

The State Council of Ceylon.

No. 62.

November 5, 1942.



DEBATES

SESSION OF 1942.

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STATE COUNCIL OF CEYLON.

Thursday, November 5, 1942.

The Council met at 2 p.m. Mr. SPEAKER [THE HON. SIR WAITTALINGAM DURAISWAMY] in the Chair.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.

Mr. S. Dharmaretnam (Batticaloa South): I rise to give notice of the following motions:

(1) That in view of the urgent need to speed up paddy cultivation in Ceylon and in view of the fact that the Chief Headmen are in most cases experienced men capable of rousing interest in the people, this Council resolves that no Chief Headmen should be retired during the pendency of the war without prior reference to the Assistant Government Agents (Emergency) who have been charged with duty of increasing cultivation of food crops in Ceylon.

(2) That as Jaffna and Batticaloa are the two chief towns of the Tamil Provinces in Ceylon, this Council is of opinion that the second and the subsequent interviews for the Selection of Divisional Revenue Officers be held alternately in Jaffna and Batticaloa and as the last interview was held in Jaffna, the next interview should be held in Batticaloa.

(3) That as the Batticaloa Lagoon runs from North to South and divides the area into two unequal portions with the bulk of the paddy lands on the western shore, and as communication over the lagoon involves delay and hardship, and as want of suitable communication has greatly impeded the development of the areas on the western shore, this Council resolves that an additional Divisional Revenue Officer should be placed in charge of the western shore of the Eruvil Porativu and Manmunnai South pattus during the pendency of the war primarily to stimulate paddy cultivation pending a redemarcation of the areas of the Divisional Revenue Officers of the Batticaloa District.

Mr. E. R. Tambimuttu (Trincomalee-Batticaloa): I give notice of the following motion:

That this Council is of opinion that

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

in view of the present increase in the cost of labour and materials—

- (a) The maintenance grant given to Assisted Vernacular Schools should be increased from 50 cents to Re. 1 per child for the present financial year;
- (b) The dearness allowance based on the living index should also be granted to orphanages in addition to the present normal capitation grant.

QUESTIONS.

(ORAL ANSWERS)

58/42.

Food Purchases in India: Report on Investigations.

Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro): Will the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Lands please state whether the report of the Auditor-General regarding his investigations into the Food Purchases in India for and on behalf of the Ceylon Government has been received?

(2) If so, when will the report be made available for consideration by the Council in terms of the undertaking given by the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce?

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture & Lands): I am informed that the report of the Acting Auditor-General has been submitted to H. E. the Governor who has directed the interdiction of the Trade Commissioner, Bombay, and one other officer.

(2) So long as proceedings are pending it would be premature to make a report available to the State Council.

Mr. Dudley Senanayake (Dedigama): Are the proceedings not over yet?

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: No. The report has been submitted; and the Commissioner and another officer has been interdicted. Further proceedings may have to be taken after the Attorney-General has been consulted.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): Were the officers interdicted prior to the submission of the report or after it was submitted?

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: The officers were interdicted on receipt of the report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1942-43.

Pursuant to order, the Council resolved itself into a Committee of the

whole House further to consider the following Supplementary Estimate presented for approval. [November 3]:

(Communications & Works.)

**†(17) Department of Engineering
Production: Training of Machine
Tool Operators.**

Head 131, Department of Engineering Production.

New Sub-head: Training of Machine Tool Operators.

Amount: Rs. 375,000,

Nature of Service: Training of Machine Tool Operators and the establishment of a Workshop.

In Committee:

MR. SPEAKER presided as Chairman.

**The Hon. Colonel J. L. Kotalawala
(Minister of Communications & Works):**

I moved this Supplementary Estimate last Tuesday, but for want of time consideration of the Estimate was postponed for today. I said then that the Observations appended to the Supplementary Estimate gave all the details of the scheme, but hon. Members were not satisfied; they wanted further information. As this scheme is an entirely new venture, I would ask the indulgence of the House to bear with me if I take a few minutes longer with this item than I usually do take with Supplementary Estimates, in order to explain this matter.

This scheme has been subjected to some criticism, and certain queries have been raised about it in the Press as well. One is, whether this is a war-time measure; and the other, why, if it is not so, the Ministry of Communications and Works should undertake this task. The question has been asked whether it is not a matter for a Minister like the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce as well as the Minister of Education. The question has also been asked whether this is a new department. I shall start by saying that this department is new no doubt. It was included in the Estimates as "Head 131, Department of Engineering Production."

The object of this Engineering Production Department is to help the present engineering industry by pooling resources and finding ways and means of tackling engineering problems that crop up from time to time, as we are daily finding it difficult to import new machinery and even material. One of the most difficult problems that crop up is this. If the machines that we have already in Ceylon are to be put to the fullest use, they have to be worked for 24 hours in the day; but even if we have the machines or the material, we may not have the men to work 24-hour shifts. Therefore this scheme is intended to provide workshops with the necessary men so that the machines can be worked for 24 hours in the day.

As you know, the scheme of training that we have in Ceylon for what they call technicians is just like the mason's boy system where a boy helps the mason in his work; in 2 or 3 years' time the boy becomes a mason himself. There is no technical training given as such; the boy starts working, at the age of 14 or 15 years, with a man on a lathe or in a blacksmith's shop, or as a mason or carpenter's boy, and later from pure experience or at least having seen for himself how the work was done, the boy himself takes up the particular trade to which he had been apprenticed. That has been the system adopted in the past, and it has resulted in only those who are keen on such work becoming technicians; or if unfortunately a boy becomes attached to a bad workman, he himself turns out to be like his teacher.

Then, we also had a scheme under which only the sons of the workmen were taken into Government workshops. We felt that if the son of a workman happened to dislike the particular trade or disliked becoming a skilled operator, he would always shirk his job and would not turn out a success in the long run.

Under this scheme we propose to select 200 boys and train them, but as the demand for technicians is so great the Board of Ministers felt that we should increase the number to 500 since the waste in this particular trade is such that in a year about 600 even could be absorbed.

I have devoted a special paragraph to recruitment. Recruitment is to be made from all over the Island and is to be confined to boys between the ages of 16

! For the Observations of the Financial Secretary, and the Report of the Board of Ministers see HANSARD of November 3, 1942.

and 18 with a certain standard of education. I say that the standard should be Standard VI in English or Sinhalese, or Tamil. The object is to get a class of boy who will be able to understand the work quickly and who will turn out to be an efficient workman at the end of the period. In the course of training it is also proposed to give the boy a superficial knowledge of English so that he will be able to understand a plant or a figure or the terms that are usually used in this trade.

It is also provided that all the boys, should be housed under one roof; that is, that they should be made to live in a camp, fed, clothed and disciplined, and form a glorified Boys' Brigade of the Essential Services Labour Corps. The purpose is to see that these boys put in the necessary number of lectures and are in the workshop in time. It is essential that the workshop should be in a locality which is outside the target areas. There is a suitable place on the existing site of Camp No. 3 of the Essential Services Labour Corps, and it is felt that we could accommodate these boys there.

The question has been raised why this body should be called a corps and why discipline is required. Personally, I might say that that is one of the most important features of the whole scheme. I have seen, within the last six months, how discipline has improved, not only the physique, but also the outlook of those men who joined the Essential Services Labour Corps.

The training is to be divided into two sections. One is to be theoretical training to be given at the Technical College; or, if the number is too large, a technical officer will be detailed to lecture to the boys at the camp. The Director of Engineering Production told me that if these boys were to receive their training at the Technical College, the College will have to have large class-rooms and different hours of sessions to give the very large number of boys concerned the necessary training. Therefore it was thought that it would be much more convenient for the schoolmaster to go to the camp rather than the whole camp going to the school.

After the course of theoretical training in mensuration and such other subjects as have been mentioned in the Ob-

servations, the boy will be given a workshop training where he would actually be allowed to handle the lathe and tools, like a real workman; and when that training is over, he will not only work to earn but will also produce goods which it is impossible to obtain in the country, such as hammers, foot-rulers, machine instruments, and so forth. It is very difficult to obtain these articles at the present time, and we find that there are nearly 500 articles which can be easily turned out by this workshop. Now, if those articles are produced here, we can easily stop importing them into Ceylon.

When the scheme is completed, or at least when the experimental stage is over, I visualize that it is going to be with us for good, because, if we have a couple of thousands of mechanics or skilled workers, industries are likely to spring up automatically in Ceylon and they will give the young lads an opportunity of earning their living, with an earning capacity of Re. 1 to Rs. 3 per day.

I think I have now explained fully whatever has not been stated in the Observations, and I trust the House will pass this Supplementary Estimate.

Mr. P. de S. Kularatne (Balapitiya) : I should like to make one or two remarks about this proposal of the Minister of Communications and Works. Personally, I should like to congratulate the Minister on this idea. This is an excellent scheme, and I think it is a feature that should have been introduced into our educational system long ago.

For one thing, I should like to comment on the Selection Board that is proposed. It seems to me that the Selection Board should contain somebody who understands Sinhalese and Tamil. I do not know whether the Director of Engineering Production understands Sinhalese or Tamil; nor do I know the other officer's knowledge of the two languages.

I am not quite sure whether I followed the Minister's remarks correctly. The Observations appended to the Estimate state that the training is to be given at the Technical College. I thought I heard him speak about making other arrangements for the training. Whether that is the intention or not, I do not know. But the Technical College is prepared to give

[Mr. Kularatne.]

the necessary training, as far as I know; and if the Technical College is going to give the training, I feel that the Principal of the Technical College should also be associated with this Selection Board.

I also hope that, although Standard VI is mentioned here as the minimum standard required, preference would be given to boys who have passed the Junior School Certificate or the Senior School Certificate Examination, because there are a large number of boys who have passed these examinations in Sinhalese and Tamil who are without employment. It seems to me that they ought to be given a chance of joining this course of training. Of course, it is understood that the men selected will have the other qualifications necessary.

I should like to have an assurance from the Hon. Minister on the point I raised, whether the training is going to be given at the Technical College or somewhere else.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: Perhaps it would help the House if I deal with the different points as they are raised, instead of waiting till the end to reply to all the points.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, the object is to give all the technical education that is required, at the Technical College. But there may be a case like this: supposing we have to send 100 boys to the Technical College for a class, instead of sending the 100 boys to the College, by train or bus, for one year, we might get a teacher from the Technical College to go to the camp and give instruction. That would be very much simpler. It is for that purpose that I said that as the College is now being enlarged the question whether the boys attend the Technical College, or the teacher from the College should go to the camp is under discussion. I am also told that certain class-rooms will have to be added to the Technical College to accommodate these boys. Provision has not been made in this Estimate for such extensions. If extensions are required, I am sure the Hon. Minister of Education will come to this House for a vote for the purpose.

The other question that was raised by the hon. Member was that boys who have passed the Junior School Certificate

or Senior School Certificate should be given the opportunity of joining this corps. According to our scheme, the minimum standard laid down is Standard VI. So if a boy is a B. A., we would be only too pleased to have him. Therefore it is not a question of taking in boys who have just passed Standard VI. Standard VI is the minimum qualification.

The third question that the hon. Member raised was that the Principal of the Technical College should be associated with the Selection Board. Actually for selecting schoolboys we do not want a Board composed of three important men, such as the Principal of the Technical College, the Director of Engineering Production and the Corps Commandant. The application forms would be sent to the Selection Board. It is the representatives of these two officers on the Selection Board who would select the boys.

Just as in the case of the E.S.L.C., where there were about 10,000 applicants, there will be about 5,000 applicants to join this Corps. In the case of this corps there would be recruiting-centres all over the Island. The applicants will first have to fill in forms giving their qualifications. The forms will then have to be looked into, and those who have not passed Standard VI will be disqualified. Then, the boys who are not given permission by their parents to join the corps will have to go out.

Eventually, it would be the Selection Board that would select the boys for the corps. I did not want to put the Principal of the Technical College into the Selection Board because it would be a pure waste of his time.

Dr. A. P. de Zoysa (Colombo South):

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this is a training school for mechanics, and whether this would be a temporary or permanent training school for boys of this age.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: As I said earlier, this is purely an experiment or a temporary measure, but I hope that it would be so successful that somebody would take it up and run it as a permanent measure in the future if everything worked well. When the Essential Services Labour Corps was started, there was a great deal of discussion, criticism and fear. Now it has proved its usefulness. In the same way, if the

Boys' Training Corps would produce better technicians and give these boys a better chance in life, I personally think that it should be carried on permanently under somebody's—it does not matter whose—direction.

Dr. de Zoysa: It appears to me that this is a temporary measure or experiment as was admitted by the Hon. Minister. The Minister wants these young men to work in the P. W. D. or in other departments after their having received this initial training. But then he often complains that he has not the necessary material, such as cement, iron and other articles. He actually wants us to believe that these youths are to be employed in the departments.

On the contrary, I feel that he is trying to obtain a vote to help the Military, that is, to provide them with some mechanics. If that is so, he must plainly say so. If he says that the Military authorities require 500 or 1,000 youths to be trained and handed over to them for service, these youths should be plainly told that they would be wanted for that purpose, and the money should be asked on that account. Here the Minister appears as if he is going to confer a blessing on the country by training 500 youths to be mechanics. If this is a measure to secure young men for the Military, all that he says is bluff.

If this is a proposal to establish an industrial school, the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce ought to have taken it up. If this is a Military measure, or if these youths are wanted for the Military, we are ready to consider the question if it is brought up and we are told that it is for the Military. Why should the taxpayers pay for a venture or an experiment, as the Hon. Minister says, to train people for whom you are not sure of being able to find employment?

There is the question of the training schools. We train many young men and women. There are so many trained people for whom there is no employment that the question has arisen of closing down those schools. If these young men, after being trained, are used for war purposes, they must be told what they are going to do with them after the war. The Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce can say that he will have

his factories to absorb them. But the Minister of Communications and Works merely wants these people trained to make hammers and other tools.

I would ask the Minister to be honest to himself and say whether the immediate demand of the country, at the moment, is not the production of food rather than hammers and other tools. If the immediate need of the country is food, we should train these young men to produce food. We should not only call for applications, but commandeer their services and put them to work on the land whether they are willing or not. We should have armies of these people. We should have not only armies of men, but also armies of women to produce food.

Instead of doing that, we are asked to vote money to train 500 young men as a temporary measure and as an experiment. And where does this experiment lead us? You say that these boys will be at the Technical College for three months and at the workshop for another three months and so on. Let those young men know that they are being trained for a purpose and that we are not going to offer them employment. Otherwise these young men between the ages of 16 and 18, thinking that they will be given permanent employment under Government, will readily join this corps. In the end, after a year or two—when the war is over—they will be thrown out of work. I would ask the Hon. Minister to ascertain from the authorities at the Labour Exchange how many mechanics people who know this type of work, there are without employment. The Labour Exchange has registered these people.

