assist them to get a greater margin of profit than they could possibly get all this time.

I think, Sir, that the same thing applies to the tributors who are also called porkknockers. They want assistance, but I do not know that the assistance which would be most helpful should be just mutual assistance. These men must be brought into a co-operative. That is the answer to their problem in such places as England and Scotland. It is the answer to the problem in Jamaica, and it could also be the answer to the problem in this Colony. Probably the Commissioner of Lands and Mines can give me the answer, but I am still wondering if these men have enough multifarious means to go about. At any rate, my personal opinion is that they should be assisted in a co-operative way, and that by such means British Guiana could hope to achieve a bright future. We have to co-operate in this

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Council, and we must teach the people outside our circuit the value of co-operation. When we have done that, there will be no doubt as to the outcome.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think this would be a convenient moment to adjourn. At any rate, those Members who in-

tend to speak today can hardly express their views in the time remaining. I propose to adjourn until tomorrow, at 2 p.m., as it is difficult to do otherwise. I know that some Members have engagements for this evening.

Council adjourned to 2 p.m., on the following day, Friday, March 26.