

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

*Wednesday, 20th October, 1937.*

The Council met at 10.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment, His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, Mr. E. J. Waddington, C.M.G., O.B.E., President, in the Chair.

## PRESENT.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, (Acting) (Major W. Bain Gray, C.B.E.).

The Hon. F. Dias, O.B.E. (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. E. F. McDavid, M.B.E., Colonial Treasurer.

The Hon. F. J. Seaford, O.B.E., (Georgetown North).

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

The Hon. J. I. De Aguiar (Central Demerara).

The Hon. M. B. Laing, District Commissioner, East Demerara.

The Hon. B. N. V. Wase-Bailey, Surgeon-General (Acting).

The Hon. L. G. Crease, Director of Education (Acting).

The Hon. H. P. Christiani, M.B.E., Commissioner of Lands and Mines.

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

The Hon. J. Eleazar (Berbice River).

The Hon. Peer Bacchus, (Western Berbice).

The Hon. E. M. Walcott (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. C. R. Jacob (North Western District).

The Hon. A. G. King (Demerara River).

The Hon. S. H. Seymour (Western Essequibo).

The Hon. J. W. Jackson (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. H. G. Seaford, O.B.E., (Nominated Unofficial Member).

The Hon. W. S. Jones (Nominated Unofficial Member).

## MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th October, as printed and circulated, were confirmed.

## ESTIMATES, 1938.

The Council resumed discussion on the following motion :—

THAT, this Council approves the Estimates of Expenditure to be defrayed from Revenue during the year ending 31st December, 1938, which have been laid on the table.

Mr. JACOB: When the Council adjourned yesterday afternoon I was endeavouring to point out that it was not quite equitable for the residents of the Essequibo district to contribute towards the sugar industry directly and indirectly because they got practically no benefit from that industry in the Essequibo district. The residents of Essequibo are contributing in various ways, and I observe on page vii. of the Estimate that the sugar duty estimated to be collected next year is \$200,000. I am submitting that that item of revenue could well be left out of next year's revenue, and I do so for this reason. In your speech, sir, you gave us figures showing a probable surplus of \$667,515, and stated that there was likely to be a surplus of \$606,783 at the end of 1938. When the sugar duty was levied in 1932 it was done as a temporary measure. It was levied in order to aid the sugar industry in some measure and to augment revenue. I submit that that object has been achieved and that as from next year no further sugar duty should be levied. There are various factors which support this conclusion. but it is only necessary for me to mention just a few at this stage. It must be borne in mind that the sugar industry is our staple industry. I have that always in my mind, and while I must concede that one or two of the sugar interests are doing all they can, not only to continue the production of sugar but to continue with other industries, there are others who are doing prac-

tically nothing for the Colony except to take out of the Colony all they make on sugar. That has been a hindrance to this Colony all these years and a perpetual drain on its resources.

I wish to refer to the *Daily Argosy* of today, page 4, in which the price of foreign sugar is quoted in London at 6/6 per cwt. which is 1.4 cents per lb. The preferential value of British sugar is 2.2 cents per lb., which means that the sugar industry gets a guaranteed preference of 3/9 per cwt. The large firms of this country should contribute towards that preference. In addition to that guaranteed preference there is a special preference of £3 per ton guaranteed by the Imperial Government for a certain quantity of colonial sugar entering the market, which was 60,000 tons last year. Those are two advantages the sugar industry gets from the taxpayers, and in addition there is a temporary Sugar Ordinance passed in 1932 which gives the sugar producers further help. I beg to state emphatically that the time has come when that help should cease, especially in view of the fact that the sugar industry distributes nothing in the County of Essequibo.