We ought to examine this scheme more carefully. If it is an experiment, it is an experiment which is going to cost the country over Rs. 300,000. This money can be given to the Minister of Agriculture and Lands for food-production work. If the Minister of Communications and Works wants to train these young men, he can train them to produce food. Then he will be doing something which is immediately needed by the country. Perhaps such a measure, if it is taken on a large scale, will at least give the Hon. Leader of the House his very-much-needed rest and make him remain in this country and not go to India and other places begging for rice—the last thing, I think, he would like to do.

[Dr. de Zoysa.]

I would therefore ask hon. Members not to rush through this scheme but to consider it carefully. If the question is one of establishing a training school for young mechanics, then it could be left in the hands of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce because he is in charge of these schools. There is already a Technical College, and there are several industrial schools all over the Island. Those industrial schools can divide this work, and at the least expense train these 500 young men if necessary. It would be more economical to have these young men trained in the industrial schools.

The industrial schools are already doing this work and they can more efficiently train these young men.

It would be a great hardship to the young men if, after a year's training, and perhaps after two years' work in a temporary capacity, turning out hammers and other tools, they find that they are out of work. The so-called tools that they are expected to make will be crude and made with difficulty, and will not be in demand after the war, because then well-finished tools will be available from other countries which can produce better and cheaper articles.

If that is to be the result, why should we spend over Rs. 300,000 on a temporary measure like this when people are starving, when the social services are neglected, when there are so many other needs to be met—merely to satisfy the wishes of a Minister who likes to see a large number of uniformed young men, 500 of them. All that may be very pleasant, but think of the expense.

I hope hon. Members will oppose this vote.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The hon. Member wants to know whether, when these 500 young men have been trained, we are going to provide them with jobs. If the hon. Member had read the Observations, it would have saved his time and ours. He would have seen what the object of the scheme is. To-day many workshops in the country—Government and private—are taking in all the available mechanics, and the result is that there is a dearth of mechanics in Ceylon.

The hon. Member stated that a number of mechanics were without employment. If that is so, why does he not run a workshop himself? It would be

profitable to do so, and he could provide these unemployed mechanics with work. Today the workshops of the Island are clamouring for trained workers. The Ceylon Engineers are recruiting raw hands and training them. Any man who has a knowledge of operating a lathe can earn Rs. 3 a day. Great difficulty is experienced in supplying men for the workshops run by Messrs. Walker, Sons and Co., Messrs. Brown and Co., the Railway workshops, etc.

Newly-manufactured articles are not being imported into Ceylon in sufficient quantities. Old machinery, etc., already in Ceylon has to be repaired and kept in use. If a motor car goes out of order, it is not thrown away but sent to a workshop and repaired and kept in use, because we cannot import new cars. Similarly, tools and other implements have to be repaired and made use of. The Engineering Production Board has been set up to decide what work is important and should be given preference. The machinery, etc., already in Ceylon have to be worked overtime, if we are to cope with the work that has to be done.

These boys, when they have been trained, will be available, not merely for work in Government factories; we shall give them certificates on completion of their training, and they can obtain employment in non-Government factories. In the course of training, some of them might be sent to a factory or workshop to do shifts, as soon as they are capable of doing so. If a lad of 18, after, say, three months' training is found capable of handling a lathe, he would be drafted either to a Government factory or to another factory where he might prefer to work as a skilled workman. If he does not secure a job immediately, he will receive a certificate which would enable him later on to obtain employment elsewhere.

At the end of the war, those men will be without jobs, it was stated. That is a fallacy, because the same thing can be said of any scheme of education or training. The more we educate the people, the more difficult it would be to obtain jobs for them!

Here is an opportunity to train men who wish to take up a technical career, to work as technicians. They will get a good grounding in the work, and be given certificates, with the help of which

they can obtain jobs in any factory, on wages of between Rs. 1.50 and Rs. 3 a day.

We do not want to prevent these young men from joining the Army or any firm or workshop, if they want to. We are now trying to find men who can do the work.

The hon. Member perhaps does not realize that the Essential Services Labour Corps, which was started with 500 men, has now gone up to more than 3,000—1,500 in Trincomalee and 1,800 in Colombo. The Corps has already trained some 10,000 men. The recruits to this Corps are made physically fit; they are taught to look after themselves, and when they become efficient they obtain employment elsewhere. The recruits to the Army Labour Battalion were, to the extent of about 60 per cent. from the E. S. L. C. These men obtain a good grounding in the E. L. S. C., and are able to obtain a higher rate of pay and better conditions when they join the Army. The E. S. L. C. has therefore acted as a training school, not merely for recruits to the Army but also for men who seek work in other spheres.

I wish hon. Members will attend the function fixed for 21st November when the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce will open the industrial workshop of the E. S. L. C., where 21 new industries have been started.

The men are taught certain industries. When they are in the camp and are not required for any essential work, they receive training in industries. They will leave off and come out to do some essential work in the event of there being an air-raid.

By the time these men complete their training in a particular industry, they will be in a position to earn their living in that particular industry. They are taught cloth-weaving, mat-weaving pottery, bread-making, which are among the 20 industries being taught. The men can learn any one of these industries and they are awarded efficiency badges when they attain a certain standard, they also receive certificates of efficiency. They should be able to find jobs easily.

I hope hon. Members will make it a point to attend the function I referred to and see for themselves this particular branch of the activities of the E. S. L. C.

Mr. G. A. H. Wille (Nominated Member): Sir, the Estimate included in this motion is, as the House will understand, not complete, because, on behalf of the Minister of Education, a vote will be brought forward for nearly Rs. 50,000 for supplying the Technical College side of the scheme. Even so, I think the House should support the scheme, because, although it may seem to be based on sanguine hopes, if the promise of the scheme is not belied, it will be of great benefit to the Island.

The hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa) thought that there would be no openings after the war for these boys who would be trained. I do not see why he should be so pessimistic. A workshop is to be established, and the industries that we intend to promote are going to be furthered by the existence of the workshop. I think there will be plenty of room for the workshop to be a great source of supplies to the Island on the engineering side.

I wish to make one suggestion. The boys are to receive their foundation training, so far as technical knowledge of their work goes, in the Technical College. So that it is essential that the Principal of the Technical College should play an equal part with the Director of Engineering Production and the Camp Commandant in the matter of selecting the candidates and of maintaining discipline. For the first three months of the one year's complete training, the candidates will all be working in the Technical College for the greater part of the day, and it is very essential, considering the age and the educational standard of these boys, that there should be very strict discipline, and I do not think the hands of the Principal of the Technical College should be weakened in any way by his not being given an equal place with the other two authorities, that is, the officer in charge of the camp and the officer in charge of the workshop.

The age limits have been fixed between 16 and 18. I do not think that the age limits should be rigidly observed. It is quite possible that there may be promising young men who are out of employment, who may be just over 18 or even 19. I do not see why they should not come in. In fact, some of these boys,

[Mr. Wille.]

although they may be 18 years old may not have passed Standard VI., so that some relaxation should be made in that respect.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya (Galle): I have no doubt that this scheme will be popular. There are a very large number of young men about this age who have been let loose in this country, and they will probably find their way into Maharagama, where they will be accommodated in camps and given free meals, and be subjected to discipline. For these reasons, this will be a welcome measure—from a statesman's point of view. It would be comforting to one's peace of mind to know that these young men will not turn unruly and give trouble, especially at the present time, when we are going through a terrible war.

There is another aspect of this question. This proposal is brought up on the assumption that there is a great dearth of mechanics and skilled workmen. I do not know whether that is really borne out by facts. There are a very large number of skilled workmen throughout the country who can easily be absorbed into useful work, and if the Department of Engineering Production has been in any way handicapped for want of workmen, I think the services of the men I have referred to can easily be requisitioned. We have not yet been told that any special effort has been made to obtain the services of these men for the Department of Engineering Production.

We have been provided with very meagre information about this new emergency Department of Engineering Production. I expected the Minister of Communications and Works to give us an account of the activities of this Department and justify this new venture.

The proposal is to select 500 young men between the ages of 16 and 18 and give them a training for one year. Anybody who has any knowledge of the training of a mechanic or worker in the engineering industry will know that in a year it would be very difficult to turn out anything like a lathe or skilled worker for a Department like the Department of Engineering Production.

This will be an apprenticeship course, and these boys will certainly be useful in helping other skilled workmen. But I do not think the Minister can expect them to turn out to be efficient workers after just a year's training. To turn out an efficient lathe-man whose work would be of any value, it would take about four to five years. That is my fear with regard to the scheme of training proposed.

It would appear from the Observations that the syllabus of the training at the Technical College is to be drawn up by the Director of Engineering Production, in consultation with the Principal of the Technical College. I see no reason why it should not be the other way about. Any scheme of training to be given at the Technical College should be drawn up by the Principal of the Technical College in consultation with the Head of the Department concerned. I do not know why the Head of the Department of Engineering Production should come into the Technical College and train these people in accordance with his own syllabus. I think the training should fit in with the scheme of work at the Technical College. There should be no conflict whatever between the authorities of the Technical College and the Head of the Department of Engineering Production.

I believe that even at the Technical College there are a very large number of young men who are already receiving training, more or less, exactly on the same lines, because, evening classes are being conducted for this purpose and those classes are very popular. Therefore I hope there will be no conflict of interest between the training by the Department of Engineering Production and the Technical College in regard to this matter. If there is such a clash, it would be very unfortunate and the training of the young men would undoubtedly suffer.

Then, there is also the military aspect of this problem. I do not think the Hon. Minister will deny the fact that he is anxious to militarize the people by drilling them and giving them uniforms to wear. The Commander in Chief will be invited to inspect these young men who have been produced by the Hon. Minister.

Nov. 5, 1942]

Debates.

I visualize the time when we shall have a similar report and enlist a band of young girls too. Special quarters will have to be provided at Maharagama; and the whole of that area might have to be requisitioned for the extension of this Department.

Ultimately we shall have an army of 100,000 men, and women, because as time goes on the numbers will be increased; the original number of 500 men has now increased to over 3,000. The scheme will become very popular and it will absorb most of the people who may come forward. If more men are forthcoming, they will all be taken on, and ultimately we shall probably have an army under the command of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works. He will be at the head of the men, boys and girls, and, when it comes to our turn to fight, they will march forward, I hope, with the Colonel at the head. I wish the Colonel the best of luck. I only hope that the training which these young people will be given will be a good one and that every step will be taken by the Hon. Minister to make the best use of the Technical College; then there would be no conflict between the Technical College authorities and the Department of Engineering Production.

Dr. de Zoysa: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is an essential part of this training to have uniforms, including headgear, sandals, and so on, on which he proposes to spend Rs. 20,000? There are many training schools in the Island, and there have been training schools in the past. We have trained very able people, without giving them uniforms, sandals, headgear, and so on. I understand that a soldier is not a soldier because of his uniform but is actually one because of his knowledge of military affairs.

The Hon. Minister should not spend this sum of Rs. 20,000 on uniforms. He can provide these young men with sarongs, banyans, and so on. If he wants to supply them with shorts while they are at work, it would be a different thing, but why does he want all these headgear and sandals? We want the Hon. Minister to be frank with us. Does he want to have a unit of military men; if so, then we know what we are spending for; otherwise, I should like to know why all this equipment—headgear, sandals, and so on—is needed.

The Hon. Mr. C. W. Kannangara (Minister of Education): Sir, I want to speak a few words on this matter. When this scheme was brought up, I anticipated that it would to some extent conflict with the work entrusted to the Principal of the Technical College. The Engineer in charge of this Department—Mr. Freer—was asked to discuss the scheme with the Principal of the Technical College and to put it up to us. I have the scheme in my hands; and appended to it there is a proposal to come to this Council for a vote of Rs. 49,900 for what is required to implement that portion of the work that will be entrusted to the Technical College. That vote has been passed by the Executive Committee, and I think it has already been sent up to the Treasury. So that if this scheme is accepted, the vote I referred to will come up for consideration by this House.

Now, I gave my assent to this scheme on the definite understanding that the recommendation contained in the report that was made by Mr. Freer, who is the Engineer in charge, after consultation with the Principal of the Technical College, would be one of the essential features of the scheme. What I find is that where it had been suggested that that the Principal should be entrusted with certain definite duties the suggestion has been dropped. I should like to know why the suggestion cannot be adopted. I can read out the few such omissions.

For instance, the Principal of the Technical College was to be equally responsible for the preliminary technical training under an approved programme. That suggestion has not been embodied in the scheme. Again, in regard to recruitment and selection, a Selection Board composed of the Director of Engineering Production, the Principal Technical College, and Corps Commandant, was to interview and select the boys. In the case of that suggestion the Principal has been left out. Yet again, with regard to training and discipline, the Principal was to be fully responsible for maintaining discipline and control during the period the boys were under his control; he was also to be responsible for the technical training. That suggestion too has been dropped. Once again with regard to technical training the boys were to be sent to the Technical College at the times specified in the time-table. That suggestion has been omitted. Some of the main features have been deleted with a view to really

[The Hon. Mr. Kannangara.] taking off some of the main responsibilities that have been placed on the Principal of the Technical College.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara (Morawaka): That is very good.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: Sir, an Hon. Member says that it is very good—[*Interruption*—]and that the Principal is not popular. That is what the hon. Member for Morawaka states. It looks to me as if this is another attempt—I did not want to say it, but I do so because of the words that have escaped from the hon. Member—to take away what is due to the Principal of the Technical College from his hands.

If that is so—I am sorry to say it—although I gave my assent to this scheme earlier, I cannot do so now. If the suggestions I referred to are going to be embodied in the Observations of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works and the scheme is going to be carried out in the spirit and in the letter of the report submitted by the Director of Engineering Production, Mr. H. W. Freer, and the Principal of the Technical College, then I will give my assent to it. The suggestions that I read out are in that report. If all that is going to be embodied in the scheme and no variations are going to be made, I am prepared to give my assent to and vote for the scheme.

But, from the remarks of the Hon. Minister himself it would appear that he contemplates a time when perhaps it might be necessary to set up another institute in Maharagama instead of sending the boys to the Technical College. That being so, I must definitely state that I gave my assent on the understanding that, where the theoretical part of the training was concerned, the Principal of the Technical College would be responsible for it. I hope the Hon. Minister will agree to that and to the original report; then there would be no trouble.

