

The State Council of Ceylon.

No. 39.

August 5, 1942.



DEBATES

SESSION OF 1942.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

Wednesday, August 5, 1942.

The Council met at 10 a.m., Mr. SPEAKER [THE HON. SIR WAITIALINGAM DURAISWAMY] in the Chair.

† APPROPRIATION BILL, 1942-43.

The debate on the following motion of Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka (Leader of the State Council) was continued:

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for the Public and Railway Services and the Electrical Undertakings for the financial year 1942-43, to authorize the payment by way of advance out of Revenue of moneys required during that financial year for specified purposes, and to provide for the refund of such moneys to Revenue", be now read a second time.

Mr. B. H. Aluwihare (Matale): Sir, yesterday I was dealing with the estimates of revenue and the sources of revenue. I was trying to point out that had there been an impartial levy of the excess profits duty last year, we would not be facing the next year with a deficit of something in the nature of Rs. 12,000,000, but rather we would be entering on the next year with a surplus of at least Rs. 7,500,000.

Now, this is important for another reason. You will remember that earlier in my speech I deplored the curtailment of social services—at least the stoppage of medical facilities mainly. Just prior to my speech, Sir, the hon. European Nominated Member (Mr. Newnham) rejoiced at the economy. Now, economy in social services at our present stage is a huge mistake, and any financial policy of preference given to any industries or any form of agriculture when it is making profits, a preference which causes a curtailment of essential social services, is, I think, wholly illegal—illegal is the wrong word—is I think wholly wrong. And I think that it is so wrong that it is not a matter which we should acquiesce in. It is something that makes one lose faith in the Board as a whole, because

it shows that the Board is prepared to give preference to certain industries and agriculture at the expense of the essential services that we owe to the people as a whole. That, I think, is one of the most undesirable features of the financial policy of the Board of Ministers.

This year again we are faced with the Excess Profits Duty Bill. The Excess Profits Duty Bill to-day again discriminates as mainly between plumbago and agriculture, and gives plumbago preferential treatment. I would like to know for what reasons and following what precedents that preference is given. I know that the Financial Secretary was probably told that in England such a preference is given. I would like to know whether English precedent is said to be followed in this exemption of plumbago. Why is it that this industry alone should be singled out? Is it that there are powerful interests influencing the Board of Ministers in that line?

Again, this preference is given at a time when we can ill-afford it, when we are faced with a deficit of something in the neighbourhood of Rs. 17,000,000—Rs. 17,000,000 which we are merrily going to put down to a Defence Loan, which again will increase the Rs. 10,500,000 on account of Loan expenditure annually.

Now, how is this putting down expenditure to posterity going to affect us? Let us look at it just for a moment.

Every year, during these war years and even before that, we have been putting down enormous amounts to Loan. First there was the Rs. 100,000,000 loan. Now, within the lifetime of this Council, I suppose every year of the war, we will be putting down about Rs. 15,000,000 to Loan. You might safely add, I think, another Rs. 100,000,000—Rs. 200,000,000 on account in the space of ten years!

We must remember that these wars, by the rules of history, occur every fifteen to twenty years. What is going to be our position if this loan is not repaid within the next fifteen to twenty years? It means another addition. It means that posterity is going to be burdened with an enormous expenditure on account of loan.

It is a pity the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs did not direct us to the extent to which the loans raised during the last war and immediately thereafter—to what extent those loans have been repaid

† For the Observations of the Financial Secretary and the Report of the Board of Ministers, see HANSARD of July 10, 1942.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) against the name of a Member indicates that his remarks have not been revised by him.]

[Mr. Aluwihare.]

now. I think he will find that we have a very good balance, and if we add that balance, we shall find we will be able to pay very little of this loan too before the end of the next war. Anyway, the fact remains that before the end of this war our Loan charges will, I suppose, be at least Rs. 15,000,000 or more.

Now, take our normal revenue for a normal year. I think the Hon. the Financial Secretary has said that it would be somewhere about Rs. 108,000,000—our normal revenue for a normal year, if prices remain at a fair average. I think in one of his statements he said “Rs. 108,000,000”. Out of Rs. 108,000,000, think of the position that you are going to be in if you pay Rs. 15,000,000 on account of loans that you have to re-pay. Couple that with the increase in Personal Emoluments. I suppose the expenditure on Personal Emoluments would be within about Rs. 40,000,000 to Rs. 44,000,000. What is going to be left for the expansion of services? Why are we not taxing the profits that are immediately available, especially, Sir, after the lesson of last year, the lesson of the repeal of the Estate Duty Ordinance?

We have to remember that this policy of taxation is the particular responsibility of the Board of Ministers. They have introduced this system of taxation in the teeth of the opposition of the Financial Secretary. We know that last year the Financial Secretary wanted the death duty introduced. [A MEMBER: Excess profits duty.] I beg your pardon. Last year the Financial Secretary wanted the Excess Profits Duty Bill introduced and he urged that agriculture and plumbago should be brought within the operation of that Bill. This year, if you judge by the way in which he read out the excuses for not including plumbago in the items subject to excess profits duty, I do not think you would be far wrong if you accept that he suggested again that plumbago should be included. I cannot help feeling that the Board of Ministers have once again given this preference to plumbago. Is it right for us to accept from the Board of Ministers a policy of marking time in regard to the essential services whilst they give preference to one of the industries that can pay? Well, in a year, this country has lost Rs. 24,000,000 by

giving preference to industries that could pay. I do not think we ought to allow the Board of Ministers to get away with it.

Prior to the outbreak of the war, the Board of Ministers always grumbled that it was the Executive Committees that prevented them from acting, that it was the Executive Committees that prevented their functioning with efficiency. They forgot that they were the creatures of the Executive Committees. There was a campaign against the Executive Committees. As a matter of fact, yesterday we had an example, where a Minister having had a measure passed by Defence Regulations did not take so much trouble as to inform this House of that fact. I do not know how far the vote in this House yesterday will curtail our capacity to learn what is happening. We shall probably cry afterwards. There is this point that hon. Members have to bear in mind, that the Ministers are using the Defence Regulations to ignore the Executive Committees. I think all of us, in every Committee, can point to instances where action has been taken and the public informed on matters long before the Executive Committee concerned was aware of anything. For instance, I think in this morning's papers I read that land was to be released near estates for food-production purposes. How many Members of the Executive Committee of Agriculture and Lands knew that? How many Members of the Executive Committee knew of the Tea Controller's announcement in the papers that manufacturers were going to be compelled to manufacture tea at 30 cents a lb.? That is only in regard to my Committee.

We had an instance from the Executive Committee of Labour. I do not know how far the Executive Committee of Health has acted in that manner. I do not know whether Members of the Executive Committee of Health had the regulations regarding venereal diseases placed before them before they appeared in the *Gazette*. I should like to know whether Members of the Executive Committee of Health knew about that before the notification appeared in the *Gazette*. And what did the Minister of Health say when I asked for an explanation? He said that if I had gone up to him privately and asked him about it he would have

told me. I am not here to go to the Minister of Health privately for information. I am here as a Member of this House. Whatever explanation I may ask from the Minister of Health, I have a right to obtain it on the Floor of this House. But that is the attitude of the Ministers towards Executive Committees. After the commencement of this war they have acted as Ministers, ignoring their Executive Committees. Why is that attitude adopted by them?

The Minister of Labour has come here and grumbled that he has been overruled with regard to the prices of commodities, time and again, by the Board of Ministers. So, you see that the Board of Ministers have acted as a body, and they must be saddled with a great deal of the inefficiency that we find in the vital services. The Minister of Health grumbles that money has not been released for the expansion of the services of his Department. It must be remembered that it is the Board, as a whole, that is acting.

One of the main reasons why the Board is not functioning efficiently is, I think, well known to us: it is that Members of the Board of Ministers are so jealous of each other that they do not function efficiently, that they are unable to agree among themselves or to co-operate. When this Council started, the Hon. the Leader of the House said, "I have chosen a Congress Board of Ministers. We will follow an agreed policy". What is the agreed policy they follow, I ask, when Ministers come here and say that they are not responsible? Who is responsible? Is it not time then that the Hon. Leader of the House really got around him a homogeneous Board.

I would go to the extent of suggesting to this House that a commission be given to one of the Members of the Board to choose his own Ministers, provided the Board of Ministers will act in consort and carry out an agreed policy. Within the Constitution, that can be done. I am certain the House can create the condition, the condition being that we appoint the Leader and give him the right to nominate his Ministers and his Executive Committees under our own Constitution. Once we follow that procedure those Ministers and that Leader will have to be accepted by the

Governor. That is how we can meet the present situation within the Constitution. That is how we can create a Board that has an agreed policy, a Board that obeys the Leader.

What is the position of the Board of Ministers to-day? Most of the Members of the Board of Ministers, I think, are waiting for the diminution of the Leader of the House. His, Sir, is really a struggle for existence. [Interruption.] That is a fact.

The Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka (Leader of the State Council): Nothing of the kind.

Mr. Aluwihare: You can delude yourself as much as you like. Everybody in this House knows that that is the actual, stark fact.

There is gross dissatisfaction against a good many of the Ministers and also against the apparent powerlessness of the Leader of the House over his colleagues. The Ministers say that this Budget is meant for approving the financial policy of the Board of Ministers. I think, both as regards the financial policy and their capacity to co-operate towards a common goal, they have failed; and therefore I think we ought even at this time to compel them to act in such a way as will not only ensure the proper functioning of the administration of the country but also serve our best interests.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne (Balapitiya): It is with a certain amount of trepidation, Sir, that I rise to make my first speech in this House. If in the course of my remarks I should appear to criticize the Board of Ministers, I should like to state at the very outset that I sought admission to this House because I felt that the Ministers have been able to achieve something for this country during the last eleven years and that Members of this Council too have been able to do something for the people of this country. If not for that feeling, I do not think I would have wanted to seek admission to this House.

I am full of admiration for the Ministers. During the last few weeks I have seen them pilot various Bills through the House with remarkable facility and get various Supplementary Estimates passed with great ease, in spite of attempts on

[Mr. Kularatne:]
the part of Members of this House to oppose them. I am full of admiration for the Officers of State, who are the representatives of our rulers here. I am also full of admiration for the Members of this House who are watchful of the interests of the people. [A MEMBER: What about the Speaker?] I am full of admiration for you, Sir—last though not least—because you so patiently listen to long speeches which are sometimes witty, sometimes naughty, and sometimes dull. So I do not want to be misunderstood. I want to point out that my only aim is to express my desire that the Ministers should do more than they have done for the people of this country.

I must frankly confess that I was both delighted and disappointed with what the Hon. Leader said when he introduced this Budget; delighted because it was a very short speech, but disappointed because I did not get the information that I hoped to get from him in explanation of the many intricate things that are to be found in this volume. To a new Member such explanation would have been exceedingly useful.

I have been looking over the pages of this volume. I had hoped that the Hon. Leader of the House would have told us, on behalf of the Board of Ministers, for example, why the interest on Government cash balances amounted to something like Rs. 1,000,000 in 1941-42 and is going to amount to Rs. 275,000 this year. I should like to have had some explanation because I do not know why we had an income of Rs. 2,000,000 from currency investments in 1940-41 but nothing this year. There are many figures of that type of which I should have liked some explanation. But the Hon. Leader has contented himself with spending Rs. 184,000,000 in twenty-five minutes. Unfortunately, his earning capacity is not so great. He has managed to earn only Rs. 167,000,000, with the result that we are faced with a deficit of Rs. 17,000,000.

The Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka: In 25 minutes that is a good achievement!

Mr. Kularatne: I must confess that the Hon. Leader is extravagant, spending over Rs. 7,000,000 in a minute. Yet he does not mind living on loans. I should

like to point out to him and to the Board of Ministers that at the end of this year there would probably have been no deficit at all if they had not presented Rs. 18,000,000 or more—my hon. Friend the Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) says it is Rs. 24,000,000—to agriculture and plumbago.

This Budget is an attempt to save Ceylon for the British Empire, and it is the intention of the Hon. Leader to make posterity, if possible, pay for our sins. I think it better to believe in the principle of making the sinners themselves pay, and I believe there are in the country just now people who are able to pay; and it would have pleased me more if the Board of Ministers had proposed to us necessary taxation to cover this deficit.