If the history of Essequibo were taken into account, and if I said things I know it would make very sorry reading. When help was required for Essequibo this Government appointed a Commission which recommended a certain kind of help. Government approved of the recommendations of that Commission but for some reason or another that help is not yet forthcoming. As a matter of fact the proposals of this Government were turned down by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and I am informed on the best authority that that decision was arrived at by one of His Majesty's Ministers on private advice got in London. I submit with all confidence that in spite of the present Constitution and the fact that we have to approach the Secretary of State for approval, no Minister of State has the privilege to turn down the unanimous request of this Government. There is something seriously wrong and representation should be made to the Imperial Government to ascertain why that help was not given. This is a very serious matter and it is known now to the Government that the whole Essequibo Coast is

collapsing; the residents are starving for the want of an expenditure of about half a million dollars—money we have on the Colonization Fund which should have been spent in Essequibo. A Committee has now been appointed to go into the question of how the \$400,000 appropriation from the Colonization Fund should be spent. While these things are good for some of us they are not good for the inhabitants of British Guiana. I urge Government to investigate why and how these proposals were turned down by the Secretary of State.

I was dealing yesterday with the North West District particularly, and I would like to refer to one or two matters more. That district pays taxation like every other district and is entitled to services for that taxation. At the last annual session I pointed out to Government that the District Commissioner in the North West District was not capable. I am not saying anything against the officer concerned; I consider him one of the best officers of Government. I urged that he was not capable of carrying out all the various duties assigned to him, and suggested that some other officer be appointed to assist him. I believe, and I think I am right in saying that some assurance was given, but whether an assurance was given or not, what has Government done? Government has removed that officer and has put a medical officer there to do all the work. Instead of appointing an additional officer to the district Government has removed the one and put another in his place. Government might well have appointed the Surgeon-General to be Colonial Secretary, or the Commissioner of Lands and Mines to be Director of Agriculture. That is how this Government is run. A single individual is appointed to look after the whole district, and what do we find? The result is that there are irregularities. It is a scandal that the district should have one officer who does everything, and I strongly urge that an officer who is qualified in law should be appointed to dispense justice in the district.

On the question of education I observe that there is to be increased expenditure. I think it is within Government's knowledge that there are thousands of children who cannot find accommodation in the various schools. There has been great

agitation in the Press and in other quarters that the Compulsory Education Ordinance should be more rigidly enforced. The East Indian Association and other bodies have been making strong representations that the laws in force should be put into execution. What is Government's information in regard to the matter I do not know, but my information is that the laws are not being enforced as they ought to be. Any money spent on education is money very well spent indeed, and I suggest that every effort be made to put all children of school age in the schools. Additional inspectors or educational officers should be employed to see that all the children go to school, otherwise sooner or later there will be more trouble to face.

On the question of education generally, I do not share the general view that the primary schools do not turn out the children that should be turned out. I think that a little curtailment of the curriculum is necessary. Subjects like history and geography might well be left out of the primary schools where the children should be taught to read, write and speak correctly. As regards the secondary schools I must refer to the accommodation at Queen's College and ask what is Government's proposal? I do not think I have heard any proposals from Government on the subject. I respectfully submit that with the expenditure of a few thousand dollars the accommodation at Queen's College can be improved. If later on it is found that another site is required and a better building—in my opinion no better building is required—another site could be found, but to say that the present building cannot be extended is beyond my comprehension. There again, like the Transport Board, elected members of this Council are on the Board of Governors.

After all 42 per cent. of the population of this Colony are East Indians and I cannot understand why the Hindi language is not included in the curriculum of secondary education when foreign languages are included. Hindi is just as live as French, and while I do not say that French should be excluded from the curriculum I respectfully submit that if the matter is investigated it will be found that Hindi ought to be included. It is a language which is

spoken by over 300 millions of people in the world, and by about 25 per cent. of the population in this Colony. Why shouldn't the population of this Colony have the privilege of learning Hindi in the secondary schools? Maybe the suggestion was not made before, but I make it now.

I think I should say something about the rice industry. (laughter). In your speech, sir, you stated:—

"I cannot but think that the difficulties that beset an investigation into the rice industry arise largely from the fact that so many persons interested in the industry hold the most uncompromising opinions as to its organisation and regard the matter entirely from an individual point of view. I would urge such persons to realise that the Colony's point of view deserves first consideration; and that while there may be several ways of achieving the same end—namely the stability and prosperity of the industry—none of them will have a full measure of success unless it has the unqualified support of all interested parties."

I am sorry that those words are in your address—"individual point of view." I do agree that they are correct (Hear, hear) and that in reply to a letter from me Government emphasised the point that it must be from the individual point of view. The Rice Marketing Board Ordinance of 1935, section 6 (2) provides:—

"The Committee shall consist of six persons chosen by the Governor in Council after consulting the bodies of persons interested in the rice industry."