Mr. Wille: There may be some excuse for the Hon. Minister's misgiving, but I do not see how the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works can get over what is here. In the Observations, it is stated that the course of training will extend to a maximum period of one year, three months of which will be spent in the Technical College.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara: Sir, I cannot understand the Hon. Minister of Education taking a stray remark of mine and drawing the inference that there seemed to be an attempt made to undermine the Technical College. We all know what the Technical College has done for this country in the past, and we all know what the Technical College is doing for the Island just now. However much the Hon. Minister and the Ministry of Education may think that the Principal of the Technical College is doing his best for the College, I for one—and there are many others in this country who are of that opinion—disagree with them.

With regard to the scheme, I do not think anybody on earth can please the hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa). He has no "practical bump" in his head. He is too philosophic. He said, "What is the use of tools? Put all these young men into agriculture". Well, if he has done or seen anything of agriculture himself, he will understand that the first requirements for agriculture are tools. It is a mamoty or an alavangoe that is required for doing agricultural work. What this country requires is a good deal of discipline, and I realize that through the scheme a large number of youths could be trained and disciplined to take up certain jobs in this country.

The hon. Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya) said, "What is the use of physical drill; why should these boys be drilled and trained?"

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I never said that.

Mr. R. C. Kannangara: Then the hon. Member agrees with me. I am glad to hear that.

But the hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa) cannot see anything good emanating from the Board of Ministers. I hope hon. Members will not listen to him, because the practical side of a question is beyond him.

What I want to tell the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is that in selecting these young men, he should be fair by all the Provinces of the Island. I hope the scheme would not be made applicable to those in Colombo only. Something must be done in Colombo only. Something must be done in each Province, because there are

young men in the other Provinces who have the necessary educational qualifications and who are eager to seek some kind of employment in any part of the country. Therefore the selection should be made on a percentage basis from each electorate or from each Province or district. That is what I wish to emphasize.

Whatever the Hon. Minister of Education may think, whether we are going to have his vote and his support or not, this scheme should have nothing to do with the Principal of the Technical College. I have had no previous discussion with the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works or any other Hon. Minister about it, but I feel, that we have a grievance against the Technical College and the Minister of Education, that they are not trying to put things into order with regard to the College; as long as the Hon. Minister of Education persists in that attitude, we are not going to support the Technical College. I do not care what other hon. Members think, but I am not going to support the Technical College because it has not done anything for the people of this country. As long as the present Principal is there I do not think that anything useful can be done. If the hon. Minister does not want to give his support to this scheme, and does not want to allow any of the masters whom the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works has in view to lecture to these students, he will have to go outside the Technical College and find suitable men for the purpose.

***Mr. G. G. Ponnambalam (Point Pedro):** I would move, Mr. Chairman, a reduction of Rs. 20,000 in the vote proposed. I arrive at the figure of Rs. 20,000 not by any calculation of mine but *ex facie* of the Observations appended to the Supplementary Estimate. It would appear that a sum of Rs. 20,000 is to be allocated for uniforms, headgear and sandals.

Now, I do not think that most of us can subscribe to the view that these young men, when they are to be industrially or technically trained, must be clothed in a particular uniform and that its aesthetic appeal will finally decide the efficiency of the production turned out. I think this country and several other parts of the world—[*Interruption*]. Is there a quarrel going on? Shall I

wait? As I was saying, I think several parts of the world have felt the baneful effect of the regimentation of the youth.

The hon. Minister of Communications and Works seems to have a particular kind of penchant for placing people in uniform and mounting them on guard. Whatever use the Essential Services Labour Corps may be put to in this country at a time of emergency, I do not think their value is going to be the least bit enhanced by the fact of their uniform. In point of fact, we are going to turn out a good many middle-class and lower middle-class young men who will have peculiar notions about themselves, and unless this country is prepared to face a scheme of unemployment or a definite rise in the standard of living which will enable them to go on in a fairly contended manner after the war, we will be guilty of an act of gross deception in putting false notions into their heads.

There are two aspects of this matter, and I would ask the Board of Ministers to consider whether it is really wise at this stage to adopt this proposal when there is a school of thought which is against regimentation, or against pressing people in uniform and putting them into camps and training them. We have already seen the ill-effects of such training in the land of the Nazis. Are we going, while ostensibly fighting against some of the ideals of the Nazis and the Fascists, to adopt today the very things that have given rise to unrest in Europe and Japan?

I do most seriously suggest that we are going the wrong way. It might appeal to our sense of humour, or it might even appeal to our aesthetic sense. But I do seriously say that this idea of putting people in uniform and giving them a crest on their turban or headgear, is not going to get us forward. And the position will become all the worse when after the war these people may not know what to do with their uniform, unless it is obviously proposed that behind this corps is a Fascist movement in this country to be utilized by certain people for their own purposes.

I think hon. Members will recall that when the formation of the Essential Services Labour Corps was proposed, I opposed it, not without appreciating its utility. But I did seriously say this,

[Mr. Ponnambalam.] that this idea of drilling these young men and keeping them under questionable leadership is going to create a problem the dimensions of which we cannot gauge at the present time.

For that reason, Mr. Chairman, I am constrained to move the reduction of this vote by at least Rs. 20,000, because I do feel that the reduction of the vote by Rs. 20,000 will still leave the training of these people intact, if, as the Minister says, such trained men are necessary for the turning out of machine tools.

There is another point. I think this sort of indiscriminate training of the people for a particular vocation without any idea, without any data with regard to the extent or the number of these young men who can be absorbed into, shall I say, machine-tool industries after the war, what the demand for machine tools will be after the war, will be, again, making a lop-sided development in whatever evolution is going to be effected in this country; because in point of fact, if a situation arises, as I feel sure it will arise after the war, where a number of men have been drawn into a certain form of industrial, mechanical or technical training and we find that the country has not the wealth to absorb the labour of all these men, well, then, there is going to be a great amount of discontent.

One other matter, Mr. Chairman. A matter which might be amusing, if it is not gratifying, and which is revealed in the debate is that the "homogeneous" plank of the Board of Ministers which has been kept together by the glue or the varnish of the three Officers of State is now showing signs of cracking.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake (Minister of Agriculture and Lands):

I presume it was the appearance of this cracking that made my hon. Friend open his mouth. He was so jubilant that he could hardly restrain himself.

Listening to him, one would imagine that it was only Fascists who wore uniforms. There does not seem to be any other kind of uniform. I presume that he wears his robe when he goes to the Courts. I am surprised that a man who wears a kind of uniform when he practises his profession should think that it was only Fascists who wore uniforms.

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** I do not wear a uniform, Mr. Chairman.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: To say that we are trying to introduce Fascism into this country merely because some people are to wear a kind of uniform is to go to absurd lengths. I do not think even the hon. Member is justified in going to such lengths.

Now with regard to this training, I think if there is anything that should appeal to hon. Members it is this scheme. Anyone would realize that if increased employment was to be found in Ceylon, it could be done only by improving the standard of living in this country. We are living in a mechanical age when more than man-power is needed to improve the condition of the people. It is a mechanical age, and in such an age, any country that desires to improve its standard of living must train mechanics for various purposes.

The hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa), for instance, has stated that all this money should be utilized for agricultural development. I feel that this proposal would in some measure contribute to the development of agriculture itself. As far as I am concerned, I realize very much the shortage of trained mechanics. I know, it has been the wish of this House to try and obtain mechanical plant from abroad to extend our cultivation. Perhaps my hon. Friend who is concerned about agriculture would feel that this proposal is a step in the right direction when he realizes that in India and Ceylon, especially in Ceylon, an agriculturist, with the instruments that he has, can cultivate only about three or four acres, when in a country like Australia, where mechanical plant is used, he can cultivate as many as 80 to 100 acres.

After all, we cannot reach that stage all at once. We cannot adopt the use of mechanical plant merely by importing the plant here; we must have mechanically-trained men. This proposal, I think, is a proposal in the right direction.

There is another suggestion that has been made, and that is that this training should be given at the Technical College. I do not know whether the House is aware that we in Ceylon are in want of mechanical plant. A Production Board was established so that we could

assemble parts of plant that are available in different places into one unit and to make the best use of it. When such a Board has been established and these plant are to be assembled and converted into a sort of factory, I believe we will get the best results if these students are trained at that very place.

There has been a fear expressed that the Technical College would take a secondary place here. I believe, when the Principal of the Technical College and the Chairman of the Production Board agreed that the Technical College should be entrusted with the training of the boys for three months, it was realized that the Technical College would be able to do some part of that training which would last three months and during that time nobody else but the Principal would be in charge. It is not proposed that Mr. Freer or anyone else should be in charge of these students when they are in the Technical College. I do not think anyone could assume that, and I have not the slightest doubt that between the Principal and the Chairman of the Board there would not be any disagreement, and the work would be carried on quite smoothly.

With regard to the amendment proposed, asking for a reduction of the vote by Rs. 20,000 merely because that amount is to be spent on uniforms, I would ask the hon. Member to dismiss from his mind the word "uniform" and insert in its place the word "clothing," for I am sure he would not want these young men to go naked. We give pay, food and clothing; those are the three things we give them in this scheme. After all, if he does not want to give these men clothing I am sure the object my hon. Friend the Member for Galle (Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya), has in view, of introducing a course of training for girls there, could never be achieved.

The cheapest way of giving clothing is to provide some sort of uniform. Merely because there will be sandals and headgear too provided, the hon. Member thinks that it is a soldier's uniform. Up to now I have not heard of soldiers wearing sandals.

***The Hon. Mr. S. W. D. B. Bandaranaike (Minister of Local Administration):** What about Roman soldiers?

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Oh, he must have been thinking of Roman

soldiers! But as far as headgear is concerned, I believe even now Easterners do wear headgear. These people have to work under different conditions, and I think some protection of the head as well as the feet is necessary.

Mr. H. R. Freeman (Anuradhapura): Owing to the dispute that has arisen between two Ministers about the Technical College I do not intend to take part in the voting.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: But there is no dispute now.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I really cannot understand why the Minister of Education who has been seated next to me here all these years should have taken up the attitude that he did take up without even mentioning to me that he was opposed to this proposal because of something that does not appear in the scheme. I am really surprised, but I think I have not yet lived long enough to be able to judge human nature.

I invited the Hon. Minister to discuss this matter originally. I had Mr. Freer; I had all the technical men; and I had the Civil Defence Commissioner; and we discussed this proposal. We discussed the question and it was on my instructions that those two gentlemen were appointed to go into this subject. They were to submit their report to me. I submitted my report to the Executive Committee and the Board of Ministers; and it was passed by the Board of Ministers; and when it comes before this House today, without that ordinary decency which one should show towards one's neighbour, the Hon. Minister of Education gets up and says that by bringing forward this proposal I am out to give the Technical College a knock out — [Interruption*].

Mr. S. Abeywickrama (Udugama): It is very unkind.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I explained a while ago why the boys did not go to the Technical College.

Our original intention was to have 200 boys in training, in which case twenty-five boys would have gone to the Technical College and the other 175 would have been given other jobs. The number of boys was increased to 500 on the orders

[The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala.]
of the Board of Ministers. The Board of Ministers was of opinion that 600 trained boys a year were required. As mechanically-trained youth were wanted very badly, as we were launching a scheme for training youth in this line of work and as the initial cost of training a larger number of youth was practically the same as that of the restricted scheme we had in view at the start, the Board of Ministers decided that the number of boys in training should be increased to 500.

Now, to give that course of training it was necessary either to take the boys to their master or to bring the master to the boys. What is the easier course to adopt? I am sure the House will agree that it is easier to bring the master to the boys as that means so much saving on the transport that would otherwise have to be arranged to convey the boys to the Technical College. All the 500 boys are accommodated in one place and that is the reason why that course of action was adopted.

These boys will be taught by the Technical College staff. If that is so, can I or anybody else go and tell the Technical College Instructor to teach the boys, say, arithmetic when he is teaching something else? Can anybody ask the Technical College master to teach these boys a subject that he does not know. The syllabus would be drawn up by Mr. Freer and the Head of the Technical College. Those two gentlemen will draw up the teaching programme and the masters of the Technical College will teach these boys. I also mentioned in the course of my speech that the Hon. Minister of Education would probably come to this House with a request that the staff of the Technical College should be increased.

An hon. Member suggested that these youths should be recruited from the different constituencies. Can you normally expect 3 Heads of Departments to go round to Batticaloa, Jaffna and to other far-off places recruiting boys between the ages of sixteen and eighteen? You do not have recourse to such a selection even for a job carrying a salary of Rs. 1,000 a month. The Head of the Department of Engineering Production is associated with two others; they are,

the Principal of the Technical College, to deal with the technical aspect of the project, and the Assistant Civil Defence Commissioner, to look after the boarding side of the scheme. Is it physically possible to put all these three officers together and make them work as one Head of Department? That will not work. Therefore there is only one Head in that Department, namely the Director of Engineering Production; and, as I said, he is associated with two others—the Principal of the Technical College, to deal with the technical side of the scheme, and the Assistant Civil Defence Commissioner, to deal with the boarding-house where these youths would be housed; that is, at Maharagama.

The Officer at the boarding house, a school master type of individual, would be the person who would measure the height of the recruits and see to their physical fitness; and the educational qualifications of the recruits could be ascertained from the certificates that these youths would produce. I should like to know whether the Principal of the Technical College could just look at a youth and tell you that that youth would turn out to be a good mechanic. Does he enjoy powers of divination to be able to do that?

On the question of uniform. These youths are to be given sandals to wear, for a very good reason. I should like to inform the House that it has been found that 60 per cent. of inefficiency among mechanics in this country is due to their not using footwear. In a mechanical workshop, the first injury a man receives is to his foot, by his foot striking against something sharp that lies on the floor of the workshop. In the Railway Workshops it has been found that a very great majority of the absentees keep away because of cuts and bruises received on their feet. You will therefore realize that a great deal of the inefficiency in mechanical workshops is due to the workmen not using footwear. If a workman puts down his foot where there are nails, very frequently a nail goes through his foot. That is why it is proposed to give these youths in training sandals to wear. Of course, these will be wooden sandals; and with wooden sandals they would not be able to run about the workshop without being noticed.

For the headgear, we propose to give a towel as it is a very useful article. They can use that towel to wipe their faces and hands after a wash. Of course, a towel is too big an article to carry about in the pocket as a handkerchief. I myself have seen the hon. Member sporting a towel in Jaffna.

I can assure the House, as the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Lands has already done, that if hon. Members so desire, they may alter the details of the Supplementary Estimate so that the word "uniform" may read "clothes". I do not mind that being done. Shorts and banyans are the cheapest articles of clothing we can give these youths today. A sarong costs at least about Rs. 4 today and a coat something more. Some hon. Members did not like the idea of these youths being given a uniform of the same colour: if the House approves, I am prepared to give them uniforms of rainbow colours!