The Budget, to my mind, is a very uninteresting and very dull Budget. Personal Emoluments, War Expenditure, and Emergency Expenditure swallow up all our money. I, unlike a good many hon. Members of this House, have come here recently, having been in contact with the voters of my constituency, and I know what the people feel—perhaps a bit better than some Members who have been here for quite a long time. It is quite possible that they think that they are in contact with their constituencies. But it is only when we fight an election that we really come in contact with our constituency; it is only then that we consider our constituents our equals and listen to what they have to say.

I should like to tell you what some of the voters of my constituency said to me when I asked for their votes. They said, "Sir, we have on three occasions during the last eleven years sent Members to represent this constituency; we have lost our earnings for at least three days during the last eleven years. But we do not see that this sending of Members to Council has made any difference to our lives".

The other day, after my election, I was travelling by train to Colombo. I stopped at the Induruwa Station. Near about the Goods Shed there was a woman—one of my voters apparently—with two or three children. I looked at her and wondered whether she would recognize the new Member for Bala-pitiya. And strangely enough, she looked at me, and said, "Sir, we supported you and we hope you will not forget us".

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When I look at this Budget I wonder what I am going to tell her and people of that kind—what message I am going to give them. What is there in this Budget for the poor people of this country? Shall I be able to tell her that this Council has reduced the price of rice? Can I tell her that she can get cloth or foodstuffs at reasonable prices? Have we fixed a living wage for the labourers? Is the Hon. Minister of Education able to give free education, and books, to her children? Or has the Hon. Minister of Health given better health facilities—

***Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama):**
Babies.

Mr. Kularatne:—for the people, or have we made any provision at all for their old age?

I could tell her that the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs proposes to give her a thousand more Constables during the next year. Would that be of any comfort? I could tell her that we are fighting a war and the Board of Ministers feel compelled to spend a large sum out of the revenue of this country on expenditure in helping the Empire in this war. I do not really think that that will be of much comfort to her or to the other voters who have spoken to me in the manner I referred to a little while ago. I must therefore condemn this Budget as a Budget with no message of hope for the poor man at all.

It is not necessary, I think, for me to say anything much about the expenditure to be incurred by the Officers of State. I have looked for something of interest in this Budget and, as far as the Hon. the Chief Secretary is concerned, the only thing of interest I found was that in the year 1939-40 he spent Rs. 4 on Government hospitality. He intended to spend Rs. 750 in 1940-41, but actually spent Rs. 11,555. This year he is asking for the modest sum of Rs. 1,000. But who knows what he will spend? It is the uncertainty of things like this, I think, that makes life worth living.

I would just like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Legal Secretary to one point. I know that the poor people do not count for very much in our country. But recently I have had something to do with the Police and something to do with

the Magistrates' Courts. A man came to me a few days ago and said that he had to go three times to the Magistrate's Court at Balapitiya to give evidence in a case. He is a tailor working here in Colombo, which means that he loses his earnings for two days at least during each visit to the Court and he has, in addition, to incur expenditure. I should like the Hon. the Legal Secretary kindly to give instructions to the Magistrates to see that cases are not postponed so often. As a matter of fact, I feel that if people are to give evidence in cases some consideration should be shown to the poor people as regards their expenditure.

The Hon. the Financial Secretary is a gentleman I really like. He is very useful. He warned the State Council at the last Budget debate apparently and told this House that if we went on extending our social services and increasing expenditure, we would end in financial disaster. But he has a habit of bringing in plenty of supplementary votes for Personal Emoluments, and I always see the delightful formula: "The Financial Secretary concurs". I hope to see those four words occur more frequently, particularly when the Board of Ministers some day or other bring before us proposals which will ameliorate the conditions of the poor people of this country.

I should like to appeal to the Board of Ministers not to develop, when they get into office, the bureaucratic mentality. They are, after all, the elected of the people; they represent certain constituencies and they are like us here to look after the interests of the people of the country.

In this Budget there is a proposal to give War Allowances to Government Servants. I believe Rs. 7,250,000 is the amount to be voted for this purpose. It may be that this will not be sufficient. I have every sympathy with the badly-paid Government Servant. But what I would like to point out is this fact, that the Board of Ministers are not here merely to look after Government Servants; they are here to look after the masses of this country, and the Government Servant is only a very small minority. When they give Rs. 7,250,000 to Government Servants, they admit that there is a need to help the people with small incomes. I think that this allowance is a very indiscriminate

[Mr. Kularatne.] allowance. There is also a proposal on the part of the Hon. Minister of Education to give a War Allowance of Rs. 3,000,000 to teachers in Assisted Schools. This large sum of money is going to be given indiscriminately.

I say that the machine of Government seems to be inhuman; it does not seem to consider the needs of the people. I can quite imagine that a large number of people who will draw these allowances will be people who will really need the money, but a fair number will be people who will not need this money. I know, Sir, several teachers—unmarried men and women—who are getting salaries of over Rs. 100 and who do not need this war allowance, but the Government machine is such that when a thing is done it must be done for all. There is no attempt made to discriminate.

I would say that it would be much fairer for Government to consider a proposal such as the reduction of the price of rice instead of giving an allowance of this kind. That would help the poor people, and it is true it would help the rich as well, but then the rich can always be taxed.

I have already referred to the Minister of Home Affairs as being rather extravagant. He proposes to spend on his own Departments this year about Rs. 3,000,000 more than during the last year. Now, my predecessor, the late Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Francis de Zoysa) was always harping on the subject of bribery. I read his speech delivered on the last Budget, and I found that quite a good deal of it was occupied in dealing with this question of bribery. So far as I know, the only action taken as regards bribery is to appoint a Commission to see whether the Members of this House take bribes or not. The question of bribery in the Public Services has been left untouched. I think, of the Departments under the Minister of Home Affairs, the only place free from bribery is the Zoological Gardens.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** And yet you admire him!

Mr. Kularatne: But he is not the only culprit. He probably is unable to do anything, just like the others. I am only

referring now to the Minister of Home Affairs, but the same thing applies to other Ministers also. In his case there is at least one Department which is free from bribery, but it may be that in the case of the others there may not be even that.

I do not want to say anything about the Prisons Department because I know very little about it yet.

The Excise Department takes away plenty of money. Both the Leader of the House and I are temperance workers, and if we do not say much on the subject so much the better. I notice that in his proposals there is a reduction in the vote for rewards to officers, from Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 40,000. That is very significant. At the same time there is a corresponding reduction in the vote for first-aid equipment. It comes down from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 500. These two go together probably. First-aid is not needed because there will be fewer rewards to the officers. Anyway, so far as I can learn, these gentlemen in the Excise Department do not need the rewards from the Department, Sir. They work probably for the sake of work and they have their reward elsewhere.

I should like to say something about the Police Department, though it may be rather dangerous to criticize the Police. I have had something to do with members of this Department very recently. I do not want to generalize from my little experience and say that the Police Department is inefficient simply because I found that in my area the Police do not seem to function well. The Minister of Home Affairs intends to spend Rs. 1,000,000 more to make the Police more efficient. I would certainly give him more if I could.

As a matter of fact, a few days ago, when he brought up a vote for two more Assistant Superintendents of Police, I intended to support that motion until the Financial Secretary told me that they were wanted to look after Malays and Chinese. Then I changed my mind. I do feel that the Police Department, which is supposed to be very efficient, is perhaps too efficient. The Minister told us that if he took a Senior Inspector from his post, it would disorganize the Department. It means that the work is so carefully planned that not a single officer

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can be taken from his post. I think we should help the Minister by giving him more officers—Probationers perhaps—so that he would be able to organize the Department in such a way that men could be promoted when promotions became necessary.

Now, Sir, I should like to tell the Minister of Home Affairs that I feel very disappointed indeed with the arrangements made by the Police on the occasion of the last by-election for Balapitiya. The Police arrangements failed miserably at least in certain areas. In the section which is under the charge of the Ambalangoda Police there seemed to be, as far as I could see, absolutely no order at all. The whole situation seemed to be out of control, in spite of the fact that I had drawn the attention of the Police to the great need for additional men and to the great need for taking precautions to prevent any unfortunate occurrences. It seemed to me that no attention was paid to these representations.

The Minister of Home Affairs wants a thousand more Constables. I think it would be useful to him to have an additional special force at least in the Ambalangoda area to look after the Police, Sir, at a time when an election takes place, because Constables were assaulted on the occasion I refer to. Not only is a special force needed to look after the Constables, but another force should be there to protect the public from the Police. Two additional forces, therefore, are needed in connexion with the Police; one force to protect the Police from the public, and another to protect the public from the Police.

I have often wondered why murders take place in this country and go undetected. I have at last found the secret, Sir. The whole trouble is that the murdered man is unable to come and tell the Police who committed the act! As a result the Police are unable to take action! On the morning of my election, we were very badly attacked. The car in which I was travelling was attacked right in front of one of the polling stations, in front of the Balapitiya Courts. I made a complaint to the Police at Kosgoda, but the Police Inspector was unable to interfere in the matter because it was out of his area. The telephone was out of order and he could not get in touch with the Ambalangoda Police. There

were the efficient arrangements made in connexion with this by-election, and in spite of a complaint made by another Member of this House and myself, no action has been taken, simply because the Inspector says, "You have not been able to identify the people who attacked you".

Now, this happened in broad daylight, and if this is the manner in which the Police look after the public of this country, it is no wonder that murders occur even at Police Stations themselves—I am told that this has happened recently—and the Police cannot get a conviction.

I should like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs to give a thorough training to the Inspectors of Police and give them instructions as to how they should act under such conditions. There were hundreds of people present on the occasion and with a little effort the Inspector could have got all the evidence that was necessary. Several Constables must have been present on that occasion at the scene and yet not one man attempted to intervene. I am told that the Military are given a certain amount of rum or something like that. The Minister of Home Affairs is responsible for arrack, and I think a certain quantity of that stuff at least may be given to the Constables to give them the courage necessary to tackle a situation of that kind.

As to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, I do not wish to say anything much except that I have always followed his work in this Council with great pleasure, because I have seen that he is making a real effort to produce the food that we very badly need. He has spent a great deal of money, I am told. I do not mind how much he spends so long as he succeeds in making this country self-sufficing in the matter of food; and the only bright spots so far as I can find out, in this Budget, are two items to his credit, namely Rs. 750,000 to help colonists and peasants and another Rs. 300,000 for village expansion.

I should, however, like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands to a sentence from the speech of the late Member for Balapitiya (Mr. Francis de Zoysa) which he made during the last Budget debate. I do not think that it has received much attention because of pressure of other work, but I hope, Sir, that the Minister will be able

[Mr. Kularatne.]

during the next few months to give my constituency the help that he is asked to give. This is what he said:

"In my own constituency the people in the villages say—and they ought to know something—that with a little expenditure of money, by opening up two or three canals, about 10,000 acres which are now lying fallow can be cultivated."

This may be an exaggeration and it may be that much more will have to be done, but I am sure the Hon. Minister of Agriculture will not fight shy of necessary expenditure and he will bring proposals before this House to save these fields—a vast acreage—from the floods that we regularly have in that area.

I am sorry that the Hon. Minister of Local Administration is not here. The other day we passed a Bill to enable him to postpone Village Committee and Urban Council elections. I believe he issued a circular even before the passing of the Bill to inform these Committees and Councils that the elections would not be held.

I should like to say that it is bad enough not to have a General Election for electing Members to this House, but it is quite unnecessary to postpone for any length of time elections to Village Committees and Urban Councils. During the last year a great deal has been done by Members of the Village Committees, and the only opportunity the people will have of expressing their appreciation or condemnation of these Members is when these elections take place. I know that in several cases the villagers are only waiting for the opportunity to teach a lesson to some of these representatives, and it is but right that they should be given that opportunity.

In the matter of food, the Hon. Minister of Local Administration is responsible for a very important item of the food of the people of this country. I think I will be pardoned for referring to it because I come from an area where there are plenty of fishermen. I am referring to the Department of Fisheries. I do not know what this Department of Fisheries has achieved so far. Fish is very scarce, in spite of the fact that we have the sea and plenty of fresh water in this country. I should like to see the Hon. Minister taking a special interest in this matter and especially encouraging fresh

water fishing in the many lakes and rivers that are available to us in our country.

The Minister of Health is very proud of the fact that he has reduced the death-rate of infants from 149 to 129 per thousand. But this figure of 129 is far too high, and if he is to reduce this still further, the Board of Ministers must give him more Maternity Homes, Midwives and Dispensaries.