There is a law which says that those persons interested in the rice industry must advise Government, but when I as one of those advisers go there and advise Government in the interest of the industry, not in my own interest, I am told "You are here to represent yourself and no industry at all." In effect that is what I was told. I wrote Government a letter because I did not want to be put in any false position, and Government replied to me on September 21 as follows:—

"With reference to your letter dated 7th September 1937, enquiring as to whom you represent as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Rice Marketing Board, I am directed to inform you in reply that members of this Committee are not appointed to represent any person or body; they are appointed to give the Board the benefit of their knowledge and experience of the industry."

One of the sections of the Ordinance says that members of the Advisory Com-



mittee must take an oath. I interpret that oath to mean that I am not to use my position there for the making of money, but I do not interpret it to mean that I cannot offer constructive criticism.

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: I would like to know on what subject this debate is proceeding at the present moment.

Mr. JACOB: For the benefit of my friend, I am speaking on page vii. of the Estimate—Licences—Rice Factory. (laughter).

Mr. SEAFORD: I have not heard a word yet about licences for rice factories.

Mr. JACOB: The Rice Marketing Board does not receive the benefit of communal representation at all; it receives the benefit of individual representation, and no commercial undertaking which receives individual representation can work in the interest of a community. That is one of my main points, but I should like to emphasise the point that when the industry asked for help in 1932 it asked for substantial things—reduction of ocean freight rates, reduction of freight and handling charges within the Colony, suspension of grading and Marketing Board fees, and an Imperial grant to purchase machinery for planting, harvesting and milling rice. I am going to disappoint some of my friends because I am not going to say too much on the rice question. I am just going to say that the industry is not coming well and requires the right kind of help, not the help it is supposed to get at the present time. A glance at the production figures will bear that out. Every other industry in the Colony, compared with the rice industry under normal conditions, has progressed in some way, but the rice industry has not. I do urge on Government to come to a decision early, and to leave the industry severely alone if it does not intend to help it in any way by means of drainage and irrigation and loans from the Imperial Government.

Mr. H. G. SEAFORD: I have listened to the address given by the hon. member for the Colony of British Guiana with a great deal of sorrow, for the reason that it will be published and people in other countries may come to the conclusion that members of this Council speak on subjects

of which they know nothing. I wish, however, to deal with one or two of the misstatements made by the hon. member. He mentioned that at some other place he made recommendations with regard to the coffee industry. In fact he read the recommendations he made. It is interesting to note that those very recommendations were made by the Department of Agriculture exactly one year ago. Whether the hon. member had seen them or not I do not know. It may be a coincidence. Those recommendations were turned down by Government. I am not quite sure of my facts now but the Director of Agriculture can contradict me if I am wrong. I think Government would not assist the coffee industry because Government felt it was no use subsidising any industry in which there was no future; it would be money thrown away to subsidise that industry. Furthermore he stated that he did not know whether his letter had been sent in. A telephone message to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce would have given him that information. The delay was due to the fact that the figures supplied by him to the Secretary were incorrect and had to be altered. Those are the facts.

The freight rate on coffee is about 60/- per ton, sugar about 25/-, and gold about £2,000 per ton. The *ad valorem* duty on coffee is 9 per cent., sugar 15 per cent., and gold under 1 per cent. If, therefore, you are going to compare rates of freight you must take into consideration the value of the commodity, because it is quite unfair to class higher priced goods with articles of lower value.

With regard to the comparison of local freight rates, the freight on rice from New Amsterdam I think is 10 cents per bag or about \$1.20 per ton roughly. The freight on a bag of sugar from Enmore (a distance of 19 miles) is \$1.40 per ton, but on a bag of rice from Enmore the freight is 60 cents. The freight on sugar from Lusignan is \$1.35 per ton as compared with 50 cents on a bag of rice. We do not grudge that but I am simply showing that comparisons of freight rates cannot be made just on their face value. The whole question has to be gone into carefully, and that is being done by the Transport Board.