I would request the Hon. Minister of Education not to feel that in bringing forward this motion I am out to do something to the detriment of the Technical College. If by any chance either the Hon. Minister of Education or the Principal of the Technical College is against this scheme, I will come to this House myself and say that I cannot carry on. I can assure the House that, as far as I am concerned, I shall try to carry on this scheme, and to do so I shall always expect the co-operation of the Hon. Minister of Education and that of the Principal of the Technical College. I would request hon. Members to come along on Saturday—that is, three days hence—and see for themselves what advantage this training confers on our youth.

***Mr. R. Sri Pathmanathan (Mannar-Mullaitivu):** I have to congratulate the Hon. Minister on his bringing forward this proposal in time. I was at first very sceptical about the success of his Essential Services Labour Corps. As a matter of fact, I voted against that proposal in the Board of Ministers. After having seen that Corps at work at the reception which the Minister gave us—I went through all the Departments—I was amazed at the training given to those men and was very much struck with the work they were doing. Especially after the air-raid, when we did not know how

to unload the goods in the ships, for want of labour in the Harbour, the Hon. Minister was able to utilize his Essential Services Labour Corps for the purpose. From that day I have the greatest admiration for the Essential Services Labour Corps.

As a subsidiary to the Essential Services Labour Corps, the Minister now proposes to have a Ceylon Boys' Technical Training Corps. Knowing what has already been achieved by the Hon. Minister, I have no doubt that these boys will be given a thorough training. When I was in Vienna in 1933, I personally saw Hitler's Youth Movement. It was a wonderful sight to see those youths being trained practically in the middle of winter. Those youths looked like gods made of steel. They gave one the impression that they were statues. After all, the chief defect of our youth is that they are not properly trained or disciplined. The Corps which the Minister now proposes to form will be of great use to the army and will also improve the physique of our youth. I think one of the finest things for any nation to have is its youth well trained and physically in good trim.

I think the Boys' Technical Training Corps will in future be one of the means of keeping street boys out of mischief. I trust that the Hon. Minister will take all of them into his battalion and give them a practical training that will benefit them. I have no doubt that this Corps will be of great use not only during the war but even after the war as technical labour is very difficult to obtain. Only a very few workmen know to utilize machines, tools and other things of a very technical nature. It is therefore very essential that our youth should be properly trained, because at the end of the war they will always find employment.

With regard to uniforms, I am not in agreement with the remarks made by the hon. Member for Point Pedro (Mr. Ponnambalam). A uniform is a symbol of the *esprit de corps* of those forming the battalion; it is a symbol of association in an ideal. Dressed in that uniform, these youths will try to adhere to the ideal of association pervading in that brigade. Take the case of the Sikh. He wears a turban and a uniform. There seems to be something aesthetic

[Mr. Sri Pathmanathan.]
in the whole thing. He fights not for individual glory but for the honour of his Corps. The Etonian has a silk hat, and it is only a symbol of the fact that he belongs to a certain fraternity.

I am in entire agreement with the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works that there should be some sort of uniform for these Boys' Brigade. When the non-co-operation movement was started in India and when they made a bonfire of all foreign cloth in that country, I remember seeing Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru throwing his Harrow blazer into the fire with tears in his eyes. He did that because he wanted independence for his country. I think a uniform is a great incentive to hard work as we associate a certain ideal with a uniform. It is therefore altogether wrong for the hon. Member to move the deletion of the provision for uniforms.

The Hon. Minister of Education has been awarded a Doctorate by the great University of Ceylon. We now call him Dr. Kamangara. Both he and the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works have a sort of neighbourly love towards each other, but over this question they seem to be at variance with each other. Of course, no man is a hero to his valet!

A great deal has been said in this House to the effect that the Technical College is not functioning properly. The utility of the Technical College is being questioned. The Hon. Minister of Education told us some time ago that he would get qualified Professors to impart technical education to the people of this country. Unfortunately, so far as I can see, the position with regard to the Technical College today is the same as it was a year ago when there was that tug-of-war between the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture and Lands over the training of technical officers in the Irrigation Department.

Either the Technical College must be reformed or the Hon. Minister of Education will have to be reformed. You cannot run the two departments together. The technical education of this Island is very, very bad. But I trust that, now that the Hon. Minister has been empurpled to the higher spheres of education by the Ceylon University, he will realize the importance of having a

first-class Technical College, of not having in the Technical College people who know as much engineering as he himself knows.

Mr. T. B. Jayah (Nominated Member): I am not sure whether the Essential Services Labour Corps was established before the air-raid; I have an impression that it was established after it. At any rate, the Corps was not really functioning at the time; and, in justice to the Corps, I do not think it is proper to say that it had an opportunity of distinguishing itself on that occasion.

It is no doubt true that the Corps has made its influence felt and, as far as I am concerned, I am not opposed to the formation of similar bodies. After all, discipline is to be welcomed and, although such a Corps might remind us of similar organizations in Nazi Germany, yet, I think, we should not despise any movement which is intended to bring about a genuine change among the young men of this country. Therefore, I welcome the formation of the Ceylon Boy's Technical Corps, and I am also very glad that it has been decided to give them the necessary uniform. After all it is very necessary, if they are going to perform duties properly and efficiently, that there should be a spirit of camaraderie and they should work together for the common good.

But, in this connexion, I would myself like to stress the points urged by the Hon. Minister of Education, because when they came to us for a supplementary vote for establishing a workshop for training these boys, we were told that the Principal of the Technical College would have much to do in the selection of the boys and with their early training. The remarks of the Hon. Minister were borne out by the fact that in the original arrangements made a definite place had been assigned to the Principal of the Ceylon Technical College. But, somehow or other, as appears from the later Observations of the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, that arrangement has been set aside.

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Lands explained to us that, although no pointed mention is made of the Principal of the Technical College being on the Selection Board, or of his having control of the Technical College, yet things will be so arranged that the Principal would

be in a position to render some effective service. I do not know why the Principal should not be associated with the Engineer in charge of this Corps in the selection of candidates.

After all, you are not going to select candidates merely because they have passed Standard V or VI in Sinhalese or Tamil. There are so many other things that we should consider in the selection of these students. After all, you are going to give them a practical training. However good certain students may be academically, they may not be fit to go through a practical training. I think the Principal of the Training College will be in a position to help the Head of this Corps to select the right type of student.

I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works insists on keeping the Principal of the Technical College out. I do not know whether it was done intentionally. I do not think that even the Hon. Minister of Education will say so. After all, in a matter like this, we should not think of the Principal of the Technical College personally. If he is going to be entrusted with the training of these students, I think he has every right to control them during the period of training. Unless this is specially mentioned it is just possible that these students who join classes may think that they are not directly under the control of the Principal of the Technical College; they may make up their minds to attend classes at any time they like; they may not work in the way they should. It is just possible that they may get wrong ideas into their heads. It is best that if the Principal is to take charge of them for 3 months, he should have full control over them during that period.

I do not agree with the hon. Member for Point Pedro (Mr. Ponnambalam) that these students should be deprived of what is legitimately due to them if they are to be trained together as a Corps. I think we should not grudge them the uniform and other things which are necessary to make this Corps a success.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I am glad that this debate has given an opportunity for certain hon. Members of this Council to give vent to their personal feelings against the Principal of the Technical College. It is a very favourite subject in this House at various times.

But so far as my position in this matter is concerned, I have explained how I had detected that certain statements contained in the original report had been omitted. This report was submitted to me the day before yesterday, for the purposes of the Supplementary Estimate. It was not possible for me to detect it early. I read through the report and I placed it before the Executive Committee; the Members noticed that there were these omissions.

Human nature has been stated to be very strange in certain cases. Well, that is so; whether you are seated close to a man or farther off, human nature plays very strange tricks; sometimes human nature is such that the demands of common decency are not complied with. If there was going to be an alteration made in this report, and if I was seated just next to the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works, I might have been informed that these changes were going to be made. I did not find these omissions at the time the report was handed to me; I only discovered them later, and I had no time to inform the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works that I had discovered these omissions. It was not possible for me to state it until the Hon. Minister made his speech in this House and stated what he was going to do and that the part that was allotted to the Principal of the Technical College was definitely altered.

So far as I am concerned—as I have informed the Board of Ministers—I am entirely in favour of this scheme, and I trust that as far as the theoretical part of the training is concerned, the arrangements made by Mr. Freer, who was the Engineer in charge of the subject, and the Principal of the Technical College will be fully complied with and that under the scheme a very useful body of young men will be turned out.

The Chairman: I will put the amendment first. The amendment is that the amount of Rs. 375,000 be reduced by Rs. 20,000.

Question put. "That the amount of the Estimate be reduced by Rs. 20,000."

The Committee divided (under Standing Order 68): Ayes, 2; Noes, 7.

Question "That Supplementary Estimate (17) be passed," put, and agreed

Supplementary Estimate (17) was passed.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I move that Council do resume.

The Council having resumed—

MR. SPEAKER took the Chair.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I move that Supplementary Estimate (17) passed in Committee, be approved.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Supplementary Estimate (17) was approved.

IMPORT DUTIES: PACKING CASES, &c.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:

The Financial Secretary to move.—

This Council resolves under section 9 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) that, with effect from the date on which the sanction of the Secretary of State to this resolution is notified in the *Government Gazette*—

(1) import duty on the goods severally specified in Column I. of the First Schedule to this resolution shall be levied and paid at the general rate prescribed in the corresponding entry in Column II. of that Schedule, in lieu of the import duty payable upon such goods at the date of this resolution; and

(2) import duty upon the goods specified in Column I. of the Second Schedule to this resolution shall be levied and paid at the general rate prescribed in Column III. of that Schedule, in lieu of the import duty payable upon such goods at the date of this resolution:

Provided that import duty upon such of the aforesaid goods as may be proved to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been produced or manufactured in, and to have been consigned from, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland, the Dominions, India, Burma, the territories administered by His Majesty's Governments in the Dominions under Mandate or otherwise, the British Colonies, the British Protectorates and Protected States and the Mandated Territories of Tanganyika, the Cameroons under British Mandate and Togoland under British Mandate, shall be levied and paid at the preferential rate prescribed in Column II. of that Schedule in lieu of the preferential import duty payable upon such goods at the date of this resolution.

First Schedule.

I. Goods.	II. General Rate <i>ad valorem</i> .
Boxes imported for the purpose of packing Ceylon produce, including shooks and fittings ..	5 per cent.
Chest imported for the purpose of packing Ceylon produce other than tea, including shooks and fittings ..	5 per cent.
Tinned-plates which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the manufacture of fittings for chests or boxes for packing Ceylon produce ..	2½ per cent.
Tenterhooks, rivets and wire nails which are shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the construction of chest or boxes for packing Ceylon produce ..	5 per cent.

Second Schedule.

I. Goods.	II. Preferential <i>ad valorem</i> .	III. General Rate <i>ad valorem</i> .
Timber which is shown to the satisfaction of the Principal Collector of Customs to have been imported for the manufacture of boxes or chests for packing Ceylon produce ..	5 per cent.	15 per cent.

Observations of the Financial Secretary.

The present rate of duty on timber is 15 per cent. preferential and 25 per cent. general and on tea chests, shooks and fittings thereof not elsewhere specified it

is 5 per cent. general. As a result of an application for a direction in the import duty of timber to be used for the manufacture of tea chests, the Tariffs Advisory Committee recommended that the duty on Empire timber imported for the manufacture of chests for packing Ceylon produce should be 5 per cent. and the Board of Ministers recommends the reduction of the general duty on such timber to 15 per cent. at the same time, to preserve the present margin of preference.

2. This resolution has been framed to give effect to these recommendations; and the opportunity has been taken at the same time to legalise the recovery of import duty at 5 per cent. on boxes for any Ceylon export produce and on chests, shooks and fittings imported for packing Ceylon produce other than tea as the present Schedule specifies *only* "Tea chests, shooks and fittings".

3. In addition to the local manufacture of chests the manufacture of metal fittings for plywood chests has been transferred from the United Kingdom to Ceylon, where it is hoped that in normal times sets may be turned out not for Ceylon alone but for neighbouring territories too. Tinned plates for the purposes are at present dutiable at 10 per cent. Preferential and 20 per cent. General. But plates and sheets for manufacturing drums for export are dutiable at only 2½ per cent. and the same duty seems appropriate for the raw material for chest fitting. Moreover the finished article is dutiable at 5 per cent. under the item "Tea Chests, Shooks and fittings", and a lower rate is indicated for the raw material.

4. A complete set of fittings for plywood chests comprises not only edgings but also rivets, tenterhooks and nails. At present the last three of these will not be made locally but will be imported in bulk for distribution with the edgings after their manufacture. To avoid any question the resolution specifies that all these other parts shall be dutiable at 5 per cent., the rate hitherto applied to rivets and tenterhooks when imported together with tea shooks by individual importers.

5. The effect on revenue will be a small loss which is not expected to exceed Rs. 20,000 per annum. I concur in the proposals.

Report of the Board of Ministers.

The financial implications are as explained in the Observations of the Financial Secretary. The Board of Ministers approves.

The Hon. Mr. H. J. Huxham (Financial Secretary): I rise to move the motion standing in my name, appearing as item 11 on the Agenda Paper.

The motion seeks to reduce Customs duties on components of packing cases for the export of Ceylon produce in order to encourage the manufacture of these packing cases within Ceylon.

Question put, and agreed to.

CUSTOMS HOLIDAYS AND DAY OF SHIPMENT.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:

The Financial Secretary to move,—

This Council resolves under section 25 of the Customs Ordinance (Chapter 185) that with effect from the date on which this resolution is notified in the *Government Gazette* after submission to and sanction by the Secretary of State, the provisions of paragraph 9 (2) of Schedule C to that Ordinance shall be varied by the substitution, for the words, "Customs Holidays and day of shipment", of the following:—

"Customs Holidays and day of shipment: Provided that where any goods have been sent with the prior approval of the Principal Collector of Customs for shipment, the Principal Collector of Customs may allow such goods to remain at the wharf for such period as he may in his discretion determine, and no export dues shall be charged on those goods in respect of that period."

Observations of the Financial Secretary.

After the raid of April 5, a quantity of cargo sent down earlier for shipment remained unshipped. As there was little traffic and the warehouses were not required for other purposes, shippers were on the advice of the Port Controller allowed to leave this cargo in the Export Warehouses instead of wasting labour and petrol removing it and sending it down again later when shipping became available.

2. About the beginning of May, owing to the absence of shipping during April, the Tea Commissioner and later the Rubber Commissioner reported that industry was seriously clogged owing to shippers being unable to take any further tea and rubber as their stores were congested. In order to relieve this situation, a certain quantity of tea and later rubber was allowed to be deposited in the Customs warehouses before actual arrangements for shipment were completed by the Commissioner.