When I went round my constituency during the elections, I found that there was a great dearth of Doctors. It does not seem to me that we are producing sufficient Doctors in this country. I hope it is not a case of the profession wanting to reduce the number in order to earn more. The Minister of Health should take steps to produce more Doctors, but unfortunately it seems to me that the matter is out of his hands as we have handed over the Medical College to the newly-established University. All the same, I feel that the Minister of Health should have some control over this matter. If he is to look after the health of the people, he must have more Doctors, more Apothecaries, Dentists and other specialists.

I learned to-day that owing to the scarcity of Apothecaries the Medical Department is in the habit of sending untrained men to the Dispensaries. This, I think, is a very serious matter and I hope the Minister of Health will take action to see that there is a sufficient number of Apothecaries to take charge of our Dispensaries.

Here again I should like to draw the attention of the House to the manner in which the poor people are treated in the matter of health. The Government of the country run hospitals, but in these hospitals we make a difference between the poor and the rich. This difference should not exist in institutions financed by a House of this kind. We are elected on universal suffrage, and it should be our duty to see that in State institutions all people are treated alike. The fact that the poor people have separate wards makes it possible for people to treat them differently, and the disappearance of the paying wards in our hospitals would indeed be very welcome from the point of view of us who represent the people.

Talking of bribery, I must not forget the Minister of Health. The other day a member of my constituency came to me

and said that he had had to spend from between Rs. 20 and Rs. 30 to remove a dead body from the General Hospital, from one of the non-paying wards. So bribery is not to be found only in the Departments under the control of the Minister of Home Affairs, but even in a place like the General Hospital where, taking everything into consideration, men who are in charge of people who are sick, who are dead, who are suffering, should never think of anything like taking bribes from the people. Even in such places bribery is in existence.

I should like to congratulate the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce on his many industrial activities. I had the pleasure of visiting his Leather Factory. He receives so much criticism in this House that I think a word of praise is due to him for the work he is doing in this connexion. Things that should have been done many years ago are now being done, thanks to the fact that we have our own Ministers in charge of these Departments. But in the matter of food control, the story is different.

Reference has already been made to the grave situation in which the people of the country are placed in this matter, and I do not want to take up the time of the House in dealing with this subject. But I do hope that with the new appointment of the handy-man of the Government Service the situation will improve and that the poor people of the country will be in a position to obtain without much difficulty the articles of food that they need.

The Minister of Labour, Industry & Commerce, I find, is in charge of social services and legislation pertaining to this department. I cannot find anything in this Budget that could be classed as real social service. I suppose a certain sum of money is voted for assisting the poor people, but neither the poor people nor those who would like to help them are aware of the manner in which this money is being distributed. I should like to see some definite action taken by the Hon. Minister to put the social services of the country on a sound footing.

The Minister of Communications and Works says that he is going to lose nearly Rs. 4,000,000 on the Railway. As a matter of fact, he is going to lose nearly Rs. 8,000,000 on the Railway. I know that he has had a very bad heritage in

this matter, but I see no reason why he should not make use of the very efficient Director of Transport for the purpose of floating a private limited liability company to take charge of the Railway, as in the case of buses. I hope the Minister will take this step with the help of the expert and save Rs. 8,000,000 to us—Rs. 8,000,000, which could be well utilized in helping the poor people of the country.

I kept the Minister of Education for the last because he has already been criticized for taking me into his Committee. I should like to say that there are managers and managers of schools, and probably the Minister was aware of the fact that I was an exception to the sort of manager he was thinking of when he condemned them.

I do not want to say much about the Department of Education, but there is one thing that I should like to ask the Minister, and it is this: does the Minister establish schools because he has to do so, or because he wants to do so? Now, when a man does a thing because he has to do it, he does it just to satisfy requirements, but when he does it because he wants to do it, he does it as he wants it to be done. When I look at the schools of the country I am compelled to come to the conclusion that the educational work in this country is being done, particularly primary education, not because we feel that we want to do it but because we have to do it. If you go round the country and look at the schools that have been built for the vast majority of the children that attend school, you will find that the buildings are only fit to serve as cattle sheds; the teachers are ill-paid and are not too well educated.

It is impossible to bring up a decent race with the kind of school that we are establishing. The fact that Rs. 3,000,000 is needed to pay war allowances to Assisted school-teachers will show you how badly placed financially the vast majority of teachers are. The trouble is not so much with the Minister as with the Board of Ministers who refuse to give him the money that he needs for the purpose. They seem to grudge the expenditure on education.

Now, if you look at educational statistics, you will find that we are not enforcing the compulsory Education

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Ordinance. Though we have over 100,000 pupils in, say, the Second or Third Standards of our schools, we have only 50,000 in the Fifth. By the time they come to the Fifth Standard many children are allowed to leave school perhaps in order to save expenditure. The situation, therefore, is very serious. This House must be prepared to spend as much money as is necessary to give a sound education to the children of this country.

The Training Schools are hardly to be blamed for the bad teachers that we have in our schools. We have encouraged denominational training schools, training schools that train 20 teachers or so a year. It is impossible for me to imagine that any such school could be properly staffed, could have the equipment that a training school should possess, or could have the kind of men with whom the teachers should associate in order that they may develop into the right type of teachers. It is very necessary for the Minister to consider this position and bring proposals before this House to establish the right type of training school, well-equipped, well-staffed and able to turn out all the teachers that our schools will need in the future.

Again, the Education Department, I feel, needs better Inspectors, more capable and efficient Inspectors, and more capable administrative officers. In this connexion I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Department of Education is burdened with the task of conducting examinations for the Public Services. I feel that it would be very much better for us if we have quite a separate department to conduct examinations for the Public Services. Officers of the Department of Education are made to do other than educational work, and educational work is bound to suffer if they devote their time to such purposes.

I remember saying in 1938, I believe, when I returned to Ceylon after a visit to England, that the Minister of Education should travel abroad to see how things are done in other countries. I am afraid just now the time is very bad for him to travel, but there are progressive States in India which he might visit with advantage.

In conclusion, I come to the last vote, the Defence vote. I cannot pass it without making a few comments. The late Member for Balapitiya on the last occasion that he made his Budget speech said, "We cannot but pass that vote; we dare not refuse to pass it". But, Sir, it is not in that spirit that I should like to pass the Defence vote. We are spending over this war a very large sum of money. The Defence vote is only one item. It is because of the situation created by the war that we have to spend large sums of money in the shape of War Allowances, Emergency Assistant Government Agents, and so on.

Now, the first thing that strikes me is that our rulers have failed in their, shall I call it, trusteeship of this country. They have failed to train us to defend the country either by air or land or sea. There is undoubtedly in our minds a feeling that they do not trust us, that they fear to give this training to us. That sort of feeling is not the right kind of feeling for us to entertain if we are to have a real good partnership.

I remember reading an advertisement in the local papers; perhaps it was inserted by the Treasury. I do not know who was responsible for it, but anyway it was a very honest man who had inserted that advertisement. It was in connexion, I believe, with the War Loan, and in big bold letters I found this sentence: "Give to protect the right to be free". I feel that that is a very honest statement. We are not asked to give to protect freedom but to protect the right to be free. So that, we only have the right to be free. If we at present pass this vote, we are passing a vote in order to protect the right to be free.

I would like to appeal to the Board of Ministers on this matter and ask them whether they feel as we do, whether they are ignorant of what the people of this country feel in connexion with our present position; or do they think it wise to be silent? We have been told that at the end of the war a Commission will be sent out to see what further Reforms should be given to this country. Is that the position in which we are placed, or have the Ministers got a better message to give us? It is quite possible that they are not in touch with the people in this matter. The hon. Member for Matale

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(Mr. Aluwihare) told us that there were at least 80 per cent. in Ceylon who felt indifferent about the result of this war.

This war, Sir, is supposed to be a war for democracy. But I saw the other day an article written by a British writer in an important Journal published in England to the effect that the existence of subject-races was not inconsistent with democracy. So that democracy has not been correctly understood in certain quarters here. It simply means rule by the people as the people of the country want to be ruled or to rule. Of course, the people of England feel that there ought to be subject-races. So that it is entirely foolish on our part to say that because England is fighting for democracy they will necessarily give us freedom.

As far as this war is concerned, it seems to me to be a fight for freedom, not for subject-races in the Colonial Empire, but for the races that have been brought under subjection recently. I want to know whether the Board of Ministers are satisfied with this situation. As far as we are concerned, we think that we should vote this money feeling that it is really given for the defence of our country, and if it is for the defence of our country it is necessary that this House should be given the power to control the affairs of this country.

I would like to remind the Board of Ministers that British statesmen have been brought up on the creed which says, "Ask and ye shall receive. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you". But if we are silent, I am afraid we shall for ever be a subject-race.

This House, Sir, is a sort of contingent of Ceylon's Light Infantry or heavy infantry as the case may be. But we have 3 European Officers in charge of the platoon. I should like to appeal to the Members of this House for unity. I should like to appeal to the Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) who comes with the Kandyan Convention: "By all means carry it in your hands, but join us to fight for freedom".

Mr. Aluwihare: I can promise you that not only on my behalf but on behalf of the whole Kandyan community

Mr. Kularatne: I should like to appeal to the Members from Jaffna and say, "Let us forget our differences—the differences are very slight—and unite and ask the authorities, the powers that be, to grant us our rights in this matter, rights that cannot be refused according to their own protestations".

We are a very loyal people; perhaps too loyal. I find that British statesmen are prepared to negotiate with disloyal people. It may be that because of our loyalty and apparent silence they do not think it worth while bothering themselves about us. It is true that we are a small people in a small country, and that what we do makes very little difference to the British Empire. But yet, Sir, in a war of this kind, the goodwill of the people in any part of the Empire should count, and British statesmen should desire not only our help, given—may be unwillingly, but help that will be given very willingly if only our rights are recognized. I hope the Board of Ministers will realize the feelings of this House and the feelings of this country and take action without delay to see that an announcement is made to us that will satisfy our feelings in this matter.

***Dr. A. P. de Zoysa (Colombo South):** Sir, the Budget appears to different Members differently. The hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Newnham) feels that the interests of the commercial sections and of the planters are satisfied, and he thinks that the Budget is a perfect one. The hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) feels dissatisfied if the Kandyan Convention is not there, or if the Budget is not brought up according to it. In the same way, different Members feel differently about the Budget.

It is no doubt a difficult time to bring up a budget to satisfy all interests and all parties. But it must be admitted that, given the necessary expense for Defence purposes, the rest of the Budget should be considered as a Budget of the people of this country. Although year after year we emphasize the fact that essential services are neglected by the Ministers, they take no notice whatever of that fact.

In progressive countries, in civilized countries I should say, it is an essential thing to provide for unemployment.

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benefits, for health insurance and old age pensions. Year after year we have emphasized this fact. We brought up substantive motions on the subject in 1936 and 1937, and even last week a new Member brought in some motion to this effect, but the Ministers are quite silent about the matter. When every progressive country has adopted these measures as essential for the welfare of the country, our Ministers, the elected representatives of this country, ignore the need of the country. The cost may be heavy, but it is the duty of the Ministers to find ways and means of providing the necessary, essential, relief to the poor people of this country.

In England these measures were adopted in 1909 or 1912, and these measures have been introduced in all other European countries. But here, we exploit these people; we pay very poor wages; they have hardly enough to eat, hardly enough to provide themselves with the necessary clothing or to educate their children. Yet, in spite of that, we are not prepared to spend a few million rupees in providing health benefits, unemployment relief, and old age pensions.

Apart from these necessary, essential services, to the people of the country as a whole, look at the condition of some sections of our people. We have the Veddahs. Have we made an effort in this century to better their conditions, to civilize them, and to see to it that, instead of living a wild life, they live in houses, that they receive some form of education? We have not done anything of the kind. Not a cent out of the Rs. 100,000,000 provided for expenditure in this country has been set apart for the improvement of this section of our people, of whom not merely Ceylon but the whole of the Empire should be ashamed.

It is an easy matter to deal with this problem, if only an effort is made, but we ignore these people. We take a delight in exhibiting them as the savages of Ceylon; we bring them up to exhibitions and write about them, and take photographs. It is not a big problem to civilize these Veddahs, to teach them better ways of life, and it is the bounden duty of all of us—all human beings—to help these people living in their ignorance—and that not more than 150 to 200 miles of figures—

away from Colombo. But we make no effort to better the conditions of a section of our people who now live little better than animals.

The Ministers find it easy to let things go on as in the past. That is no progress. This is the set of Ministers who were found inefficient, wanting, when there was no war, but still, even under war conditions, they are allowed to carry on! Before the war, we knew very well, the whole country knew, and I believe even the higher authorities knew, that these Ministers were not efficient. Members may praise them and say that the Ministers have done a mighty lot for the country, but I say they have done nothing and have adopted a policy of drift. [We try to censure them for not tackling some of the most pressing problems of the country. Unemployment is one of those problems which can easily be solved; it is not an insoluble problem. Have the Ministers tried to solve that problem in this country?