The last speaker (Mr. Jacob) has been

continually drawing comparisons between the assistance given to rice and to sugar. I personally deprecate, and I am sure other hon. members do too, that there should be anyone who is always trying to cause ill-feeling between industries. It seems to me that all industries should pull together, and if the last speaker had given some help to the rice industry it would have been in a better position than it is. I was told a story last night about a gentleman who bought a second-hand typewriter which was reported to be in excellent condition but the capital "I" had been worn out. I suggest the purchase of that typewriter for some of the speakers. (laughter).

Mr. DE AGUIAR: To my mind this debate, which was begun yesterday, is a departure from the usual custom. Therefore I must frankly admit that I am not in a position at this stage to offer any constructive criticism on the Estimates for 1938, or make any comments regarding Your Excellency's speech or the Budget speech. My recollection of what transpires in this Council is that after the Budget speech is delivered a Select Committee is appointed and members are given an opportunity to examine the figures. After that is done a general debate ensues, at which time members are in a better position to offer any assistance to Government. However, this debate has been allowed to continue and I shall endeavour to add my quota.

Speaking generally I am perfectly satisfied that an effort has been made within the last year to do what is possible for the good of this Colony. I am not a confirmed pessimist as some of the speakers who have preceded me, because I pay very strict attention to the business of this Council and I am satisfied that some little effort, at any rate, is being made to do something for the good of the Colony. I refer particularly to the surveys which were started last year and which I observe will be proceeded with during 1938. My only request is that that work should proceed as rapidly as possible. The reason of course is obvious and should be obvious to members who pay some attention to these matters. Unless we know exactly what we have got it is entirely useless attempting to create any new industries or to embark on any large undertaking.

It seems to me that Government is making a step in the right direction with these surveys and I only hope they will proceed as rapidly as possible. My criticism of Government on that point is that enough of it is not being done at present. For example, in 1937 the actual sum voted was \$200. I can well appreciate that the work was only being started, but for 1938 the sum of \$2,700 has been put on the Estimate for that work. Whether it is enough or not I do not know, but it seems to me that it is a start in the right direction.

That is all I am prepared to say at this stage on the general question, but I do wish to endorse the remarks that were made by my colleague of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce (Mr. H. G. Seaford) in reply to the criticism that was levelled at the Committee which was recently appointed by that body to make recommendations to Government regarding the coffee industry. It is regrettable that hon. members of this Council abuse the privilege that is afforded them to criticise organisations which, in my opinion, are endeavouring to do the best they can for this country. It is all the more regrettable that those members who offer such criticism are in a position to know better. The particular member in question was a member of the Committee appointed to consider that matter. The Chamber of Commerce went outside of its members and invited other persons who, in the opinion of the Chamber, were in a position to offer useful and valuable suggestions. I may mention that one of the persons I referred to happens to be a member of this Council, and I hope that if he is joining in the debate he will confirm my statements, although I do not think it will be necessary for him to do so because I feel sure my statements will be accepted, as they have always been accepted, and as I hope they will always be accepted whenever I make them in this Council. It is true that there was some slight delay in forwarding the recommendations to Government, but the hon. member knows that the delay was due to various reasons, and one of the reasons was the absence of the hon. member from Georgetown at the time. It seems to me that that member is too suspicious of his brethren, and if he would take a little bit of advice from me I should like to advise him that before attempting to cast—

Mr. JACOB: Has the hon. member the right to give me advice?

THE PRESIDENT: The hon. member is in order; he is replying to statements made by the hon. member.

Mr. JACOB: He goes further and is advising me, sir. (laughter).

Mr. DE AGUIAR: Perhaps my advice would be wasted, in which case I think it is best not to offer it. In this Council we are always given a sort of resume of the activities of the Rice Marketing Board. I do hope that later on I will be permitted to say something not only on the Rice Marketing Board but on the rice industry as a whole, because I observe that there is a motion before the Council which will come up for discussion very shortly. I cannot allow remarks to be made concerning the Rice Marketing Board without endeavouring to place the true picture before the members of this Council. But before I do that I should like to say that the hon. member who made those remarks seems to me to be a dissatisfied person. To use a term which is often used, he should learn to play cricket. Can the hon. member reasonably expect that in a body of six or seven persons his solitary voice would be accepted against the remainder? That is the position with respect to the decisions arrived at by the Board.