3. At about the same time it was represented that, in order to ensure that there should be no delay in the loading of ships, it might be desirable to begin sending down full cargoes to the Customs earlier than would normally be done. A working arrangement was therefore reached between the Principal Collector and the Chairman of the Shipping Priority Committee, whereby, provided space is available, the Customs will receive cargo on dates notified to them and the agents by the Priority Committee, even though this may involve, in some cases, the cargo lying for longer than the three days prescribed.

4. In effect, a stricter official control is now exercised over the receipt of cargo at the Export Warehouses than in normal times, though based on, shipping priority requirements or the needs of the Tea or Rubber Commissioner instead of on the rigid limitation of three days free of rent imposed by the present Schedule. It is necessary to legalise this arrangement. If the resolution is approved, it is proposed to apply for the Governor's authority to give effect to it as from April 2, 1942, when the problem first arose. The financial implications are not large as, were the concession not granted, shippers would avoid sending down their cargo in advance and extra rent and dues would therefore not normally be incurred.

Report of the Board of Ministers.

The financial implications are as explained in the Observations of the Financial Secretary. The Board of Ministers approves.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I rise, Sir, to move the motion standing in my

name, appearing as item 12 in the Agenda Paper.

This resolution seeks to grant some latitude to the Customs authorities in the charging of warehouse rent in view of the conditions which are now obtaining in the Port.

Under the existing rules, extra rent must be charged after 3 days; and that works well enough in peace-time. But now it is desirable in certain instances to encourage, rather than discourage, exporters to bring their cargoes to the Customs warehouses more than 3 days before the departure of the ship.

Question put, and agreed to.

WAR PRISONERS FOOD AND CLOTHING (EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY) BILL.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:—

The Financial Secretary to move.—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the exemption from customs duty of articles of food and clothing imported for the use of prisoners of war and civilian internees, for a rebate of customs duty paid on the importation of such articles where such articles are purchased in Ceylon for the purposes aforesaid, and for the validation of rebates heretofore allowed on such articles", be now read the first time.

Observations of the Financial Secretary.

The reduction in revenue which will occur if the Bill becomes law is likely to be very small but it is not possible to give an accurate estimate as it is not known how many prisoners of war or civilian internees may be in Ceylon from time to time.

Report of the Board of Ministers.

The financial implications are as explained in the Observations of the Financial Secretary. The Board of Ministers approves.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I rise to move the motion standing in my name.

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This Bill seeks to exempt from Customs duties articles used for prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Customs duties in question would fall either upon the Imperial Government or the Ceylon Government.

I move that the Bill be now read the first time.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

Mr. Speaker: Is the Hon. the Financial Secretary giving notice regarding the second reading?

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: No, Sir. The Bill can take its ordinary course.

STORES FOR VOLUNTEER FORCES (EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY) BILL.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:—

The Financial Secretary to move,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the exemption from Customs duty of articles imported or purchased for the use of His Majesty's Regular Naval, Military or Air Forces in Ceylon and sold in certain circumstances to members of the Ceylon Defence Force or of the Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force", be now read the first time.

Observations of the Financial Secretary.

This Bill seeks to grant a limited Customs exemption to members of the Ceylon Defence Force and Ceylon Naval Volunteer Force on active service.

So long as the present scarcity of supplies exists, the loss to revenue would be small, as practically all goods available to the public are likely to be purchased by them with payment of full duty. If supplies became plentiful duty would be lost to an appreciable extent, but it is hardly possible to furnish a considered estimate. As the concession operates only during active service, and the prospect of a plentiful supply of goods during the present emergency is remote, the loss of duty likely to be caused by the passage of the Bill may be regarded as unimportant.

Report of the Board of Ministers.

The financial implications are as explained in the Observations of the

Financial Secretary. The Board of Ministers approves.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I move the motion standing in my name.

This Bill, Sir, seeks to make available to members of the Defence Force and the Naval Volunteer Force articles imported free of duty so long as they are consumed in messes or canteens of these Forces. This concession has been refused until now because it is usual for soldiers or sailors serving in their own country to be liable to the Customs duty or Excise duty applying to others citizens of that country. It has been found in practice, however, that when the great majority of the soldiers and sailors who are serving side by side with these men are entitled to and enjoy Customs-free privileges, great difficulty arises if similar privileges are denied to members of our local forces.

I move that the Bill be now read the first time.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: May I ask for the permission of the House to take up the second reading of this Bill now?

Question put, and agreed to.

Leave being granted,—

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Question proposed from the Chair.

Dr. de Zoysa: Before the second reading is passed, I should like to ask the Hon. the Financial Secretary what the real implications of this Bill are. For instance, is it intended that the articles bought should be consumed within the precincts of the Barracks? It may be that a soldier might buy a few cigarettes at the reduced rates; and if he is found outside the Barracks smoking one of these cigarettes, will it be considered an offence and will he be punished? If he buys a pair of boot laces, does it mean that he should use it only within Barracks. This may be trivial, but the reason why I point this out is that there is a tendency in his country to treat some of these Ordinances in a very literal manner and sometimes even the spirit in which the Ordinance was passed is forgotten.

[Dr. de Zoysa.]

As an instance, I would recall that under the Defence Regulations it was ordered that no jak or breadfruit trees should be cut down. That was a general order. A man, in order to improve his field, cut down a few young breadfruit trees which were not bearing and which were dying. He was brought up before a Magistrate and was fined Rs. 50. The matter came up before the Appeal Court and the Judge said that he could not intervene. The man said in evidence that even the timber could not be used. The Headman said so. And there was evidence to show that the trees were not bearing.

In the same way, will this proposal be interpreted to mean that a man is allowed to buy an article at a reduced rate as a concession, and if he is found smoking a cigarette, or using some small article outside certain premises which he never thought would be covered by this Ordinance, will he be punished? If the Financial Secretary does not want valuable things or liquor to be taken out of Barracks, let him say so. A general order like this may be misinterpreted. I want the Financial Secretary, if possible, to modify this measure so that such articles may not come within it.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: The point which the hon. Member raises was in fact considered when the Bill was drafted; and the answer is that one must assume that the persons administering the law will be sensible. I do not know whether the hon. Member is prepared to concede that point in view of his grievance about breadfruit trees which I do not fully understand. I think, if one applies one's mind to the question, one can hardly imagine a member of the Ceylon Police Force stopping a member of the Ceylon Defence Force and demanding to know whether his boot laces had been purchased at the canteen, or stopping him in order to find out whether the cigarettes in his pocket had been bought duty free.

I can assure the hon. Member that there is no intention whatever of administering the Ordinance in that manner. As he has correctly surmised, it is not thought desirable that members of the local Forces should be able to buy goods duty free and take them to their homes. The concession is intended to be limited

to goods consumed in the canteens and in the messes.

Question, "That the Bill be now read a second time," put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: With the approval of the Board of Ministers, I move that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole House.

Question put, and agreed to.

In Committee—

MR. SPEAKER presided as Chairman.

Clauses 1 to 4, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First and Second Schedules ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clause and Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I move that Council do resume.

The Council having resumed—

MR. SPEAKER took the Chair.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I move that the Bill be now read the third time and passed.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

LANDS RESUMPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: I move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Lands Resumption Ordinance" be now read the first time.

It is necessary to make some minor amendments in the Principal Ordinance. According to the Ordinance, certain powers and duties are entrusted to Government Agents but not to Assistant Government Agents. By this Bill it is proposed that Assistant Government Agents too should have the same powers as Government Agents.

The other point is that certain functions entrusted to His Excellency the Governor are to be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

I move that the Bill be now read the first time.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

URBAN COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939" be now read the first time.

This is a formal Bill implementing a decision of this House, for the purpose of removing the provisions for nominating members to Urban Councils.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read the first time.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I would ask for leave to suspend the relevant Standing Orders to enable me to move the second reading of the Bill now.

Mr. Speaker: No notice of it has been given. Even in the case of the previous Bill of the Financial Secretary's, I observed that no notice had been given that he would move to take up all stages of the Bill.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I think the House will give me permission.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree?

Members: Aye!

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I move that the Bill be now read a second time.

***Mr. Jayah:** No, Sir; I think we should have notice of the second reading.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister failed to give notice that he would move to suspend Standing Orders.

***Mr. Jayah:** There is an important principle involved in this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want time?

***Mr. Jayah:** Yes, Sir.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I can take up the second reading and the other stages of the Bill after the tea interval. There was a motion brought before the House and passed, in regard to nominating members, you will recollect. This Bill has been brought up to implement that decision reached by the House. Of course, if the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) wants to speak on the motion, I do not mind taking up the second reading and the other stages of the Bill after the tea interval.

***Mr. Jayah:** After all, I think the House has a right to expect the Hon. Minister to give notice of his intention to move to take up all stages of the Bill today.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** That was supposed to have been done. A mistake has occurred; and it was not observed in connexion with another Bill.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member press for notice?

***Mr. Jayah:** Yes, Sir.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** This is an urgent matter.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member insists upon notice, I cannot allow the second reading to be taken up.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I give notice that I shall move for leave to take up the second reading at 4.30 p.m. today.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister knows perfectly well that there should be notice of at least one day. Does the Hon. Minister give notice that he will move to take up the second reading tomorrow?

The Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka (Leader of the State Council): There is no work for tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Shall we take it up after the tea interval?

***Mr. Jayah:** All right, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to take this item up after the tea interval?

Members: Aye!

Further consideration of Bill accordingly noted for 4.30 p.m.

PUBLIC BODIES (PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION) BILL.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:

The Legal Secretary to move,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to provide for the prevention and punishment of bribery and corruption of and by Members of the State Council or of local authorities," be now read a second time.

The Hon. Mr. J. H. B. Nihill (Legal Secretary): I should like to see this item off the Agenda. I am not proceeding with it today.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** The trouble about this Bill is that it contains provisions with regard to local bodies too. The Hon. the Legal Secretary wants it taken off the Agenda Paper.

The Hon. Mr. Nihill: I understood that it was the decision of this House that this Bill should be postponed *sine die*. That was a decision taken before I was a Member of this House and one that I am bound by.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I do not understand postponing it *sine die* or postponing it till the crack of doom. It was originally postponed until the Privileges Bill was passed as far as the State Council was concerned. But there are provisions in this Bill dealing with local bodies which are important. Therefore I think that at least part of the Bill must be dealt with.

The Hon. Mr. Senanayake: Perhaps the easiest thing to do would be to withdraw this Bill and bring in a new Bill. If that is agreed to, the Hon. the Legal Secretary may move that the Bill be withdrawn.

The Hon. Mr. Nihill: Then the matter can be dealt with in a new Bill following that decision.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. the Legal Secretary move to withdraw the Bill?

The Hon. Mr. Nihill: That would certainly suit me.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The sitting is suspended until 4.30 p.m.

Sitting accordingly suspended until 4.30 p.m. and then resumed.

URBAN COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I move,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939", be now read a second time.

Question proposed from the Chair, and debated.

***Mr. Jayah:** The Minister uttered a warning that the principle of this Bill had already been accepted by this House by our passing a motion on the subject. I quite agree that the principle has been accepted, but the difficulty some of us would have to face would be the question what is to be the substitute when the system of nomination has been abolished. I do not know what the Hon. Minister actually proposes to do. Is it his intention to demarcate areas in such a way that it will be possible for members of minority communities to have adequate representation on these Councils? I do not think that there is anything like that in this Bill.

I believe, the other day, when we discussed this matter he said that everything possible would be done. I do not know whether he means to do it, but some definite assurance will have to be given that when the time comes for the demarcation of areas in different centres, due attention will be paid to the demands put forward by the members of minority communities. You know the number of areas and the number that must belong to these communities; and if the Executive Committee of Local Administration made it a point, although they are not bound to do it, to see that these communities which were not represented by elected members were represented by nominated members, there would not have been any sort of anxiety among the different communities. If the Hon. Minister can give us an assurance, I think it would satisfy us, because we know that this House is definitely opposed to the continuance of the principle of nomination.

I understood from one Member that the Committee were not actually opposed to the principle of nomination; at least that they did not like to take upon themselves the responsibility of proposing names for nomination because they found themselves now and again in an awkward position. I appreciate the difficulty, and I am sure the Hon. Minister will also appreciate our point of view. Our fears may be groundless, but if what we have in mind can somehow or other be achieved, I do not think we ourselves

need fear the results that will follow by the passage of this Bill.

***Dr. M. C. M. Kaleel (Colombo Central):** I am glad that this opportunity has been afforded to this House to reopen this question so that Members might be able to think it over once more even though they had decided on the principle earlier. Nomination to local bodies is a very important and essential factor in the composition of these bodies. Very often we find that for various reasons—perhaps the way in which the elections have been carried out, or the way in which the demarcation of the areas has been made—some of the best persons in an area, who take a keen interest in local matters, are left out. It may be because they are either defeated at election, or perhaps, because elections are conducted in an undesirable way, they do not want to go through the ordeal of an election. In those cases, if the Executive Committee think that there is a person who can represent unrepresented interests—not necessarily communal interests, but various other interests—they should take the opportunity of nominating such a person to a local body.

I know, for instance, that some Chairmen of Urban Councils are nominated members, and not only the members but the people themselves in those areas are highly satisfied with the way in which these members conduct proceedings at a meeting and look after the interests of the areas in question. The Executive Committee should, therefore, not lose the opportunity to make ample use of able men in the various areas. For instance, in an agricultural area you may find an agricultural expert who can be of very great service to the local body. Then, in industrial areas there may be an industrial magnate who may be very useful to that body. It may be that he may have been unsuccessful at the election, but yet the people think that it would be very useful to have him on that body. In those circumstances if the Committee considers that such a person would be of use to a local body, he should be nominated.

As the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) pointed out, there are certain

very important communities which have been overlooked and which have a considerable stake in the area. They have been left out because they have not been able to secure a majority to vote for them and returned them to the local body. In such cases there is the opportunity for the Executive Committee to nominate such a member to the local body.

I think the Executive Committee seems to dislike nomination because the method of nomination is bad. If, instead of allowing themselves to be influenced by various people and by various bodies, they themselves, with the help of the Members representing the areas concerned, carefully consider who are the best people who could be nominated in order to make these local bodies a success, I think, their task would then not be so unenviable as it is now. They will find it a very pleasant and easy matter to nominate desirable people to these bodies.

I hope the House will reconsider the question and give the power to the Committee once more to nominate to the various local bodies desirable people to represent unrepresented communities, so that the local bodies may be complete in their representation of the areas under their control. I hope the House will reconsider this matter and, if possible, decide in favour of nominating members to local bodies.