Have they solved the food problem? This is a fertile land, and had they the mind they could have solved the problem. [But they have not done it.

If these Ministers were inefficient before the war, if they could not do anything with foresight, with a plan before them, what can you expect from them now? I am not exaggerating when I say that to be a Minister in this country one has merely to have the ability to sign one's name; perhaps even that is not necessary; a mark can be put in place of a signature! All the work is being done by the Secretaries and others.

The whole country is dissatisfied with what the Ministers have done in the past. We are a very loyal people; we have been very loyal, but unfortunately matters are now taking a different turn. It is becoming evident that there are a number of people who are becoming disloyal or who are disgusted with the Ministers, with the Government, and are therefore trying to show their dissatisfaction by being disloyal. The hon. Member for Matale (Mr. Aluwihare) said that of the people of this country 10 per cent. are loyal, 10 per cent. are disloyal and 80 per cent. are indifferent. I do not know how he came to get those

Mr. Aluwihare: On a point of personal explanation. I said that that was the tale in Burma; and you might get that here.

***Dr. de Zoysa:** I am sorry. I thought he referred to Ceylon.

Here matters are taking a very serious turn. If you go down to a picture house you find that when the National Anthem is played, or when pictures of royalty or pictures having anything to do with royalty are shown, people, instead of showing the customary respect and standing up when the anthem is played, to-day remain seated and hoot—

Mr. Aluwihare: No, that is not so.

***Dr. de Zoysa:** It is done. Last week at the Majestic Talkies, when the film about the visit of the Duke of Gloucester was being shown, some people in the front rows would not stand up when the National Anthem was played, and they hooted at the pictures that were shown.

***The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva (Minister of Health):** They must have been drunk!

***Dr. de Zoysa:** Yes, we can deceive ourselves to a certain extent, but we must face facts. The volume of disloyalty, or I may say, the volume of dissatisfaction among the people is growing. Larger numbers of people are getting dissatisfied. "Why", they say, "see what the Ministers are doing; see what the Board of Ministers are doing". The people are dissatisfied with most of the actions of the Board of Ministers, and the result is that there is a feeling in the country that the best thing that could happen would be to do away with the State Council. If the administration of the country is taken over by the Military, we could save all the money now paid to the Members of the State Council and to the Ministers, and that money could be given to the people in charity.

People are saying that that would be more satisfactory than the present state of affairs, and that if it is brought about the Government really mean well by the people. I am not looking at the question from the personal point of view. The action I have suggested may affect me or you personally, but I am thinking of the country, of the saving of the

Rs. 800,000 now paid to the Members of the State Council and the Ministers. I am excluding the three officers of State. If we do away with the State Council and use the money thus saved to provide unemployment relief, or to provide employment, to feed the poor children of this country, we would be doing something useful, and then the people would think better of the Government.

The people now think that the authorities in England, knowing all about the inefficiency of our Ministers, are still content to allow them to carry on because they think that that is a better way of allowing matters to go on as they are. But that is a mistake, and that mistake may be discovered too late when it would be impossible to correct it.

I do not want to blame the Ministers without reason, but unfortunately when you look round and see what is happening, you are driven to the conclusion that the Heads of Departments and the Ministers and Officers of State are completely out of touch with the people. They have no opportunities of getting into touch with the people. The Ministers are out of touch with the people. We have no properly organized party system in this country. The different organizations that we find in different parts of the Island do not know the requirements of the people, and the result is that only individual Members of this Council, the back-benchers, come in contact with the people. We talk with them, we mix with them, and we know what they want and what they do not want.

I can assure the House that there is strong dissatisfaction among the people. The ignorant man blames the Government: he says, "Well, perhaps this is what the British Government wants the Board of Ministers to do; this is what the British Government does".

My solution to the problem is that the Ministers should be more careful and more active. "Activity" on the part of a Minister does not mean the making of speeches. This is the time to make a great effort in the matter of food production, but what have the Ministers done? Have they made any attempts in this direction? If they have, they have failed hopelessly. Making speeches will not do. The venerable Leader of

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the House and the other Ministers in a campaign to encourage the war effort speak about producing more food and preach sermons of that kind, but that has no effect on the people. They will merely listen and say, "He lives in a comfortable house; he comes here in his car and says, 'Produce more food'!"

This is not the time for speech-making, but for action. All of us, inspired by the team spirit, must go and work in the fields and do everything possible to produce more food.

With regard to Civil Defence, it is useless appointing a Warden here and a Warden there, and giving them allowances. When the actual trouble comes, the people will not know what to do. You publish documents in English; you deliver speeches in English, and think that the people will know what to do. That is not so. The people are ignorant. When the "Alert" is sounded, most people rush into the streets to see what is going on. The people can be educated, if the necessary organization is formed by getting groups of people together. The people must be taught to co-operate, to work together. This is the time when Ministers and commoners—the man in the street; even the scavenger—must work together, so that the needs of the people may be known, so that we can find out whether they have understood what is going on and what they are expected to do.

But instead of that, people have seized this opportunity to profiteer. A poor man who is paid 75 cents a day is now asked to pay 27 cents for a measure of rice, while the cost of the other necessities of life has gone up considerably. We, in the meantime, instead of producing more food, have let the people go on profiteering. They think that this is the time for them to make money.

Take the case of Ministers who own plumbago mines. Plumbago fetches very good prices to-day. Some people make as much as Rs. 5,000 a day from their plumbago. But plumbago is not taxed, while the poor boutique-keeper has to pay an excess profits tax. Is that fair? Do we think that these people are so ignorant as not to know of it? They know that, in the case of plumbago, in which Ministers are interested, the arti-

cle is not taxed, whereas the poor man who has struggled on for years together in trying to do some trade has to pay an excess profits tax. Formerly they held the British Government as a Government which stood for fair play, but now they feel that the British Government is lacking in fair play after the war.

Before any measures are taken to ration, say, rice or any other foodstuffs, a return of the stocks available should be made. As soon as merchants know that there is going to be rationing of, say, cloth, rice, sugar or some other food-stuff they hoard those commodities. There is panic created, and rich people also buy up large quantities of the rationed article and hoard it. If Hon. Ministers know what they are doing, the first thing they should do is to take stock of available supplies of the different articles which they intend to ration. But what they do is to allow the people to buy the article in the market at ordinary prices, and, when rationing is introduced, to put up prices unconscionably. Goods are sold in the black-markets at enormous profits. I must give most of the European merchants credit for this, that in the case of most of the essential commodities in which they deal, such as butter, sugar, and so on, the prices are not unnecessarily put up. If they had old stocks in hand, those stocks were sold at the old prices.

But the Ministers who have the power to check any profiteering or to punish those responsible for it do not do so because they do not have the necessary means of checking such irregularities. In the absence of necessary means of checking profiteering, it is carried on all over the country, and it seems to be the order of the day. Everywhere it is a question of charging more.

Will you blame the people if they are dissatisfied, and especially when they have to be satisfied with one meal instead of two meals a day? Then, if they find money for that one meal, they have to pay a price above the controlled prices for the necessities of life. This is the state of things prevailing, and yet the Hon. Ministers keep their seats.

The only way to save the country is to do away with this Council immediately. If the Government wants representatives of the people, there are others. We must not think that the sixty of us

are the only representatives of this country. If the Governor wants someone to advise him, let him do away with these Ministers who have failed and failed hopelessly after the war broke out. They have not made this war the common cause of the people. They have not made a special attempt to teach the people to produce more food in a systematic way so that every man may feel it his duty to plant something. There are others who could be trusted with these duties in the Council. Get them at this stage.

If that is not done, and if these Ministers are allowed to drift on, I can assure you that we will come to a time when the higher authorities—the British Government—will regret that they allowed these Ministers to go on, thinking that they could easily manage the affairs of this country. They are making a mistake. If we were to have an election next month, I doubt whether any one of us—perhaps with the exception of yourself, Sir, because you happen to be the Speaker—will be returned. There is not the possibility of any one of us being returned, because the people are so disappointed with what we have done so far in this Council. [A MEMBER: Do you exclude yourself?] I do not exclude myself.

All the communities are dissatisfied. Minor employees are paid Rs. 30 a month, and a labourer is paid, at the most, Re. 1 a day. With that sum of money the minor employee and the labourer are expected to look after their family and to buy all their foodstuffs which have gone up in price by 100 per cent. and 200 per cent. What have we done to check it? We have done nothing.

Sir, with regard to the Civil Defence of this country, we must give credit to the Commissioner for what he has done, trying to organize it at short notice. But he himself admits that Civil Defence is not 100 per cent. perfect. He himself admits it. But then, so long as you treat it as a matter which comes within the purview of the trousered class, or the educated class, Civil Defence in this country is no Civil Defence. You ought to bring in the villager, the man who speaks Sinhalese also; and you ought to tell the villagers what they are to do, and how they should contribute towards

the defence of this country. They are willing to co-operate.

Years ago I suggested to the Hon. Minister that he should form a sort of Village Police Force in certain urban districts. He said that it was impossible, and he could not do it. He would not say that to-day. At that time he thought that my suggestion was impracticable, but now he has had to ask for 1,000 Police Constables to be trained.

Sir, with regard to education, I think we suffer a great deal owing to the type of education that is imparted in this country. We have a small number of English schools. We must either try to teach English in all Sinhalese and Tamil schools, or else we must give a more liberal education to those children who attend Sinhalese and Tamil schools. To establish a University for about 600 students only, and to say that we have done our best, is a mistake. If you consider that only 600 out of about 6,000,000 people should be selected for higher education, you would realize the dissatisfaction that would be created.

A man is supposed to be educated only if he had attended an English school; whereas, a beginning should be made with giving English education in Sinhalese and Tamil schools, and to make it free. The only way of obtaining employment where you can get a living wage is to have had an English education. Unfortunately, you deny that education to about 99 per cent. of the people of this country. That is because English education is costly, whereas, in other countries—England—now an English labourer's child can be educated free. He goes to the County Council school or some other school.

Here, we impart free education only in Sinhalese schools, and when the child leaves school, he is not in a position to obtain suitable employment. This is a problem which should be solved. It can be easily solved by giving free education up to the Junior or Senior Standard in all schools to children who are willing and who are able to benefit by such education. Instead of that, you select only 1 per cent. of the children—and they come from rich homes—and say that they should receive education. Will it in any way be of any advantage to us to have the majority of our people illiterate and ill-educated?

[Dr. de Zoysa.]

My sense of loyalty is not merely to do what somebody else says. We are being loyal to the country and to the Empire when we try to produce better citizens, healthy able-bodied citizens. That can only be done by imparting a free and liberal education. But the policy of the Ministers is to curtail education, to make it a monopoly of the rich and to deny it to the masses.

Mr. Speaker: The sitting is suspended till 2 p.m.

Sitting accordingly suspended until 2 p.m. and then resumed.

Mr. G. R. de Silva (Colombo North): Sir, since I received a copy of these Draft Estimates, I have been making a serious attempt to go through these items, but they have baffled me successfully. I find before me, if I may say so without levity, a Budget which I would call a typically Ceylonese Budget. To put it in other language, it is a Budget that is usually framed by Ceylonese. When Ceylonese people think of framing their Budgets, they first of all think only of the expenditure and leave income to chance, or to come in in any way possible.

So this Budget seems to be typical of the country. Here we have a Budget in which there is no attempt at balancing the income and expenditure. In fact we are told that there is a deficit of Rs. 30,000,000 and that this deficit will be covered by a nebulous Home Defence Loan about which, again, I tried to get information and after a very laborious search discovered that we have only a sum of Rs. 5,000,000 shown to the credit of the item.

I suppose the idea in the minds of the Ministers is to find Rs. 25,000,000 by way of loans in the course of the year. I call that prospecting. We can take it for granted that we are budgeting to-day for a deficit. Good budgeting, Sir, never leaves room for such a result, and whatever attempts are made to show this House that we have balanced our Budget, there is no getting away from the fact that we have merely hidden the deficit.

As a matter of fact, we are already faced with a deficit of Rs. 20,000,000, and we will have another deficit of

Rs. 17,000,000. In fact, I would like to say that the figures of the Leader of the House in regard to the deficit were very optimistic, and I for one feel that the deficit will be, not Rs. 30,000,000, but in the region of Rs. 40,000,000.