Mr. JACOB: That is not so.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: The hon. member knows it is so. He is probably referring to one or two instances when perhaps I associated myself with him, and I do when I consider he is right.

THE PRESIDENT: I must ask the hon. member to deal with the question generally.

Mr. DE AGUIAR: I merely mentioned that to show that the criticisms of the activities of the Board should not be made in the way they are, or even expressed in this Council. I know Government is fully informed on the subject but I do repeat that when those statements get abroad they are apt to be misunderstood, and it is well that those who are endeavouring to correct them should do so as soon as circumstances permit.

I would like to join the hon. member in his appeal for some assistance for the coffee industry. I can assure you, sir, that the matter was very carefully considered and several suggestions were put forward, some of which were found to be impracticable. The final suggestions that were made were put forward after very careful consideration of the subject. It must be remembered that a substantial portion of this particular industry is in a very remote part of the Colony. There are a large number of families engaged in it and there can be no doubt about it that from the figures submitted the industry appears to be languishing. Anything that can be done to husband the existing cultivation or maintain it at its present level should be done in order to keep the industry going.

Mr. KING: May I also join the last two speakers in their appeal to Government to do something to help the coffee industry of the Colony. A portion of the coffee industry is carried on in the district which I represent, and I know only too well the suffering caused by the low price of coffee, and to a certain extent the lack of support given to that industry is causing serious difficulty in the district. The people in the Canals Polder rely considerably on the coffee industry for their living, and I hope Government will grant the request made to help the industry. I have had the honour to be asked to serve on the Committee which has produced the recommendations now before Government, and I do hope in all sincerity that Government will see its way to help the industry which, I feel sure, will in a year or two disappear altogether if not supported. The loss of any agricultural product is a loss which the Colony can ill afford, and if by means of financial help the industry can be saved until perhaps it can be rehabilitated I feel sure Government would not be doing anything wrong in spending that money in an endeavour to save the industry. I do make an earnest and sincere appeal on behalf of the coffee industry that Government will do everything in its power to keep it alive. The hon. member for Berbice River (Mr. Eleazar) is a super-optimist. He looks forward to this Colony raising a loan of £20,000,000, somewhere in the world, for the purpose of fostering and improving its agricultural products.



Mr. ELEAZAR: For the development of the Colony and all its resources.

Mr. KING: May I ask that Government allocate some portion of that loan to the coffee industry? (laughter.) If perchance we are unfortunate enough not to raise that loan I am asking Government in any case to give the coffee industry some financial help to enable it to continue its existence, which I feel sure will in time justify itself. All industries throughout the world have at times had their bad days, and a little assistance has tided them over. I think that the coffee industry, if supported, will rehabilitate itself and continue to provide a living for several hundred, if not thousands of residents in this Colony.

Mr. WALCOTT: I would like to associate myself with the remarks made by the last two speakers with regard to the coffee industry, but I also think that in fairness to the industry I should say that the people themselves are very largely to blame for the very poor price obtained, because they do not pay sufficient attention to the cleaning of the coffee before placing it on the market. Perhaps more than in any other way Government can help the Canals Polder and the North West and Pomeroun districts by putting in up-to-date machinery which would enable them to clean their coffee really well. It would add at least a penny per lb. to the price.

When the hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) spoke yesterday and to-day I heard him make a lot of unfair criticism as regards the protection given to sugar as compared with other industries of the Colony. I would like to call his attention to the fact that coffee gets a larger preference in Great Britain and Canada than sugar does. Coffee gets a preference of 3 cents per lb. in Canada as against 1 cent on sugar. Perhaps the next time the hon. member is talking or making comparisons he will bear that in mind, because he will not have the excuse of saying he did not know. With the exception of rice, all of the smaller products of this Colony get larger protection under the British and Canadian preferential tariffs than sugar does, but the misfortune is that we produce in the British Empire more coconuts,

more coffee and more rice than the Empire uses, whereas in the case of sugar we produce less than the Empire uses and therefore we can get the full benefit of the preference.