Mr. Wille: I can hardly remain silent when this ill-advised tribute is being paid to the shibboleth of territorial representation in urban districts. After all, the proof of the pudding is in the eating, and I wish to ask the Hon. Minister how the system of nominations has worked in the Urban Councils. We know, Sir, that in the various Urban Councils in the Island, as soon as a member of a minority community was nominated he was hoisted to the office of Chairman. Why? Because of his merits. We know how the Urban Council of Matara started with Mr. Keuneman as Chairman unanimously elected by the elected members. Then, in Gampola, Mr. Jonklaas was elected Chairman though he was a nominated member. For years and years he was re-elected as Chairman. Then, in Matale Mr. Van Rooyen played

[Mr. Wille.]

a great part as Chairman of that Urban Council. To come to recent times, Dr. Leembruggen, who had retired from the office of Director of Medical and Sanitary Services, was called upon to fill the office of Chairman of the Nuwara Eliya Urban Council. And we also know that he signalized his tenure of office by the measures he took in the interests of the Town.

I ask, what is the reason for this change which the circumstances of the country do not call for? In fact, there will be a great defect in our Councils for a very long time by the omission of nominated members. There is a wrong idea prevalent that there is some inherent virtue in the principle of territorial representation. In fact, all constitutional writers say that there is no principle at all involved in territorial representation. It has been adopted purely as a matter of convenience because there is no other more convenient way of electing members to the different areas.

Take your own case, Sir. You came forward as representative of a certain constituency, but you chose to accept the office of Speaker. And now what is your position as representative of your constituency? Is your constituency going unrepresented? Is it necessary that a man who is elected should alone look after his electors? Once we are nominated or elected to this Council, we must look after general interests.

We must get over this narrow idea that there is virtue only in territorial representation. That is a mistaken idea altogether, and I am very sorry to see that the system of nomination which has worked very well is now going to be sacrificed simply, as I said, on the altar of a shibboleth.

Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana (Gampola): I think a few words of explanation are necessary immediately after what the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Wille) has stated. The hon. Nominated Member is undoubtedly wedded to the system of nominations. He would probably like the whole of the administration of this country carried on by a nominated bloc on the footing that nominated members, for some peculiar reason or

other, are more intellectual, better trained and superior to elected members. But I think that bogey must be laid.

The principle of election is well-known, and the hon. Member himself has on other occasions welcomed elections. Particularly in regard to local bodies, if you examine their history you will find that at the very outset the administration thought that local bodies should be spoon-fed. Assistant Government Agents were added as nominated members to every Urban Council. It was distinctly understood that they should serve as Nominated Members only for the first period.

But for some reason or other, the local bodies themselves developed an inferiority complex as people always develop it, in a place like Trincomalee. There they wish to retain the Assistant Government Agent when they found that there were two factions quarrelling between themselves. It was found that the fight began very often with the Assistant Government Agent becoming a partner, and they wanted for the next period also the Assistant Government Agent to be continued.

But after some time the Executive Committee decided that as the nomination of Assistant Government Agents to these Urban Councils was distinctly understood to be for a short period, the time was ripe to discontinue such nominations. Then the Assistant Government Agents died away, and they were no more nominated members. Of course, a good many people thought that without the Assistant Government Agents being in these Urban Councils, they could not function. But they continued to function very satisfactorily, and very often more satisfactorily than when the Assistant Government Agents were there.

In the early days there were a large number of nominated members in Urban Councils—sometimes 4 or 5 or 6—according to the number of members in the Councils. But the numbers of nominated members have been progressively reduced. An Urban Council with about 4 or 5 elected members now has only 2 nominated members. When there were 4 or 5 nominated members, it was possible to distribute the number of seats by giving one to the

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Tamils, one to the Burghers, one to the Muslims, and so on, according to the communities. But the difficulty really arose when the number of nominated members was reduced to 2. Then the Muslims wanted nomination; the Tamils wanted nomination; the Europeans also in some cases wanted nomination, the Low-country and the Kandyan Sinhalese also wanted nomination.

So that in nominating members to represent what are called unrepresented interests you can go on *ad infinitum*. You can always create unrepresented interests; tailors, masons, carpenters—all would want representation, because they are "unrepresented" interests.

I think we have played too long with this bogey of "representation of unrepresented interests." It has become nauseating. The Members of the Executive Committee of Local Administration have found this problem most nauseating to deal with.

We found that with a reduced number of nominated members, the Urban Councils could carry on. They can carry on even without the assistance of the District Engineer, the Medical Officer of Health. These officials have been removed from Urban Councils. In spite of the removal of these technical experts, the Urban Councils have progressed and are getting on quite well, in fact much better than in the past.

Every Urban Council in the Island is certainly working much better than the old Local Boards worked, which, in the good old days, were presided over by the Government Agent or Assistant Government Agent. The worst Urban Council we have now is an improvement on the old Local Board presided over by the Revenue Officer. Our elected members are able to look after the interests of the town well and effectively; they have proved their fitness for this work. The nominated member is usually the source of trouble in the Urban Council. When the Chairman is to be elected, the members divide themselves into two camps, and then the chairmanship is offered, merely out of pique or jealousy, to one of the nominated members. A "communal" nominated member is chosen as Chairman.

In a good many cases, I can say from personal experience and from first-hand

knowledge, it is the nominated member of the Urban Council who is the cause of all the trouble in that Council. Of course, the hon. Burgher Nominated Member (Mr. Wille) will not agree. If members of an Urban Council divide themselves into camps and try to neglect the interests of the town, very soon the ratepayers exert their influence, and the dispute is soon settled. But when there is a nominated member, the trouble becomes worse, because he is not responsible to any section of the ratepayers. The wrangle then assumes rather dangerous proportions. There is a deadlock, and members begin to absent themselves from meetings in a spirit of non-co-operation. The nominated members contribute to this deadlock.

Instead, therefore, of having nominated members in an Urban Council, members who are not responsible to anybody, not to the ratepayers at any rate, if we have all elected members, these members will think many times before they embark on a campaign of non-co-operation. They would soon realize that if they did so, they would be thrown out by the ratepayers, that at the next elections, within three years, they would have to give an account of their stewardship to their electors. To a nominated member, such things as non-co-operation, obstruction, etc., represent a much simpler proposition. It was always conceded that nomination was to be continued only for a short time. It has gone on for 20 years, and surely we do not want this spoon-feeding to go on for ever? Are we to admit that our ratepayers are not sensible enough to elect suitable representatives to these Councils?

The progressive Member for Colombo Central (Dr. Kaleel) appears to hug the delusion that nomination to these bodies is very desirable in order to secure the representation of unrepresented interests. "An expert on agriculture who may be living in the town may not get a chance of being elected to an Urban Council," said the hon. Member. But if that agricultural expert, or a medical expert, or technical expert, has never taken an interest in the town, has had no regard for the interests of the ratepayers, he does not deserve to be elected. If a person of some standing, with specialized knowledge, had placed his abilities at the disposal of the town, the ratepayers would

[Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana.]
be the first to recognize merit and return him to the Urban Council to represent their interests.

Nomination to Urban Councils has also another deleterious effect. It is our experience that the best men, those with valuable experience and knowledge, are afraid to face the polls, because they prefer the easier way of entering the Council by way of nomination. The result is that these men want to be nominated time after time. They never face the polls, when they find it possible to enter Council more easily and, having entered it, proceed to bring about division among the members. If there are many deserving, good men living in these towns, it is their duty, in the interests of the people of the town, to come forward and face the polls.

But that is not done. It is remarkable how people in this country fear to face the polls. I feel that an Urban Council can be better run if all the members are elected, without the addition of even two nominated members.

Of course, there is the fear of the minorities that they might not be represented in these Councils in certain areas. But, after all, in an urban area, all the rate-payers have problems common to all of them. They all pay the same rates; they use the same roads, the same lighting system, the same amenities. I do not know why these petty distinctions should come in where the welfare of a town is concerned. We are trying to perpetuate these unnecessary distinctions. But as a concession to sentiment, the Executive Committee and the Minister of Local Administration have given instructions to the local bodies that the demarcation of the different wards should be carried out in such a way as to make effective representation of the minorities possible. What more can we do?

Even that is a concession to sentiment. I think it is time that we did away even with that, but so long as there are minority communities who seem to feel that even in the administration of urban areas, the majority community would dominate over them, well, let them have that concession given to them. That is the only way in which their fears can be allayed. But as a principle, I think this Council ought to welcome the proposals to do

away with this vicious system of nomination. The Council has already accepted the principle that nominations should cease, and I trust hon. Members will support this Bill.

5.15 P.M.—

Mr. Speaker: The House will kindly excuse my absence; the hon. Deputy Speaker will now preside.

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

Mr. T. Amarasuriya (Moratuwa): As a Member of the Executive Committee of Local Administration, I wish to make a few observations on this Bill. I am in entire sympathy with the views of my hon. Friend the Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana). We ought to congratulate the Minister on his decision to bring up this Bill. It is high time that we got rid of the nomination bogey, or as the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Wille) put it, communal representation or "representation of unrepresented interests"!

Mr. Wille: I did not say anything about minority interests. I asked that nominations be allowed in the interests of the district.

Mr. T. Amarasuriya: I drew my inference from the way in which the hon. Member started his oration. He referred to Urban Councils where members of his community had been elected Chairmen, and he seemed to suggest that only members of that particular community could successfully administer these local bodies. The hon. Member appeared to infer that this was an attempt on the part of the Executive Committee to do away with nominations purely on communal grounds.

That idea should be removed altogether. In most local bodies it is the nominated members who give trouble, and in some local bodies, the nominated members really safeguard the interests of the particular body they represent. When we are fighting for democracy—we live in a democratic age—this democratic Council should not, on principle, tolerate this bogey of nomination.

If any member of the minority communities—be he Burgher, Muslim, or Tamil—is really with the people, if he takes an interest in the ratepayers of a particular area, and if the people exercise the franchise correctly, such a person should find a place in an Urban Council or any other local body, quite irrespective of the fact that he belongs to a particular community. In this very Council we have a very good example of it in the hon. Member for Anuradhapura (Mr. Freeman) who is an Elected Member. This proves that the electors do not exercise their vote on purely communal grounds.

I feel that there should be no opposition to this Bill, and that it should be passed without a dissentient vote.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I had not intended to make any contribution to this debate, but the fact that my hon. Friend on my right (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) and my hon. Friend on my left are both nominated members of Municipal Councils impels me to say a word or two. I do not know when these two Members arrived at the conclusion that nominations to local bodies is very undesirable. Did they arrive at this conclusion overnight, or have they held this view consistently for the last two years?

It appears to me that no further arguments were necessary for the abolition of nominations than the fact that these two hon. Friends of mine are nominated members of two Municipal Councils. They themselves seem to be perpetrating what they are pleased to describe as a vicious system. They should have had the courage to resign their membership of the local bodies concerned; they should not have remained a day longer in the Municipal Councils as nominated members, because, according to them, this is a vicious system that is being continued. Both these members are good friends of mine, but I must say that I really cannot understand their attitude.

I sympathize with the minority communities. At first the system of nomination worked satisfactorily, because it was utilized in the proper way, but when that ceased to be the case, the country began to disapprove of the principle of nomination. Nominations were intended to cover the need for representation of the minority communities in an area as a concession to those communities,

and I therefore cannot understand why in the Galle and Kandy Municipal Councils, where there are a majority of Sinhalese members, it should have been necessary to nominate Sinhalese to these Councils. The truth may be unpalatable, but that is the whole trouble.

However, I agree, on principle, to the abolition of nominations. In this connexion, I must refer to a curious fact about these "minority" members. They want to enter these local bodies as "minority" members, but when you refer to them as representatives of minority interests, they say, "No, we represent the general interests of the whole community." If that were so, if they too represent the general interests, no nominations are necessary.

This morning I had a talk with my hon. Friend (Mr. Wille)—I do not know what to call him; I thought he represents the Burghers. He says, "I represent the general public." There are 50 Elected Members representing the general public. In all local bodies there are nominations from among the minority communities and they say that they represent all communities. One does not know where the demarcation comes in.

Therefore, I congratulate the Hon. Minister on his having brought up this Bill. It should have been done years ago so that my hon. Friends the Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) and the Member for Moratuwa (Mr. T. Amarasuriya), would not have been nominated to the Municipal Councils. I support the abolition of nomination of members to Urban Councils.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** There are a few words that I have to speak in view of the debate that has taken place.

In the first place, there are certain points that I want to clear beyond any question of doubt, as the matter does involve a principle of some importance. From what various hon. Nominated Members and Elected Members of various communities have said, they themselves seem to have some doubt in their minds as to what should be the correct principle that should be applied in nominations to local bodies.

From what the hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) and the hon. Member

[The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike.]
for Colombo Central (Dr. Kaleel) said, it would appear that they have in mind nominations for the purpose, generally, of providing representation for unrepresented interests, interpreted particularly in terms of communal minorities—not solely, but particularly in terms of communal minorities; that is, the question of unrepresented interests may be communal in character, such as Burgher, Tamil, Muslim or any other such communal minority. It may be a religious minority—Christian, Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim. It may be a minority of such an interest as that referred to by the hon. Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) such as traders—a section of people engaged in some particular trade or trades generally, or landowners as such, tenants, or labourers or any such interest of that kind.

The House will see on that one principle of nomination what a difficulty is going to be created. How on earth is one going to decide as to the various types of unrepresented interests and as among them which particular unrepresented interest deserved nomination? You cannot obviously nominate one member to cover all unrepresented interests. If you restrict it to the communal interests of race, it is clear cut; you nominate two members of the unrepresented communal groups that happen to deserve representation in that particular town. But they themselves do not restrict it to that.

Then, the hon. Burgher Nominated Member (Mr. Wille) had a different principle. He wants some suitable person to be nominated who will serve the interests of the whole district. I do not know, with that nebulous way of his utterance in this House what he really indicated, but suitable members, limited to communal minorities, is what I understood him to mean by the remarks he made and by the examples which he quoted.

I might, in passing, mention the fact that some of the members he referred to were elected members. Mr. Jonklaas, who was Chairman of the Gampola Urban Council, was never elected, he was always a nominated member. I might mention that as one case. The hon. Member had that case in mind.

If you once introduce the principle in nomination that the man must be qualified by his talents or knowledge to be of great use to the local body, then, nomination must take place entirely irrespective of communal minority or any other consideration. I would then contemplate a Council of overwhelming Sinhalese members on the ground that they happen to be the most qualified to serve. Then the difficulty arises.

Hon. Members will therefore realize that it is extremely difficult to decide between these various principles in making nomination. If hon. Members did not mean communal minorities as such, but that the best man should be nominated, then I can understand the position though it is one that is extremely debatable. The Executive Committee has decided to abolish nominations for the very reasons that I have mentioned—the extreme vagueness of the term “unrepresented interests” and the many conflicting principles that operate in regard to nominations, so much so that in the majority of cases it becomes a very unsatisfactory task altogether. The matter has been decided by the House.