I would like in this connexion to recall a remark by the Hon. Leader of the House in the course of his Observations on the Appropriation Bill. This is what he said:

"I would like to invite the attention of the House to a few large items of expenditure. Under Head 42 there is a large increase of Rs. 8,115,325. This is mainly due to the inclusion of a sum of Rs. 7,250,000 for war allowances to officers in receipt of Rs. 250 or less per mensem."

Not very long ago, the Financial Secretary brought a Supplementary Estimate before this Council regarding this very question of war bonuses, and mentioned what would be the amount this Council would have to pay on war bonuses, on the basis of certain figures which he placed before us. In fact, he indicated that what we would have to pay depended on the cost of living index, and I would like to mention to the House what he said on that day.

When the cost of living index stood at 154, he estimated that the amount payable as war allowance to officers other than those in the Railway and the Electrical Departments will be Rs. 5,200,000. When the cost of living index rose to 161, the amount payable would be Rs. 6,730,000, and when the cost of living index reached 176, the amount would be Rs. 8,850,000. In fact, it was in connexion with a Supplementary Estimate for Rs. 2,700,000 that the above figures were given. In the last part of his Observations, the Financial Secretary stated:

"The provision asked for in this Supplementary Estimate is for the payment of the proposed allowance for four months of the current financial year, from June 1 to September 30, 1941, to employees other than those of the Railway and Electrical Department. The figure is calculated on an average cost of living index of 165."

My information is that the index of the cost of living up to May—we have not yet received the figures for June and July—has risen by 15 per cent. from what it was in April. It stood in May, I think, at 164, and certain figures which I have received go to show that the index for June was about 160. I shall not be surprised if there is a rise in respect of

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July. And at the rate the prices of food and textiles are rising, I shall not be surprised if very soon the index of the cost of living rises to 175, or 180 or 190—even 200 might be reached very soon.

So that, Sir, these war allowances would reach figures that were never expected. I think we were told by the Financial Secretary that this scheme has been worked out on the basis that when the index goes up to 200, he would think of adopting a different mode of relief in respect of the cost of living index. I did not know what he meant by that at the moment, but we have before us the rising cost, and the fact that the index has gone up.

As a matter of curiosity, I took steps to see how this index of the cost of living had been worked out. I found the details explained in the "Ceylon Trade Journal" for the month of September, 1940. It is worked out on certain items which form the average family budget. I shall not bore the House by going into details, but the average family budget is worked out on the basis of a monthly income of Rs. 48 and a monthly expenditure of Rs. 52, and certain figures have been arrived at according to which we have the index figure of 100 for the month referred to.

I noticed also that practically 50 per cent. of the figures worked out are on the cost of food, while a large percentage of the expenditure is in regard to the cost of clothing. As hon. Members know, the cost of food and clothing has risen tremendously, and we are in the position of not knowing where we will stand in the next few months. The index may reach heights not thought of even by the Financial Secretary.

In this connexion I would like to throw out a suggestion to the Board of Ministers; that is, to make an attempt to keep down the index of the cost of living even by subsidizing certain articles, so that the benefit may not be confined only to a certain section of the people as at present, as a result of these war bonuses, but the whole community may share in the benefits. These war bonuses serve only a section of the people—Government Servants, teachers and others. But if the index of the cost of living is brought down, it will certainly benefit the country as a whole.

Of course, it is not an easy matter to bring down the cost of living, because there are certain articles, the prices of which we cannot regulate since we do not produce them. Food, for example, has to be imported, and we have to pay any price, because if we do not import that food we would starve. In the case of certain articles like rice, sugar and flour and things which are directly imported and controlled by the Government of this country, it is easy enough to subsidize these with the money that is spent on war bonuses. Instead of paying war bonuses, the money could be utilized for reducing the cost of living, which would benefit, not one section, but the whole population.

I am not in a position to go into details, because I have not got the figures. But I would suggest to the Board of Ministers that they should make an attempt in that direction, because already from what I pointed to the House earlier, according to the index of the cost of living, if we calculate the war bonuses not only to employees other than those of the Railway, but for Railway and Electrical Department employees as well—I see a sum of Rs. 3,000,000 put down as war bonuses to teachers—the figures now reckoned will have to be practically doubled when the cost of living index rises. All these figures are apt to be practically doubled if the index of the cost of living goes up appreciably. I am afraid the amount payable by way of war allowances would, in those circumstances, be in the realm of Rs. 15,000,000 to Rs. 20,000,000.

Is it not possible to bring down the cost of living by subsidizing certain essential articles which form the major part of the cost of living of the poor man? I refer to such articles as rice, sugar and clothing, because Government has a control over most of the essential articles. Government is controlling prices, is controlling the issue of sugar and various other commodities. When I looked up the reasons for the rise in the index of the cost of living for May, I found that the increase of 15 points was mainly due to the increase in the price of condiments, coconuts, coconut oil and such other things. Perhaps we can control the price of some of those articles.

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Not very long ago, I think, the Hon. Minister of Labour told us that he was making an attempt either to import condiments or to control condiments when imported into this Island. So that, we can control the price of articles, such as rice, sugar, condiments, and other essential things by means of subsidies. If we tackle this problem in such a way and bring down the cost of living, it will benefit all the people of the country, instead of our paying out only to a section of the population as much as Rs. 15,000,000 or Rs. 20,000,000 during the course of the year by way of war bonuses. I commend that suggestion to the Board of Ministers as I think it is worth consideration.

I believe the first thing that was done in England at the outbreak of war was to prevent as much as possible a rise in the prices of commodities. A serious attempt was made to keep down the cost of living as low as possible in order to prevent that awful calamity that overtakes countries during war, namely, inflation. Yesterday certain questions on the currency system were raised, and undoubtedly we are finding inflation creeping into our midst. We find that the note circulation has increased three-fold and it may continue to increase. I therefore feel that though the suggestion I have made is a little difficult of achievement, an honest attempt on those lines should be made to solve this problem.

I should next like to make a few observations on food control, which is a very vexed question. Control of prices at any time is one of the most difficult things to do. Most of us have attacked the Minister of Labour on the question of price control. The Minister, as we all know, has been set a very unenviable task to perform. As a matter of fact, my own feeling is that the Labour Ministry has too much work to do. The Minister has had to start new industries in the country and he will always be remembered by this country for the work he has done in that connexion. But when anybody tries to do too much he finds that things become impossible. I think that is what has befallen that Ministry.

I think in England they practically formed a new Ministry to deal with the food situation, and they put at the head of it Lord Woolton, a man of practical

experience. That organization worked practically independently of the Cabinet, and although it did not reach perfection, it nevertheless reached something very near perfection. Price control is found to be difficult because there are always some members of the public who have no sense of fair play, who would if possible pay any amount of money to buy what they desire to obtain. This is how black markets flourish.

I should, therefore, like to make another suggestion in that regard. I would like the Board of Ministers to consider the formation of Boards of Control, with a Central Board of Control in Colombo. We read to-day or yesterday in the newspapers of the appointment of another officer—an officer who has shown remarkable abilities in the organization of the Air Raid Precautions—as Director of Food Supply. I would suggest that there should be a Board of Control attached to that officer, such Board to consist of not only Government Officials but also of people who are in touch with these essential problems and difficulties, people who know something about business affairs. It is easy to form a Board of that nature.

This is a big matter and it should be adequately tackled. Let there be a Central Board of Control with Boards of Control in the various towns. Each one of those Boards would be able to tackle the difficulties peculiar to the different places as the members forming such Boards would have intimate knowledge of the local requirements and conditions of each particular place. Consequently, the Central Board of Control would know precisely what difficulties the people in the various places are undergoing and it can organize the buying and selling of the necessary articles in such a way as to meet those difficulties. Price control is ineffective to-day because there are no officers to see that goods are sold at the controlled prices. I cannot understand the reason why use has not been made of certain local bodies which are in existence in the matter of price control. Such bodies, if requested, would have given the Minister the necessary co-operation to make the price-control scheme effective. For instance, there is the Municipal Council of Colombo, the services of which could have been utilized by the

Minister. Some officers employed by that body do much work while others do very little because of war conditions. Most of the Municipal employees are field officers who have to go right round the streets of Colombo in the course of their duty. Those officers could have easily been utilized for the purpose of enforcing controlled prices. Similarly, there are other local bodies, such as Urban Councils, which would have lent the services of their officers, if requested, to effect price control.

It is no good simply saying that certain articles should not be sold above a certain price if there is nobody entrusted with the task of seeing that the articles are sold at that price. I think that about 20 officers are working at the Controller's Office, but what can so negligible a number of officers do in attending to a big scheme like this? It is impossible for them to achieve any tangible result. I think a big organization should tackle this question. I say that the Minister should employ a large staff and see that price control is made effective. To-day price control, I regret to say, is thoroughly ineffective. A man who has money pays anything and buys the goods he wants in the black-market. If you now go to a shop, see the article you want and offer the shop-keeper the controlled price for it, he will turn round and say that that article was not available for sale. But when you turn round to depart, somebody else will tell you that if you pay so much extra you can get that article from that shop. To-day rice is available in the black-market at Rs. 45 a bag, and it is the same with sugar.

That state of affairs exists to-day because you have not the staff to enforce price control, and also because you have not sufficient power to punish the people who sell goods at exorbitant prices. You occasionally read in the newspapers of a small boutique-keeper being fined Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 for selling in excess of the controlled prices. They are not, however, the real culprits. Those boutique keepers themselves have to pay high prices when they go to purchase their requirements from the wholesalers. If you want to make price control effective, you must tackle the big man who makes huge profits and gets away with them, the big

man who can afford to pay anything to get away with his profits. The dissatisfaction raging in this country is of such a nature that I do not know where it will land the people in the end.

If we are to make price control effective, it is necessary to have provision to punish a man who has any article for sale and refuses to sell it. The punishment for such an offence should be imprisonment, because fines in cases of this nature have no deterrent effect. The profits made by these people are so large that they can afford to pay the fines, however large they may be. It should not only be made an offence to sell things above a certain price, but it must also be made an offence for people to have with them more than a certain quantity of the different essential articles at any time. A serious attempt must be made to prevent hoarding. Unless we make an attempt to prevent hoarding, control of prices will not be effective. A man who has the money will pay the price that is asked for the article he wants to buy.

I would therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister of Labour and the Board of Ministers that they should set up some kind of organization to cope with price control. This has been the difficulty in regard to control of prices all over the world, and the difficulty has been seen to. But it is no good just saying, "Oh, let the Police do it; oh, let somebody else do it". That will be of no use to anyone in particular. I would suggest a special organization being formed and a Central Board of Control with other Boards of Control which will be representative of the different interests and the employment by these Boards of a certain number of officers to supervise the work that is being done. These are abnormal times, and abnormal measures are generally necessary.

I would also like in this connexion, to suggest to the Hon. Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce that some very serious action should be taken over the question of textiles. A large number of people in this country who are profiteering have agreed that when there is an expectation of certain articles being controlled, the prices of such articles should be pushed up; and their expectation is that the controlled price would be the

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price obtaining at a certain time. For instance, if control is to start to-morrow, they expect that the maximum price would be the maximum price obtaining to-day. But as you know, most of the textiles available in this country were imported long ago. What has been done in other countries is to control the price, not on the price obtaining, but on the price of at least a year previously. That is one of the ways in which control of certain articles has been imposed in other countries. I think it was done during the last war very effectively in England, to prevent people keeping back certain articles which cost them a very small sum, in order to demand prices which were about 500 per cent. more.

I would suggest that steps be taken to fix the controlled price at the price that obtained twelve months previously. That is one way of controlling prices of textiles. There is another way; that is by saying that no textiles should be sold by importers above a certain profit. It is not so impossible to find out from the invoice what the cost has been, and to say that the maximum profit should be a certain percentage.

I would suggest to the Hon. Minister and to the Board of Ministers that an attempt should be made to put price control on a more rational footing; it has been irrational. We cannot blame anybody; we never expected matters to reach the position that they have reached.

I would also like to make another suggestion to the Hon. Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, and that is that the public be kept informed of developments in regard to the food supply. We, in Ceylon, read the talks broadcast by Lord Woolton in England, when he takes the public into his confidence. [Interruption.] Whether it is confidence or so-called confidence is a detail. But he broadcasts to the public and tells them, "Your coal will be so much; your beef supply will be so much. These are the reasons for it".