I have also heard the hon. member for North Western District make reference to the failure of Essequibo, the fact that the North West District is now perishing, and so on, and that the rice industry is also in a very parlous condition. It seems strange that Essequibo has during recent years lost so much ground, but it seems to me a coincidence that ever since the hon. member for the North Western District has been associated with Essequibo that County has been going down (laughter), and it would seem from his own remarks that the same thing applies to the North West District and certainly to the rice industry. (laughter). He also said it was very unfortunate that Government should have appointed the Commissioner for the North West District it had done. I do not know who the Commissioner is, and I do not wish to, but it seems to me that the most unfortunate thing that has happened to the North West District is the fact that it has made the hon. member its representative. (laughter).

Mr. F. J. SEAFORD: There are one or two points I should like to refer to in the remarks of the hon. member for North Western District (Mr. Jacob) who said he was appealing to Government to take off the excise duty on sugar because the industry had got all the support it needed. I thought every legislator in this Colony would have known that the sugar industry does not get one cent from the excise tax on sugar. I am surprised that the hon. member does not know that. He suggested that the people in Essequibo should not pay the same taxation because they do not get any benefit from sugar. Unless we divorce Essequibo from the rest of the Colony I do not know how Government can legislate for Essequibo specially.

There was one more serious point made by the hon. member when he said that the ruination of the Colony was that all the money was going out of it, and hinted that this should be stopped by Government and the Colony would be much better.

We beg people from all over the world to come to the Colony and put capital into the country. Can we expect people to put capital into the Colony unless they can get some return on that capital? There are industries here which have done the Colony an infinite amount of good. I refer to the wonderful work of the bauxite industry. The gold industry is being developed now, and the money has come from outside. What would we do if that money was not spent here? The same thing applies to the timber industry. I am surprised that one who claims to be a legislator can still have such extraordinary ideas at the back of his mind.

The speaker referred to Queen's College and said he felt sure that with the expenditure of a little money the building could be repaired. I wonder if he has examined the building. I am sorry the Director of Public Works is not here to give him an idea of what it would cost to put the building in order. I happen to be one of the Governors of the College, and it has given us some very anxious moments to know how to house the boys there. We are told that the building cannot be repaired, yet we have the hon. member saying it is quite a simple matter. I think he should be put in charge of a Government department.

He also referred to the Development Committee appointed to consider schemes for the spending of the Colonization Fund. That is not the idea at all. The Committee has been appointed to consider schemes put before it; it is not to evolve schemes for the spending of the money. The money is there and Government will be advised by that Committee of any scheme to be prepared if it is worth while.

Mr. SEYMOUR: I did not anticipate that we were going to continue this debate as we have done, and I am not quite prepared. I thought the debate would have taken place after the Select Committee had considered the Estimates. If you can assure me, sir, that I will be given an opportunity to speak after the Select Committee has reported I will defer any remarks I have to make until that time arrives.

THE PRESIDENT: If the hon. member wishes he can speak when we go into

Committee of the whole Council after the Select Committee has reported.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: Before I formally move the appointment of a Select Committee I would like to assure hon. members who have spoken in regard to the coffee industry, and the members of the Council as a whole, that proposals of the Chamber of Commerce are before Government and are receiving the most careful attention in view of the importance of the matter. I formally move the appointment of a Select Committee of the Council to consider the Estimates for 1938.

Motion put, and agreed to.

#### SELECT COMMITTEE.

THE PRESIDENT: I appoint the Colonial Secretary, Chairman, Mr. McDavid (Colonial Treasurer) and the unofficial members of the Council to be a Select Committee to consider the Estimates.

#### MITCHELL TRUST BILL, 1937.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: In the absence of the Attorney-General I beg to move that "A Bill intituled an Ordinance to make provision for the future disposition of the charitable bequest contained in the will of Walter Mitchell, deceased, and for the administration of the assets now pertaining thereto" be read the first time.

Mr. DIAS seconded.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Notice was given that at the next meeting of the Council it would be moved that the Bill be read the second time. (*The Colonial Secretary*).

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY: When the Council adjourns I shall be grateful if members appointed to the Select Committee will remain behind in order to arrange for the business of that Committee.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.