The hon. Nominated Member (Mr. Jayah) has asked for an assurance. Let me state explicitly, beyond any shadow of doubt, what the position is so that no further blame can be attached to me in future. I cannot give him an assurance in these terms—that I shall see to it that in reallocating the seats of any Urban Council, or in increasing the number of seats, provision will be made to ensure the return of minority community members, judged in terms of community, religion, or any trade or occupation. I simply cannot and will not give any such assurance. Let that position be very clear.

What I shall do, as the hon. Member for Gampola (Mr. R. S. S. Gunawardana) has stated in this: with the disappearance of nominated members, an extra number of members will become necessary for Urban Councils; that is, when the number is reduced by two, they will not be left with a sufficient number of members to carry on as at present. I am asking the Urban Councils to suggest an increase in the number of wards, and in doing so to bear in mind the desirability, if possible—if possible in terms of what? in terms of the

number of voters and the ability to demarcate the new area—the desirability, subject to these provisions, of enabling an important minority community to obtain representation. It is with those limitations that I can possibly give an assurance; otherwise I would be misleading my hon. Friend.

Mr. Wille: That is communal demarcation.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** It is demarcation that would permit the possibility of such a member being elected, but not with that sole idea in view.

The necessary steps are being taken now. Beyond that I simply cannot give any assurance. The House has decided the principle, but as this question has again been raised, I had to make the position very clear. If it does not work and, say, the House decides later on that some form of minority representation or whatever else it may be is desirable, it would be for the House to consider at that point how best to give effect to that object. I certainly hope, even if such a decision is to come as a result of the unsatisfactory working of this proposal, that it will never be done by nomination; I would prefer any other way.

Question, "That the Bill be now read a second time", put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** With the approval of the Board of Ministers, I move that the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

In Committee—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER presided as Chairman.

Clauses 1 to 12 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Enacting Clause and Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** I move that Council do now resume.

The Council having resumed—

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER took the Chair.

***The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike:** Sir, I move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939," be now read the third time.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

The Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka: Before you take up the next item, Sir, may I move that we continue to deal with Government business till the end of the day's sitting? If that is agreed on, we may finish all the business and need not meet tomorrow.

- Question put, and agreed to.

LOTTERIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:

20. To continue the debate on the motion of the Minister of Home Affairs,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Lotteries Ordinance", be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and allocated, under Standing Order 77 (b), to Standing Committee "A".

†NOTARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The debate on the following motion of the Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce was continued.

"That the Bill intituled 'An Ordinance further to amend the Notaries Ordinance', be now read a second time."

Mr. Wille: I only wish to make a suggestion to the Hon. the Financial Secretary that in the different Post Offices

† For the Observations of the Financial Secretary and the report of the Board of Ministers, see HANSARD of July 31, 1942.

[Mr. Wille.]

a sufficiency of stamps should be available to Notaries and others who wish to purchase them. Unless you come to the Fort, it is very difficult to obtain stamps to the value of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. That causes great inconvenience. What would be required under this new Ordinance to a large extent would be the use of embossed stamps, but in this whole Island we have only one embossing machine, I understand, from the Financial Secretary.

***The Hon. Mr. G. C. S. Corea (Minister of Labour, Industry and Commerce):** That comes under a different Ordinance.

Mr. Wille: The Notaries Ordinance deals with the question of stamps.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** It has been taken up under the Stamps Ordinance.

Mr. Wille: The Notaries Ordinance requires that the Notary should get the executant of a deed to cancel the stamps and that is why embossing of stamps will be resorted to by Notaries; so it is connected with this matter. The Financial Secretary was telling me that there were only one or two embossing machines in use in the whole of England. However that may be, I do not know how local Notaries can work with only one embossing machine in the Fort which is available only for a few hours. If it is too much of an expense to instal embossing machines, say, in Kandy and other places like Hulftsdorp, I wish that a larger supply of stamps would be left with the Post Offices so that we may not be told that if we want stamps to the value of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, we must go to the Fort.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: Sir, I do not want to go on record as having said that there are only one or two embossing machines in England. There are to the best of my belief a limited number of offices at which embossing is undertaken, and I think I should be correct in saying that there are towns in England bigger than Colombo at which there are no embossing facilities at all.

Dr. de Zoysa: With regard to this Ordinance, there is a distinction drawn

between Notaries and Proctor-Notaries. In the case of a Notary who has obtained his licence having qualified in Sinhalese or Tamil, I do not think there is provision in the Ordinance to enable him to practise in English after qualifying in English, whereas in the case of a Proctor who takes his licence to practise in English as a Notary, if he takes up an examination in Sinhalese or Tamil, he is allowed to practise in that language as well.

That is not the only distinction. A Proctor-Notary can have three offices. The question of his residence is not decided by the Registrar-General, whereas in the case of a Notary his office is taken as his residence. A man may have his office in one place, and he may reside in another place. It does not affect his clients so long as he is in his office at regular hours. I do not think it is right for the Registrar-General to insist that a Notary-Public should reside where his office is. If it is necessary to apply that rule, then it should be applied to Proctor-Notaries as well.

There are several other distinctions like that between these two kinds of Notaries which cause hardship to one section. If the Notaries are expected to do their work properly, let the treatment be alike. Also, instead of allowing every Proctor to have an office as a Notary, the Registrar-General can limit the number of Notaries practising in a certain area, just as in the case of Registrars of Births, Marriages and Deaths. The Minister should evolve a principle whereby he could distribute the number of Notaries in different towns and different Provinces. The present practice is that anybody who obtains a licence to practise as a Proctor automatically becomes a Notary, so that the poor Sinhalese or Tamil Notary, owing to severe competition with so many Notaries' Offices coming into existence, has either to go out of that town or Province, or to give up his work altogether as a Notary.

I would like the Minister to go into this matter and as far as possible to see that there are no such distinctions observed.

Mr. Freeman: Proctor-Notaries want to get the Section dealing with the number of offices left intact.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** Sir, the main object of this Bill is to remove the inequalities which now exist. As pointed out by the hon. Member for Colombo South (Dr. de Zoysa), there are certain inequalities which are not being removed by this Bill, but certain others are.

Now there is no requirement that a non-Proctor Notary should reside in his office; he can reside anywhere, but he must be in his office at the hours that are prescribed. It is the same as in the case of a Proctor; there is no restriction. Of course, there is this inequality, that a Proctor-Notary need not be in his office, but the non-Proctor Notary has to be in office at stated hours.

With regard to the number of offices, we have now equalized the position. Non-Proctor Notaries are restricted now to two offices. We are bringing Proctor-Notaries also to the same position, whereas before this they could have had half a dozen offices within the judicial district. So you will see that we have provided for equality of treatment.

There is only one other point on which, since this Bill was published, representations have been made to me by practically all the Proctors' Associations of this Island. They sent a deputation to which I have listened, and I myself was in entire agreement with one point they put up; that is, that the inclusion of the residence in the two offices should be removed. Every Proctor of some standing has pointed that out, and he strongly objects to his residence being recognized as his office. He does not want it; he never does business there, and he does not want people to come there for business. So I propose, in Standing Committee, to remove that objectionable feature.

Subject to that criticism, the object of this Bill is to bring the two branches of the profession as close together as possible.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** If a Proctor writes to his clients from his house, will that be an offence?

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** We have provided for the inspection of Proctors' Offices, so that if a Proctor does practise

in his residence, it will be found that he has three offices. He will be prevented from using his house as an office.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I want to know whether it will be an offence to do so.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** Yes.

Question, "That the Bill be now read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** I would suggest that the Minister of Education and the hon. Member for Colombo South be co-opted to Standing Committee "B" to consider this Bill.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill allocated, under Standing Order 77 (b), to Standing Committee "B". (The Hon. Mr. C. W. W. Kannangara and Dr. A. P. de Zoysa being temporarily added to the Committee).

†WAR DAMAGE (IMMOVABLE PROPERTY) BILL.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** I move,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to authorise payments in respect of war damage to immovable property and the collection of contributions towards the cost of such payments: and to make provision for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto" be now read a second time.

Question proposed from the Chair, and debated.

Mr. E. C. Villiers (Nominated Member): I do not wish in any way to oppose this Bill, but I would like to ask the Minister whether he could give the House the assurance that buildings and lands unassessed would also be brought under this scheme on a voluntary basis. The Bill seeks to cover only assessed properties, but I think it very desirable that buildings and unassessed lands should also be brought into the scheme.

I should like to have a satisfactory statement from the Minister as to what the intentions of Government are as regards the grant towards the pool, and also as to what would be done with the

† For the Observations of the Financial Secretary and the report of the Board of Ministers, see HANSARD of September 24, 1942.

[Mr. Villiers.]

balance of the money, if any, at the end of the risk period.

I understand that the Minister is agreeable to bringing unassessed buildings into the scheme by an amendment to Clause 19 (1). That arrangement is quite satisfactory, but with regard to the other two points, I might say that although this Bill follows very closely the English Act, there is a great deal of difference between the position here and that in England.

In the first case, every building and every plot of land in England is already assessed, and that would bring every interested party into the scheme. It is well known that in England buildings and population exist very much closer than is the case at any rate in the rural districts of Ceylon. That means that, although the risk is somewhat greater in England, the burden is borne by everybody. Of course, by way of compensation, the premium here is somewhat lower.

There is a serious difference that exists between the English Act and the Bill before the House in that in the case of England the State intends to make, as a grant to the pool, of an amount equal to that paid in by the other contributors, whereas in the Bill we are now considering it is left to this Council to provide a certain unspecified amount as a grant to the pool as and when and if it thinks fit. I think it would be much better and more fair if the provision made in this respect in the Bill were the same as that made in the English Act. Of course, it is understood that even with this monetary contribution granted by the State, there is no guarantee that the damage will be made good in full. If there is not sufficient money in the pool, it is obvious that the full amount of damage suffered cannot be met; but it is the intention of the Government of England that as far as possible payments for compensation should be made in full.

In support of that statement, I should like to quote, if I may, a remark made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is reported to have stated :

“The State should pay compensation on the highest scale compatible with the general situation of the country after and before a conflict. Compensation in full was the objective.”

And again we read that the intention is that half the money required for making payments will be provided by the contributors and that an equal sum will be provided out of the general funds by the State. I think there is very good reason for that arrangement. It is possible that if serious damage were done there may not be sufficient funds to make reparation in full; and the situation will be greatly aggravated if the State does not make its contribution. That would mean considerable delay in making reparation and, consequently, that would delay the country getting back into its stride again. Such a situation would react very badly and hamper the country returning to its state of prosperity. I think it is only fair, for that reason alone, that the general fund should be called upon to give an amount equal to that paid in by the other contributors.

Then there is the question of premia which I think is more a matter that should be dealt with in the Committee stage than at the second reading. I however feel that the statement contained in Clause 20 is very vague. I regret that that point was not touched upon more fully by the Minister when he introduced the Bill. The position is made still more unsatisfactory when we read it in conjunction with Clause 22. We would certainly like to have further details on that point from the Minister, as to what the intentions of Government are with regard to these payments, how often they will be called for and to what extent they are likely to be called for. There is considerable anxiety over the proposal to form this pool. We would like to know whether calls are going to be made at regular intervals, or whether one call would be made and the proceeds put into the pool and left there until some damage occurs. I do not see how the premia could be collected at some future date after damage had occurred if the calls are not regularly made. If it is the intention to make these calls at regular intervals, it is possible that a very large sum may accrue to the pool, and naturally people are anxious to know whether such money will eventually be refunded *pro rata* to the contributors, at any rate to the extent that funds are left over after having paid the claims, if any, for war damage.

A commentary on the English Act by a gentleman of the name of Sophian says :

"It is the intention of the Government that the principle to be applied shall be to ensure that these balances ensure to the benefit of contributors. In other words, it is not intended that such contributions should be forfeited to general revenue."

This being a pooling scheme, the contributors should come in on equal terms and on a mutual-help basis. Therefore any balance that may remain in the pool, after the claims are met, should be distributed among the contributors.

These are the points that occurred to me as needing further clarification. There are one or two other minor points which can be considered in the Committee stage. I however trust that the Minister would be in a position to give the assurance that I asked of him when I commenced my remarks.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** I can give the hon. Member the assurance he has asked for on the first point. I have prepared an amendment, which I shall move in the Committee stage, to provide for bringing in buildings in the unassessed areas. There is provision authorising payment to the pool, but I cannot at the moment commit Government by saying that there is provision for a definite contribution which may or may not become necessary. In any case, there is provision in the Bill itself for Government to make a contribution to the pool, if such a contribution becomes necessary.

With regard to the suggestion made that any surplus that may remain in the pool should be refunded to the contributors, I am not quite sure that any surplus would exist; but if such a surplus were to exist, I myself agree with the hon. Member that it should be distributed among the contributors rather than accrue to Government coffers. That is a matter that we can consider in the Committee stage.

Question, "That the Bill be now read a second time," put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** I move that the Bill be allocated to Standing Committee "B", and that the Hon. Minister of Local Administration be co-opted.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill allocated, under Standing Order 77 (b), to Standing Committee "B", (the Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike being temporarily added to the Committee).

THOROUGHFARES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I beg to move,—

That the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Thoroughfares Ordinance", be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I would like the Hon. Minister of Local Administration and the Burgher Nominated Member to be co-opted to the Standing Committee.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I want to know why.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions like that are seldom asked.

***Mr. Abeywickrama:** I rise to a point of order. I want to know whether a Member who participated in this debate is not entitled to know why a certain Member is co-opted to the Standing Committee.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: The reason is that the hon. Nominated Member is conversant with the subject.

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** What is your ruling on this point of order?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I do not think the hon. Member is in order in asking for reasons. It is for the House either to accept or reject the proposal. I do not think any reasons need be urged at all.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill allocated, under Standing Order 77 (b), to Standing Committee "B", (the Hon. Mr. S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike and Mr. G. A. H. Wille being temporarily added to the Committee).

**CONSERVANCY LABOURERS:
RATES OF PAY.**

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day :

The Financial Secretary to move.—

This Council agrees that with effect from October 1, 1942:—

(i.) the rates of pay of monthly paid full-time conservancy labourers should be:—

Colombo City—Rs. 300—6—360.

Other Places—Rs. 264—6—330.

(ii.) daily-paid full-time conservancy labourers should be paid at 90 cents to Re. 1.12 a day with increments of 4 cents granted at intervals of not less than 2 years which would enable them to draw as wages a sum approximately equal to the remuneration of a monthly paid full-time conservancy labourer;

(iii.) part-time conservancy labourers should be paid at reduced rates commensurate with the work they are called upon to do.