The public of this country, I am sure, will respond gamely if they are told the facts in food matters. They are absolutely in the dark, and rumour-mongers take great pleasure in spreading all kinds of rumours. It would be much better

for the Ministers and the Hon. Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce to broadcast to the people of the country. He need not give details, but he can tell them frankly what the position is. I think everybody in this country knows that owing to the war there is a big shortage of food—a big shortage of everything. But, unfortunately nobody responsible takes the people into his confidence. I am sure the public will readily react to any confidence placed in them. But unfortunately it has been the habit—or perhaps it has been the Governmental habit—merely to say, "Well, do this. This is our order". That, I think, has led to a tremendous amount of trouble.

Certain statements made on the Floor of this House about three weeks ago by the Hon. Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce made hon. Members feel that there were vast quantities of flour and wheat available in this country. That was in contradiction of a statement made by the Mayor of Colombo; and the Hon. Minister practically told us that there was sufficient flour and wheat to last us for nearly a year. The public thought: "Well if we are going to have our rice rationed, we will have a substitute in flour". In fact, the daily papers are giving us recipes of how to make different dishes with flour. But when the poor man goes to buy flour, he finds that no flour is available in the market.

As I said, such statements do harm to the Ministry, and the public say, "Well, you tell us that we can obtain plenty of flour; that we can use it as a substitute for rice. But we cannot obtain it in the market". To-day the price of flour has gone up by 100 per cent. in the Colombo market. I am making these statements because these are matters which are brought to our notice daily; and the feeling among the people is of such a nature that they say, "You are trying to make fools of us". Therefore it is very necessary that statements made to the public as to what the situation is should be properly weighed before they are uttered.

I would, in conclusion, refer to a remark of the Hon. Leader of the House. He referred to the Department of Fisheries and told us of the efforts made by the Ministry of Local Administration to develop the fishing industry and help the

fisherfolk. I am sorry the Hon. Minister of Local Administration is not here. For the last ten or fifteen years this question has been raised during every Budget debate. Every time the Hon. Minister—whoever was holding office at the time—has said, "I will look into the matter". But unfortunately this matter has never been looked into, because there is an economic factor in it, and that is that you cannot reconcile modern methods of fishing with the old-fashioned methods. No Hon. Minister of this House has had the courage to be frank about it, and to tell the people that such-and-such is the case. They have always said that they will appoint a Director of Fisheries and that they will have a number of officers working under him. It is a case of paying a large sum of money for an establishment which is really doing no work. I would like to appeal, not only to the Hon. Minister of Local Administration, but to the Board of Ministers as well and say that it is no good holding up this question.

I for one feel that you cannot make the position of the fisherman any better by introducing modern methods, by trying to prop up an industry. This is an industry which does not pay even during the best of times. The poor fishermen live on the border-line of poverty, and therefore an attempt should be made to find them other means of employment.

In my constituency, a part of which consists of an area where there are a large number of people who earn a living by fishing, the position as regards fishermen is absolutely bad. Unfortunately, they are not allowed to fish at night for military reasons; the only fishing they can do is by day. These people are suffering the greatest of hardships to-day.

It was not very long ago that the Hon. Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce started a Leather Factory in that area. I think that was a very good beginning. I hope that when this factory starts giving employment to the people the Minister will make a serious attempt to see that first consideration is given to the people of that area. I would further suggest that this policy should be followed in areas where there are large numbers of people who are engaged in making their living by fishing. Some kind of suitable industry must be started which will bring in a fair return. Of course, it is not pos-

sible to expect extraordinary returns from industries set up in areas where poverty is tremendously rife.

In the Mutwal area, where most of the people earn a living by fishing, the source of income of the people has been reduced by 50 per cent. because of certain restrictions due to war conditions. But even during the best of times the calling of these people has been of such a character as to keep them on the border line of poverty. I would therefore suggest that some of these different factories, some of these different weaving mills should be introduced into these areas. You need not pay these people large sums of money by way of wages, but the womenfolk might be able to earn something to live on.

I do not wish to take up too much of the time of this House in dealing with my electorate, although it seems to be the custom at a Budget debate to do so. I would like the Hon. Minister of Health to take a greater interest in the establishment of a larger-sized hospital in the Colombo North area. The Hon. Minister has shown that he is an authority on many diseases. I read in the papers that he has sound views as regards dealing with flies and mosquitoes, and that he has plans for ridding the City of Colombo of this nuisance. I hope that in his great enthusiasm he will see that hospital facilities for a city like Colombo are properly satisfied. The establishment of a hospital in the Colombo North area has been spoken of during the last 15 years; it seemed on the verge of materializing some years ago. But apparently the idea has dropped out. The decentralization of hospitals is a very necessary and urgent measure which I hope will be taken firmly in hand by the Hon. Minister. I think the General Hospital, Colombo, is too overcrowded to-day and therefore larger institutions of that type should be established in other parts of the city, and I hope that a start will be made with Colombo North.

As a matter of fact, it has not been the job of the Municipality of Colombo to do any curative work; their activities have always been on the preventive side. It is for the Hon. Minister of Health to see that the Colombo North area is provided with a hospital. I know that he has obtained a supplementary vote to start an

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A.R.P. hospital, but that is merely a drop in the ocean. We want something bigger; and I hope the Hon. Minister will not forget us, but will do his best for the people of Colombo North.

Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel (Colombo Central): Sir, I should like to make a few remarks on the Budget proposals before the House. The hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa) remarked that different Members seemed to look at the Budget from different points of view. The hon. European Nominated Member (Mr. Newnham), for instance, gave a pat on the back to the Ministers for the wonderful Budget which has been put before us by the Board of Ministers. I think the Ministers need a good deal of encouragement, and I myself would add to the tribute paid, because in spite of the great difficulties we are experiencing at the present time, difficulties due to war conditions, they were able to carry on essential services and also put forward a Budget, which, I am told, is a record in regard to the sum of money that is to be spent in the coming year.

Sir, the majority of Members who spoke before me were all agreed that social services were necessary especially for the poor people who have been practically ignored by the Board of Ministers. That I think is a very important matter, and I myself would like to add to the complaint that has been made by the previous speakers.

We are still thinking in the same terms as we did at the time of the Legislative Council when this country was a Crown Colony. We seem to think that there are three sets of people: the governing classes, including the Government Servants; the rich classes who pay most of the money to carry on the Government, and the vast majority of the poorer classes who are ignored and made to do all the hard work to carry on the essential services in this country.

When you go through the Budget, year after year you find that the service with which the Board of Ministers has been concerned almost entirely is the Government Service. The Government Service seems to have been looked after very well. Government Servants are highly paid; their future is ensured. When they fall sick they are allowed ample sick leave and various other

facilities. They are able to give their children a good education. When they pass away, even their widows and orphans are looked after by the Government.

Now when you come to the vast majority of the people in non-Government Service—those who are employed in mercantile firms; the working classes—you find that those people have absolutely nothing to look forward to after their term of service during the energetic period of life. For instance, I have in mind a number of people who came to see me a few days ago—masons. I shall refer to them as an example. Masons are people who are very hard-worked and who in Socialist countries would probably be paid the same wage as some of their Civil Servants. These people used to be paid on an average about Re. 1.10 just before the present emergency, and now they are paid about Re. 1.25 a day for which they have to work from dawn till sunset. Most of these people are married and have large families, and, I am sorry to say, a large number of them are found in the constituency I represent.

Although these people lead a very much harder and more strenuous life than the average Government Servant, yet if any of them falls ill there is nothing for him to look to. He cannot maintain his wife and family. He has either to enter the pauper ward, or go about borrowing from his relations and friends. When he is disabled and old age comes on him, there is nothing for him to do. He has to depend on some of his richer neighbours or go into a poor house. Even these poor houses which you find in other civilized countries like England are not provided for in our Island.

Therefore, I support the views that were put forward by some of the previous speakers, that some provision should be made for the poorer working-classes during the period of their employment. Old age pensions and widows' and orphans' pension funds which are provided for Government Servants should, I think, also be provided for these non-Government Servants. I do not think it is too late to ask the Board of Ministers even now to bring in an additional estimate to cover these essential services for the poorer classes which have been spoken of by a large number of back-benchers. I do not think it is necessary to throw

out this Budget, because that will involve us in a great deal of difficulties. The only possibility is to get the Board of Ministers to bring in a Supplementary Estimate to cover these essential requirements for the working-classes.

I do not wish to touch upon the various Ministries except the Health Ministry, of which I know a little more than some of the other Members. One of the complaints has been that there are not sufficient Doctors to provide for the health services of the country. The Independent Medical Practitioners' Association, for instance, has been offering the services of its members year after year for the last ten years, to work as Honorary Physicians and Surgeons in the various hospitals in the Island, and yet this offer has been ignored every time by the Ministers, perhaps because the Government Medical Officers turned it down.

Mr. Aluwihare: They are jealous!

Dr. Kaleel: Yes, Sir, I think there must be a certain amount of jealousy, because the Government Medical Officers think that the hospitals ought to be their own monopoly, and that the private practitioners, however capable or experienced they may be, have no right to walk into a hospital and render any service.

I would just like to refer to an incident which occurred early in my professional career. Before I returned to Ceylon after qualifying in England, I had been in some of the hospitals in Ireland, in France and various other Continental countries, and I always found that the medical staff always welcomed a newly-qualified Doctor when he walked into a hospital and they gave every help and facility for him to walk through the hospital, study the cases and improve his knowledge.

When I came back to Ceylon, I had no work to do, and I wrote to the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services to say that I was prepared to work in the hospital without any pay at all, and that if there was no work for me, that I be at least permitted to go round the wards with the great Surgeons and Physicians we had in the General Hospital, so that I may try and pick up something from their vast knowledge. Sir, it would surprise hon. Members if I were to tell them what reply I received. I was told that there was no post-graduate course in the

General Hospital in Colombo, and therefore I could not be permitted to attend the wards. That was the attitude the Medical Department took up those days.

It was so not only in my case. There is the case of a Surgeon in Galle—a private practitioner; an F.R.C.S., a highly-qualified surgeon. He applied to be allowed to get into the labour wards of the Galle Hospital and gain some practical experience. I am told that a similar reply was sent to him—that unless he was a Government Medical Officer, he could not be permitted to enter the hospital. That is a contrast to what takes place in hospitals in other parts of the world.

Then, one hon. Member referred to the corruption that is found even in the General Hospital. I would like just to mention that as far as the visiting staff, and the medical staff, are concerned, I can assure that hon. Member that there is no such corruption prevalent in the General Hospital. But when we come to the lower staff, especially the Attendants (Male Nurses, as they are called in Ceylon) there is certainly a great deal of corruption; and not only corruption, very often some of these so-called Male Nurses encourage patients to go out of the hospital and they carry on the treatment outside. Not only that, Sir; it is well known that for a poor patient in the General Hospital, if he wants to be properly looked after, if he wants his needs attended to—for instance, if he wants a drink of water at the proper time—nothing can be done unless the Attendants are bribed or paid *santhosums*.

As for the management of the General Hospital, I have been a member of the Staff of that hospital. I have worked as Registrar and acted for the Visiting Physician in that hospital, and I know the difficulties that the Physicians have to undergo in that hospital. We have often suggested that a Board from among the general public, including some of the Senior Physicians and Surgeons of that hospital, should be appointed to manage the hospital. This was suggested by private general practitioners for the past so many years, but so far nothing has been done in that connexion.

I think, the chief reason for that is that some Government men who control that hospital do not like to part with the power

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they enjoy at present. They do not want any help from outside, although that help comes from very senior men who have had experience in that hospital. For instance, I know that some Senior Surgeons like Dr. Spittel, Dr. A. M. de Silva, Dr. Lucian de Zilwa—great men who have had long experience, who have been paid for many years by Government and who have enjoyed a tremendous practice as a result of their appointment to the General Hospital—are prepared to serve in that capacity, and yet the Government has not thought it fit to appoint a Board to manage the hospital.

Every large hospital in England, for instance, is not a Government institution in that sense. It is usually managed by a Board of Managers consisting of, not only Doctors, but also other responsible men who are prepared to do social service for the sake of the sick.

That is a very important suggestion, and I am sure the present Minister will take that question up and see whether a Board of Management cannot be appointed to look after the interests and welfare of the General Hospital. By appointing such a Board, the expenditure on the General Hospital could be reduced greatly, and a great deal of other services increased; for instance, better food, better Doctors, avoidance of much waste, and so on. All this could be done if there is a proper Board to look after and manage the hospital.

Further, as I mentioned before, the Government always think of the Government Servants and the non-Government Servants as two distinct classes, and they seem to think that their business is to look after the interests of the Government Servants. Very often the suggestions of the general practitioners, who in other countries are said to form the backbone of the profession, are ignored; their proposals are turned down, and often they are even insulted when they try to do some good for the benefit of a Government institution.

For instance, some time back, the general practitioners wanted, as in every other country, the certificates issued by them to be recognized in the same way as the Government recognize the certificates issued by Government Medical Officers. As things

are at present, even an Apothecary in charge of a hospital, who is a Government Servant, can issue a certificate which is recognized by the various Government Departments, but when a highly-qualified general practitioner, who is not a Government Servant, issues a certificate, it has to be endorsed; and sometimes in the case of the outstations it has even to be endorsed by an Apothecary who has no knowledge of medicine; it is only then that the certificate issued by a general practitioner is recognized by Government.

This was pointed out by the general practitioners to the late Minister, and he took some steps in the matter, but he adopted a very curious method to find out whether the Doctors were all agreed that certificates issued by the general practitioners should be recognized by Government in the same way as those issued by Government Medical Officers. He first of all told us that the Government Medical Officers were opposed to the proposition of the general practitioners because, he said, Government had a certain amount of control over them whereas the general practitioners were under nobody's control. We then pointed out that every medical man who is registered as a practitioner is under the control of the General Medical Council, and that at any moment if any one of them does an improper act, such as issuing a false certificate, he could be called upon to explain, and even his registration could be cancelled.

When this was pointed out to the late Minister, he told us that he quite agreed with the suggestion made, but that he would refer this question to the ultimate authority—the British Medical Association—and so the question was referred to that body. The British Medical Association consists of Government Medical Officers and private practitioners, but the majority were Government Medical Officers, and when the question was put to the members, every one of the Government Medical Officers voted on one side and every one of the private practitioners voted on the other side, and by a majority of a few votes—I think it was 2—the Government Medical Officers carried the day. Then when it went back to the Minister, the Minister said, "Well your British Medical Association (Ceylon

Branch) has decided that this concession should not be given to private practitioners."

I am sure hon. Members will realize the inequity of this position, and I hope the present Minister will see that justice is done to the general practitioners as is the case in other countries.

***The Hon. Mr. G. E. de Silva:** What year was it?

Dr. Kaleel: We had a general meeting of the British Medical Association and the minutes of that meeting, I think, will be available to the Hon. Minister.

Then, again, in the General Hospital, the private practitioner is not welcome; that is well known. For instance, last year when I was a patient in the hospital, one of the Doctors—I do not mind mentioning the name, because you can find out for yourself the truth of the statement—Dr. S. M. M. Jabir, who has had an extensive practice in England, and who had been a Government Medical Officer and served in the A. R. P. in London, came to see me in hospital. It was a few minutes after time, and the Medical Superintendent happening to pass by gave him, to use common parlance, a telling off for coming to the hospital after time; and after he had left he gave a similar telling off to some of the Nurses for permitting him to be in the hospital after visiting hours.

I have another complaint. One of the most respected private practitioners in Colombo, who has even been honoured by the King, went to the Hospital to see one of his own patients there, and as he was just referring to some of the records of the hospital, I am told that a Nurse walked in and behaved so rudely towards him that, being a gentleman, he did not want to say anything to the Nurse but just walked out. Such instances are quite common. This is due to the lack of understanding of and the lack of sympathy for the general practitioner, and also due to a certain amount of, perhaps, jealousy that this hospital ought to be the monopoly of the Government Servants.

3.10 P.M.—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will excuse my interrupting. The hon. Deputy Speaker will now preside.

MR. SPEAKER then withdrew, and MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER [MR. SUSANTA DE FONSEKA] took the Chair.

Dr. Kaleel: This is the kind of treatment that is meted out to the general practitioners who have repeatedly offered their services free to Government.

Then, again, there is a great deal of waste in the General Hospital owing to lack of understanding between the Government Medical Officers and the general practitioners. We often have to send some of our patients to the General Hospital, especially poor patients, who cannot afford the better and the more costly services, such as X-ray, testing of blood and various other examinations. There, of course, if the patient is wise he would not go direct to the hospital but would go first to the Physician, pay him a fee, and then get himself admitted. Of course, according to the rules there is no such provision. He can even go direct to the hospital and get himself admitted, and in the hospital all these X-rays, blood-tests and various other examinations are made at an enormous cost to Government. When the patient leaves hospital, he goes immediately to his family Doctor in order that he may follow up the treatment at the hospital, but none of the findings in the General Hospital are made available to the private practitioner. If the private practitioner wants to find out what had happened while the patient was in hospital, he has to go back and get those things done once more. Those examinations are not made free. For instance, an X-ray examination would cost Rs. 20; a blood-test, Rs. 10; and various other high charges have to be paid just because this man happens to go with a general practitioner.

The hospital authorities do not seem to trouble themselves about the cost to Government. What they are troubled about is with the rules and regulations of the hospital, and none of the records are to be sent out of the hospital. They are numbered and filed and the interests of the patient is absolutely a secondary matter. That ought not to be the case in any hospital, excepting, of course, in institutions which are 100 per cent. Government. Only in Government institutions can such things happen.

[Dr. Kaleel.]

But in the case of large hospitals in England, which are run by private subscriptions, charity and so on, the staff are always prepared to help the general practitioner, because the success of the hospital there depends entirely on the general practitioners, whereas in Ceylon the success of the hospital depends entirely upon the funds made available by the Ministry to the hospital.

Lately there has been a great deal of trouble with regard to drugs that are available for the practitioners in Ceylon. I understand that as soon as war broke out, Government bought up vast quantities of the drugs that were available in the market, with the result that the average general practitioner found himself in a difficult position owing to the price of drugs suddenly going up. I cannot understand how one could think of controlling the price of foodstuffs, clothing and various other necessities of life when one ignores completely this absolutely essential thing in life, especially when a man is sick.

For instance, the other day I wanted to purchase a certain injection. The usual price of that injection ranged from Rs. 4 to Rs. 8 before the war, but to-day that chemist to whom I went, who probably was the only man who had a stock of it, demanded no less than Rs. 56 for it. I told the people that it was not worth while buying that injection at that price, but the poor people were so anxious about their patient that they somehow or other found the money and obtained the injection.

This kind of profiteering is going on in the market, and I think the prices of drugs should be controlled. I do not say that the prices of luxury drugs which are used by the richer classes should be controlled. But the prices of absolutely essential drugs—we know that there are a very few drugs which are essential for various diseases—must certainly be controlled, unless the poor patients are to be driven to desperation by the high prices that are demanded.

As for the hospital policy of the Ministry, it has been suggested—in fact, we suggested it very frequently in our Association—that at least there must be a great deal of decentralization carried out. The General Hospital in Colombo is

growing out of all proportions, because it has not only to serve Colombo and the Western Province, but it is the only institution available to various other parts of the Island for some of the more advanced and more technical treatment. This kind of centralization does not lead to efficiency. So, I certainly welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member for Colombo North (Mr. G. R. de Silva) that a substantial hospital should be provided in either the North of Colombo or at some distance away from Colombo, to provide for the other parts of Colombo and perhaps the outstations.

There is one other subject I would like to touch upon, and that is the various methods of treatment that are prevalent in Ceylon. The medical profession is in a greater degree of confusion in this country than in any other country that I can think of. Even in very backward countries, where some primitive form of treatment is available, there is one definite form of treatment carried on by the people. But in Ceylon there is, first of all, the Western form of medicine, then there is the indigenous form—Ayurvedic medicine; and now there is the system that is taught by the new Ayurvedic Hospital and the College of Indigenous Medicine which is a sort of hybrid between the two.

When originally the people thought about improving the indigenous system of medicine, they had this idea. There were a large number of famous prescriptions in the hands of our native physicians which were practically secrets, known only to these Vedaralas, and which were handed down from generation to generation without being published and made known to other people. And most people believed that in course of time some of these well known prescriptions with remarkable qualities—I do not deny the efficacy of some of the prescriptions known to old physicians—would be lost to the people. So the idea in starting a College of Indigenous Medicine was to bring these people with such secret knowledge into this institution and give them ample opportunities to practise and make them publish the use of drugs and experiment with them to find out their value and to let these secret medicines become common knowledge and be of service to suffering humanity in this Island.

But what has happened? Instead of getting these Ayurvedic physicians, who are supposed to have a knowledge of secret drugs to publish them, they have started a College importing physicians from India and various other parts of the world, and we are teaching a system of medicine not to well-educated people but to people who, as one of the physicians in the Hospital said, possess a smattering of English. The minimum education required to enter the College of Indigenous Medicine, as one of the physicians put it, was a smattering of English, so that they could understand what was taught.

So that, a system of medicine is taught to these people with a very poor elementary education, and after a few years of teaching they are sent out to practise among the people. When we carefully study what these indigenous practitioners do, we find that there is no indigenous practice of any kind and that they simply carry on the practice of English medicine in a very inferior form. I find that the drugs they use—I have been going about with them; I have studied their system, and I have gone to their dispensaries and seen them dispensing drugs—are the ordinary drugs that the English Doctors or the scientific medical men use. The only thing is, their knowledge is very much poorer than the knowledge of medical practitioners of the Western system, and they know very much less of every subject that is taught to the average medical man, and they simply discard the system of indigenous medicine taught them.

I think what we expected would bring a great deal of knowledge to light to help suffering people of Ceylon has turned out to be a real curse. For the past ten or twelve years during which this College has been in existence, not a single new drug has been experimented with and the result published as a drug that had been discovered which was superior to the drugs that are already known to Western Doctors and which can be used for this or that particular disease with better results than have been achieved with Western medicine. There is no publication of the results of any scientific experiments or scientific analyses of any drugs by that hospital. They publish a sort of magazine which consists of descriptions of personalities and of what wonderful

things each one has done. Real scientific knowledge is not found in this magazine.

Very often when some of the Ministers visit the College of Indigenous Medicine I go behind them to see what is spoken of. One of the drugs which is shown to officials and "big" people who visit this College is an aphrodisiac which they claim is unknown to the Western medical men and which they claim to have wonderful qualities of rejuvenation. This seems to have some wonderful effect on these great men who visit the College, and they come back and say, "Oh, this College must go on at any cost". If anybody visits that College he will be shown those drugs which they say would rejuvenate the population of this Island.

Sir, such waste should not be allowed to continue. I do not say that we should not encourage Ayurvedic medicine. The money that is spent now on this College could be very well spent on giving scholarships to educated men with a knowledge of chemistry, physics and other sciences so that they may do research work. Then, again, it could be spent on giving prizes to Vedaralas who would come forward and give up their secret medicines. One secret medicine that could cure a disease is worth lakhs. If prizes are offered in that manner, instead of running this miniature College which produces a hybrid type of practitioner, the money would be well spent. That money could also be spent on getting qualified registered practitioners to go to this College and study further the effects of indigenous drugs. I think if such things could be done, we in Ceylon would be contributing greatly to the advancement of medical science in the world.

I do not intend to touch very much on the other Ministries. I think the Minister of Agriculture and Lands has been well praised already for the great deal of interesting work he has done in regard to the production of food in this country. I wish he had at the early stages taken a greater deal of interest in the real farmers, the Muslim farmers of the Batticaloa District who were actually engaged in farming. Instead of taking young men who had no employment from Colombo and other sea-coast districts, men who knew nothing about agriculture to these unknown areas and

[Dr. Kaleel.]

planting them there, trying to make farmers of them, if the money had been spent on the people who were really doing the work of farmers; if instead of trying to create these so-called middle-class farmers and peasant proprietors under various schemes sponsored by the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, the actual farmers, men who were working as such, had been supported and encouraged, I think we would see to-day better results than the Minister can show as a result of the hard work he has done.

I am told that it is only lately—after the entry of Japan into the fray—that the Batticaloa Muslims, the farmers there, have been given free land and encouraged to produce rice. I am told that the work there is going on with greater speed and efficiency than some of the agricultural work that has been undertaken for years in Minneriya and other parts of the Island. I do not know how far it is true, but we are told that the results in the area I have mentioned will be very much better.

Coming to the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce, I foresaw that he was going to get into a good deal of trouble over food control, and to help him I sent him a very efficient man who has been in the rice trade for many years, who has been the Secretary of the Rice [Merchants' Association]. This man has travelled all over India, Burma and various other countries. He has a good knowledge of the rice trade in Ceylon and of the various business activities in India. [But the Minister kept on putting off this man and never took him into his confidence. Finally the man came back disgusted and told me, "I do not think the Minister wants my services".

That disclosed what I would call the "Government Servant" mentality, the attitude that only men in the Government Service—Civil Servants—men who have been accustomed to routine work, can be trusted to do any kind of work, even work connected with a trade of which they know nothing.

In desperation, I thought I might interest the Civil Defence Commissioner in the matter, and I sent the man to him. In fact, I spoke to the Civil Defence

Commissioner and asked him to put in a word with the Minister so that the services of this useful man, with his vast experience, might be utilized by the Ceylon Government. But even then I was not successful. The Minister would not hear of it. The Civil Defence Commissioner told me, "I know the man: he is a wonderful man. He once read an address that was presented to me. I shall do everything possible." But the Minister was adamant. He would not hear of it. The Minister wanted a Civil Servant to go about trading in rice, and I think the country has lost a great deal by not making use of men who know something of the rice trade and business generally.

I do not wish to go into details with regard to the other Ministries. With regard to the Ministry of Education, there are in that Executive Committee my hon. Friends, Mr. Jayah and Mr. Razik, who both know more about educational matters than I do.

Mr. Aluwihare: They are making a terrible mess!

Dr. Kaleel: Let them clear the mess. In conclusion, I would ask the Ministers to bring in a Supplementary Estimate for the various social services that have been referred to. It is not too late even now to bring in the necessary Supplementary Estimate to give relief to the unemployed and to the old and infirm who have no means of supporting themselves. It is not too late to bring in some form of relief for the working-classes who are not in Government Service, to give them a reasonable means of livelihood, to provide old age pensions and unemployment relief.

When I say unemployment relief, I do not refer to the form of relief now provided by the Municipal Council through the Charity Commissioner—a sort of charity. It is not charity that I am asking for. What we ask for is a proper, systematic, form of relief, given by a Government institution, under a form of insurance scheme, in order that these men, after years of hard work, may not suffer for want of the ordinary necessities of life.

***Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Any further comments? [Pause.] I shall call upon the Leader of the House to reply, if there are no other speakers.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: The estimates of income and expenditure submitted by the Board of Ministers provide for an expenditure of Rs. 184.5 million which, in the words of the Leader of the House, is a "colossal" figure. A portion of this expenditure is provided by special law, and the rest is recurrent expenditure which is votable by this Council. Before I deal with the votable expenditure and the expenditure provided by special law, I wish to draw the attention of hon. Members to a serious error at the foot of page 11 of the printed Estimates. Perhaps the Financial Secretary needs a more modern type of adding machine. He was provided with an adding machine a few months ago and probably it has already become obsolete and he needs a new machine.

We are told, at the foot of page 11 of the Estimates, that the amount provided by special law is Rs. 26,108,106 and that the amount provided by the Appropriation Ordinance is Rs. 152,382,022, and I make the total of these two amounts to be Rs. 178,490,128, but the total given on page 11 of the Estimates is out by Rs. 6,000,000. Perhaps it is due to a printer's error, and I would like to know whether the Rs. 6,000,000 is to be added to the first item, "Amount provided by special law", or to the sum appearing against the item "Provided by Appropriation Ordinance".

I should think that the latter is the case, and the Appropriation Ordinance would then provide for an expenditure of Rs. 158,382,022 instead of Rs. 152,382,022. If I am wrong I would like to be corrected and given the correct figure, as the matter is one of some importance.

On the expenditure side of the Budget, I wish to make some observations on the Defence vote. Under our Constitution, the Appropriation Bill has to be prepared in accordance with Article 56 of the Order in Council, which states:

- "(1) It shall be the duty of the Board of Ministers to prepare, in consultation with the Financial Secretary, the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Island and all Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure.
- (2) The Annual Estimates of Expenditure shall state under distinct heads every

item which is expected to come in course of payment during the year to which the Estimates relate and, in addition to items of expenditure which shall require the approval of the Council, shall include in a separate column items of expenditure already authorized by law. Each head of expenditure shall be divided into such sub-heads as the Board of Ministers shall decide."

We have gone through these Estimates for the last twelve years, and found that in the Estimates for each of those years the items already authorized by law were given separately and marked separately as such, but this year it will be noticed that in respect of the Defence Contribution of Rs. 27,000,000 there is only a footnote to this effect:

"Includes contribution payable under Chapter 294, Volume VI., Legislative Enactments."

I should like to know how much of this Rs. 27,000,000 is considered as already authorized by law, and that figure should be put down. My submission is that it should have been put down as a separate item. And in this connexion I would refer to an objection which you yourself raised, Sir, in reference to the supplementary vote which we passed a few days ago.

This lump-sum vote of Rs. 27,000,000 is very confusing, because we do not know how much out of this sum the Board of Ministers consider as already authorized by law. If we knew what that amount was, then one would be in a position to know what proportion of this Rs. 27,000,000 is votable by this Council and the Council has the right to reduce that portion of the vote by any amount or even to refuse it altogether. But if the whole amount is put down as already authorized by law, then it becomes "non-votable" by this Council, and not a cent of that amount can be touched by this Council. The question is one of importance. If the Ministers consider that the whole of this Rs. 27,000,000 is "non-votable", then it is a separate question altogether.

But I take it that by reason of the very fact that it is included in the Budget and there is no separate item put down as non-votable, the whole of this item can be deleted by this Council. I do

[Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya.]

not know why they have made this departure from the ordinary practice, and I wish to submit that it was obligatory on the part of the Board of Ministers to have put down an item separately, under this Article which I have just quoted, because, such items as are authorised by law have to be put down in the Estimates so that those items would be described as non-votable expenditure in the Budget.

This is the only item of the kind I have discovered in the Estimates; all the other items—for example the salary of the Hon. the Financial Secretary; the salary of the Hon. the Chief Secretary, and the salary of the Hon. the Legal Secretary—have been put down separately and you find them described as provided for by special law. In the case of the Hon. the Legal Secretary, the amount provided by special law under Article 91 of the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931, is Rs. 36,000. It is put down in black and white. The Hon. the Legal Secretary is perfectly secure as to his salary.

But with regard to the Defence vote, is it exposed to scrutiny by this House? I would like the Hon. the Financial Secretary or a Member of the Board of Ministers to give some explanation as to why this particular practice or procedure is being adopted. It is not proper procedure, as it is not in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Constitution. They seem to be following a procedure which they themselves have evolved and which is not authenticated by the Constitution under which this Government is functioning at the moment.

Now, I wish to recall the occasion when we passed that Supplementary vote of Rs. 9,111,149 the other day. The whole story of the Defence vote was not before the House. I would refer hon. Members to the Observations that were appended to that Supplementary Estimate.

"With the concurrence of the Board of Ministers the whole question of the Defence Contribution has been under correspondence with the Government of the United Kingdom with a view to radical revision. It has been tentatively agreed to pay an annual lump sum of Rs. 27,000,000 as

defence contribution for the period from October 1, 1941, to the Armistice, to cover this Government's share of all expenditure on the defence of Ceylon by the Navy, Army, and Air Force. The sum includes the cost of the Ceylon Defence Force, which becomes an Imperial commitment, but not the cost of the Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force, which is to remain a liability of this Government. Each Government is to pay the other for goods, services, and rent of buildings, but no charge will be made for the use of vacant Crown land required by the Forces except expenses consequential on vacation. This lump sum contribution includes the Military contribution payable under the provisions of the Defence Contribution Ordinance (Chapter 294). The Ceylon Government will remain liable for pensions and gratuities to members of the Ceylon Defence Force in accordance with existing regulations. Funds amounting to Rs. 17,888,851 have already been provided for. Supplementary provision is now required for the balance sum of Rs. 9,111,149."

Now you will have to consider this together with the speech of the Hon. Leader of the House in introducing the Budget. The Hon. Leader, in introducing the Budget, prided in the fact that they had struck a bargain with the Imperial Government when they arrived at this figure of Rs. 27,000,000, because, he argued, under the existing law, we have to pay 9½ per. cent of our revenue, plus certain other commitments which this Government will have to bear. He thought that this Rs. 27,000,000 was not too much. As a matter of fact, he thought that it was a bargain that they had struck on behalf of Ceylon because, I believe, he said that

"The law compels us to provide from Ceylon funds all lands and buildings which may be required by the Garrison. If a wide view is taken of the meaning of "Garrison", it can be left to the House to imagine what that liability is likely to be."

From that statement we are to understand that this sum of Rs. 27,000,000 would cover the entire cost of a Garrison plus all expenditure on lands and buildings. I deliberately lay emphasis on this question of land and buildings, because, when that Supplementary vote was passed, I was personally not aware of the fact that out of the emergency vote of Rs. 20,000,000, the Ministers had spent Rs. 1,500,000 for the acquisition of land for Military and R. A. F. purposes. If the whole truth had been before the Members of this Council, they would have realized that they were not only voting Rs. 27,000,000 for the

current year, but that out of the emergency vote that was passed by this Council somewhere in December or January last, when we granted a lump sum of Rs. 20,000,000, the Board of Ministers had already spent nearly Rs. 17,000,000 and out of this Rs. 17,000,000 a sum of Rs. 1,500,000 had been spent for the acquisition of land for Military and R.A.F. purposes. Then the expenditure on the Staff, emergency telephones, railway units and other miscellaneous items amounted to nearly Rs. 3,500,000. That means that for the current year 1941-42 a sum of Rs. 27,000,000 plus another Rs. 3,500,000 has already been either directly or indirectly voted by this Council for the purposes of Defence.

Sir, I think it would have been proper if the Hon. Minister had drawn our attention to the fact that out of the emergency vote a sum of Rs. 3,500,000 had been spent on Active Defence. It is described as such in the memorandum. The other is described as Passive Defence, such as A.R.P. and other expenses. Sir, when we take Hon. Ministers into our confidence, I think they should have a little more consideration for the Members of this Council and they should also appreciate the fact that Members of Council are also responsible. It is therefore their duty to place all the facts before the Council before a vote of this nature is passed by this Council.

Now, I would like the Hon. the Financial Secretary or a Member of the Board of Ministers to give an explanation to this Council as to why it was not informed of the fact that, out of the emergency vote, Rs. 3,500,000 had already been spent, according to the agreement they had come to with the Secretary of State without the knowledge of this Council. They were in honour bound, when coming to this Council for a further supplementary vote, to have informed the House that the sum of Rs. 3,500,000 had been spent and that we should have only voted Rs. 5,500,000 and not Rs. 9,111,149.

Sir, with regard to Defence expenditure, I wish to make one or two other observations. I notice that, under the guise of Defence, there is a considerable waste of money in this country. We

know that at the present moment several aerodromes and various other Defence measures necessary for this country are under construction. Those of us who go round the country see that there is a considerable amount of waste in Defence expenditure. I hope the Hon. the Chief Secretary, who is responsible and who is the Minister in charge of Defence under our Constitution, will take a serious note of this waste and bring it to the notice of the authorities, because we are placed in such a parlous position with regard to our finances and are taxing the people to the utmost. I think that even during the present war those who are in charge of these funds should remember that they owe a responsibility to this country and that they too should have regard for economy as much as possible. I would like the Hon. the Chief Secretary to convey these views to the authorities in charge of these Defence votes.

Now, with regard to the expenditure of Rs. 184,000,000, I do not think we can, with the best will, spend such a great deal of money within the present financial year—the biggest item being Defence expenditure. Sir, from the years 1930-31 to 1940-41 this country has been spending a sum of Rs. 50,000,000 for the defences of this country. That is to say for a period of about ten or eleven years, we have been spending Rs. 50,000,000 which works out to an average of Rs. 5,000,000 a year. Those who are responsible for the defence of this country are answerable as to how this money was spent.

Particularly during these hard times, you will admit that a sum of Rs. 50,000,000 is not a small amount. Therefore we expect the authorities to have utilized this money properly and to have spent it for the purposes of the defence of this country. If this money had been properly utilized and diverted to the proper channels, I think our defences would be very much stronger and more secure than they are to-day. I know in the technique of war during the last few years, vast changes have taken place, but that is no reason why, in this country, we should not get an adequate return of proper service for the money that has been spent during the past ten or eleven years on the defence of this

4.00 P.M.—

***Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The sitting is suspended for half an hour.

Sitting suspended accordingly.

[4.30 P.M.] *A quorum not present, and division bells rung.* [4.35 P.M.] *House*

counted, and a quorum not being present—

***Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Council stands adjourned, for want of a quorum, until 10 A.M. to-morrow.

Adjourned accordingly at 4.37 P.M. until 10 A.M. on Thursday, August 6, 1942.