Observations of the Financial Secretary.

Conservancy labourers of Government are at present paid at varying rates. The rates in force in most departments are the same as those obtaining for unskilled labour, viz.:—

Colombo City—Rs. 240—6—300

Other Places—Rs. 216—6—276

but some departments have other rates of their own.

2. The Controller of Labour has had great difficulty in finding Ceylonese prepared to take up these appointments at the present rates and has suggested that the rates of pay of Ceylonese conservancy labourers should be higher than those now obtaining.

3. The rates now proposed are already in force in the Post and Telegraph Department.

4. The additional expenditure if the conservancy labourers now in service are transferred to the scales now proposed will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 12,000 and this sum will be met from

anticipated savings in the Personal Emoluments votes of the departments concerned.

Report of the Board of Ministers.

The financial implications are as explained in the motion and the Observations of the Financial Secretary. The Board of Ministers approves.

The Hon. Mr. Huxham: I move the motion standing in my name, appearing as item 24 on the Agenda.

This motion seeks to give slightly better pay to conservancy labourers in view of the fact that we have had difficulty in recruiting Ceylonese labourers on the existing scales.

Question put, and agreed to.

P. W. D. : CHANGE OF DESIGNATION OF OFFICERS.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day :

The Minister of Communications and Works to present the following report of the Executive Committee of Communications and Works under Article 46 (1) of the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931, and to move that it be accepted:—

Report.

Change of Designation of Officers who have passed sections "A", "B" and "C" of the A.M.I. Mech. E. Examination—Public Works Department.

On January 12, 1932, the State Council approved the change of designation of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Public Works Department who have passed sections "A" and "B" of the A.M.I.C.E. Examination to "Junior Assistant Engineers", thus enabling them to sit for section "C" of the examination and become eligible for Corporate Membership of that Institution, as training in a grade lower than that of Assistant Engineer is not accepted by the Institution as practical experience for purposes of section "C" of the examination.

2. On April 4, 1935, the Council approved a proposal whereby Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the Department

who have passed the departmental examination for promotion to the Assistant Engineer grade and have not been so promoted were also to be designated "Junior Assistant Engineers". This proposal helps officers in service who cannot get themselves enrolled as students of the Institution of Civil Engineers owing to age limit, &c., to sit for the A.M.I.C.E. examination locally after a service of seven years with the altered designation.

3. As the above decisions do not cover the case of sub-technical officers of the Department who pass sections "A", "B" and "C" of the A.M.I. Mech. E. examination, it is now proposed that such officers be permitted the designation "Junior Assistant Factory (Mechanical) Engineers." Such a change of designation is necessary as the Institution of Mechanical Engineers does not recognise any training or experience gained by an officer in a rank below that of Assistant Engineer for the purpose of granting the diploma of that Institution.

4. It is to be understood that, as in the case of those designated "Junior Assistant Engineers", the officers so proposed to be designated "Junior Assistant Factory (Mechanical) Engineers", will not be entitled to any extra salary on account of the change of designation and will receive only such salaries as are attached to their substantive appointments in the Department.

5. The Executive Committee of Communications and Works recommends that sub-technical officers of the Public Works Department who pass sections "A", "B" and "C" of the A.M.I. Mech. E. examination be permitted the designation "Junior Assistant Factory (Mechanical) Engineer."

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: I beg to present the report of the Executive Committee of Communications and Works under Article 46 (1) of the Ceylon (State Council) Order in Council, 1931, and I move that it be accepted.

This is a report of my Executive Committee seeking the sanction of this House to permit certain members of the Department who have passed the "A",

"B" and "C" parts of the A.M.I. Mech. E. examination to be designated as Assistant Factory Engineers (Mechanical).

Question put, and agreed to.

FOOD CONTROL ORDERS.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,—

That the Order No. 35 dated October 2, 1942, made under section 4 (1) (a) of the Food Control Ordinance (Chapter 132), read with the Defence (Food and Price Control) (Transfer of Powers) Regulations, 1942, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,020 of October 9, 1942, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,—

That the Order No. 36 dated October 2, 1942, made under section 4 (1) (d) of the Food Control Ordinance (Chapter 132), read with the Defence (Food and Price Control) (Transfer of Powers) Regulations, 1942, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,020 of October 9, 1942, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,—

That the Order No. 37 dated October 2, 1942, made under section 4 (1) (e) of the Food Control Ordinance (Chapter 132), read with the Defence (Food and Price Control) (Transfer of Powers) Regulations, 1942, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,020 of October 9, 1942, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Senanayake: I move,—

That the Order No. 38 dated October 2, 1942, made under section 4 (1) (g) of the Food Control Ordinance (Chapter 132), read with the Defence (Food and Price Control) (Transfer of Powers) Regulations, 1942, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,020 of October 9, 1942, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

URBAN COUNCIL BY-LAWS.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,—

That the by-law made by the Gampola Urban Council under sections 166 and 170 (11) of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,009 of September 18, 1942, be not disallowed.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,—

That the by-law made by the Gampola Urban Council under sections 166 and 170 (13) and (16) of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,022 of October 16, 1942, be not disallowed.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,—

That the by-law made by the Jaffna Urban Council under sections 166 and 170 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,022 of October 16, 1942, be not disallowed.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,—

That the by-law made by the Kalutara Urban Council under section 61 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,013 of September 25, 1942, be not disallowed.

Question put, and agreed to.

The Hon. Mr. Bandaranaike: I move,—

That the by-law made by the Matsale Urban Council under sections 166 and 170 (13) and (16) of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, and published in *Gazette* No. 9,023 of October 16, 1942, be not disallowed.

Question put, and agreed to.

WAR RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE REGULATIONS.

***The Hon. Mr. Corea:** I move,—

That the following regulation made by the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce under section 3 (6) and 16 of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, No. 1 of 1942, be approved.

Regulation.

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, No. 1 of 1942, is hereby amended in the Schedule thereto as follows:—

- (1) by the omission of items 2 to 39 (inclusive);
- (2) by the re-numbering of item 40 as item 2; and
- (3) by the omission of items 41 to 44 (inclusive).

Question put, and agreed to.

NATIONAL MUSEUMS REGULATIONS.

The following item stood upon the Orders of the Day:

The Minister of Education to move,—

That the following regulations made by the Executive Committee of Education under Section 9 of the National Museums Ordinance, No. 31 of 1942, shall be approved.

Regulations.

These regulations may be cited as the National Museums Regulations, 1942.

2. The date—

- (a) on and after which the Colombo Museum and the Kandy Museum shall, under section 3 (1) of the National Museums Ordinance, No. 31 of 1942, be deemed to be National Museums established under that Ordinance, and
- (b) on which the Museum Ordinance shall, under section 14 of the first-mentioned Ordinance, be repealed.

shall be the date on which these regulations are published in the *Gazette*.

3. Every National Museum shall be open to the public, free of charge from 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily, except on Fridays.

4. Every visitor entering the building of a National Museum with any camera, stick, umbrella, parcel or other article shall entrust it to the officer or servant appointed as the custodian of articles brought by visitors. Such officer or servant shall issue a ticket, free of charge, to every visitor who entrusts any article to him, and shall, when that visitor leaves such building, return that article to him on his surrendering the ticket so issued.

5. No visitor to a National Museum shall—

- (1) behave in a disorderly manner within the premises of such Museum; or
- (2) bring, or cause or permit to be brought, any dog into such premises; or
- (3) smoke or spit, or chew tobacco or betel, within the building of such Museum; or

(4) Obstruct any officer or servant of such Museum in the discharge of his duties.

6. No person shall, without the written permission of the Director, take a photograph of any book, document, or object kept or preserved in a National Museum.

7. The reading room of a National Museum shall be open on the same days and during the same hours as such Museum: Provided that such reading room shall not be open on any day which is a public holiday under the Holidays Ordinance.

8. Any person may, during the time when the reading room of a National Museum is open, obtain for reference any book or document forming part of the library of such Museum if he produces to the officer-in-charge of such library—

- (1) a reader's ticket, which has been issued to him by the Director and which is in force, or
- (2) a special permit granted to him in that behalf by the Director.

9. (1) A reader's ticket may be obtained by any person by sending to the Director an application in that behalf on a form provided by the Director, together with recommendations from two persons, who in the opinion of the Director are of good standing and reputation in the community.

(2) A reader's ticket shall cease to be in force after December 31 of the year in which such ticket has been issued: Provided that the Director may—

- (a) by endorsement on such ticket extend the period during which such ticket is in force; and
- (b) by letter sent to the holder of such ticket terminate the period during which such ticket is in force if such holder contravenes the provisions of paragraph (1), paragraph (2), or paragraph (4) of regulation 10.

10. (1) Every person who on any day obtains for reference any book or document forming part of the library of a National Museum shall—

- (a) in respect of that book or document sign and deliver to the officer-in-charge of such library a receipt on a form provided by such officer;
- (b) use the reading room of such Museum for the purpose of perusing that book or document; and
- (c) return that book or document to such officer within the time when such reading room is open on that day.

(2) No person shall use the reading room of a National Museum on any occasion without signing the book kept for that purpose.

(3) Where any person who obtains for reference any book or document forming part of the library of a National Museum returns that book or document to the officer-in-charge of such library, such officer shall deliver to that person the receipt given by him in respect of that book or document.

(4) No person who obtains for reference any book or document forming part of the library of a National Museum shall—

- (a) write on or mark, that book or document; or
- (b) turn over the leaves of that book or document with moistened fingers; or
- (c) except with the written permission of the Director, make any tracing of anything contained in that book or document.

11. (1) The Director shall give to each member of the Advisory Committee of a National Museum at least ten days' written notice of the date, time, place, and business of every meeting of such Committee.

(2) The quorum for a meeting of the Advisory Committee of a National Museum shall be four members of such Committee.

12. The Director shall—

- (1) be the chief executive officer for the purpose of managing and administering National Museums;

- (2) be responsible for the proper care and custody of the books, documents, and objects kept or preserved in National Museums, and for the keeping of proper records of the financial and other transactions relating to such Museums;
- (3) cause inventories of the books, documents, and objects kept or preserved in each National Museum to be prepared, and such books, documents and objects to be appropriately numbered and labelled;
- (4) cause to be kept in a conspicuous place in each National Museum a book in which visitors may enter their names, complaints if any, and suggestions for the improvement of such Museum;
- (5) cause the number of visitors to each National Museum on each day to be recorded;
- (6) cause a statement of the number of visitors to each National Museum in each month, and a list of the exhibits in such Museum which were acquired in that month, to be displayed on the notice board of such Museum in the next following month;
- (7) cause to be kept in the reading room of each National Museum a book in which persons entitled to use such reading room may enter suggestions for the improvement of the library of such Museum;
- (8) publish the journal called and known as "Spolia Zeylanica";
- (9) prepare an administration report for each year, and, on or before the last day of February in the next following year, place before the Executive Committee of Education a copy of such report; and
- (10) assign to the officers and servants attached to each National Museum the duties to be performed by them.

13. The Director may—

- (1) in addition to the journal referred to in paragraph (8) of re-

gulation 12, publish any book or journal dealing with matters relating to or connected with National Museums in Ceylon;

- (2) in his discretion, permit any person to have access, for the purposes of research, to any book, document, or object kept or preserved in such Museum;
- (3) publish in his discretion, in any book or journal which is authorised by these regulations to be published by him, the results of any research based on the exhibits in a National Museum; and
- (4) send to any person, for the purpose of identification, any book, document, or object given to or acquired for a National Museum.

14. An Assistant Director of a National Museum shall—

- (1) supervise the work of the officers and servants, other than the Director, of such Museum;
- (2) be responsible to the Director for keeping a proper record of the financial transactions relating to such Museum; and
- (3) perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Director.

15. All regulations made under the Museum Ordinance are hereby rescinded with effect from the date specified in regulation 2.

The Hon. Mr. Kannangara: I move the motion standing in my name.

Question put, and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Hon. Sir D. B. Jayatilaka: I move that the Council do now adjourn until 2 P.M. on November 17, 1942, at 2 P.M.

Question proposed from the Chair, and debated.

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, I should like the Hon. the Chief Secretary, if he will, to state what provision has been made for the dependants of those now interned in Malaya

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receiving some kind allowance during the period of the war, till such time as they are in a position to communicate with or to receive any kind of allowance from their relatives. That is one point.

The other matter which I think is exercising the minds of a number of people is the absence of adequate facilities for communication between people in Ceylon and such of their relatives as may be interned in Malaya. The All-India Radio, I believe, now broadcasts certain messages of Ceylonese to Malaya. But no facilities, I understand, are available in Ceylon. I should like to know whether the Hon. the Chief Secretary would be in a position to state whether any facilities will be afforded, or what arrangements can be made to afford such facilities, because hon. Members and the Hon. the Chief Secretary will appreciate that the position is really very desperate at far as some people are concerned.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I hope the Hon. the Chief Secretary will not confine himself only to Malaya, but will envisage all enemy-occupied territory, because there are Ceylonese interned in other enemy-occupied territory as well. Therefore, whatever facilities or subsistence allowance is granted to the dependants of the internees should apply to all parts of this Island equally.

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** Certainly.

Mr. H. W. Amarasuriya: I believe the Board of Ministers have considered this matter, but so far nothing tangible has been done.

The Hon. Mr. R. H. Drayton (Chief Secretary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, there is a scheme for the payment of allowances to dependants of persons who are, at present, in territories occupied by the enemy. That scheme is being administered by the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce, so that I am not in a position to give any details. I am aware of the existence of the scheme from the fact that it has come before the Board of Ministers.

In regard to communications with persons in occupied territories, the position relating to communications with persons who are prisoners of war or with civilians who are interned is I think

clearly laid down in various circulars that have been issued by the Postmaster-General, as to how one communicates with either prisoners of war or with civilians who are interned.

I do not think myself—I am speaking from recollection at the moment—I do not think that there are any means of communicating with civilians in occupied territories who are neither prisoners of war nor civilian internees. I have had no notice of this point being raised; but that is my recollection of the position. There are no means of communicating, at the moment, with civilians who are not interned but are physically present in territories occupied by the enemy.

Mr. Ponnabalam: May I interrupt the Hon. the Chief Secretary just for one second? I was not really thinking so much of actual direct communication, for instance, as through the Red Cross either at Geneva or elsewhere. I was thinking of whether facilities would be afforded to broadcast messages such as, I understand, is being done by the All-India Radio on behalf of Indians whose relatives and kinsmen are, not interned, but living in Malaya, in occupied territory.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works will be able to enlighten the hon. Member on this point.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: If the hon. Member wants the Hon. the Chief Secretary to answer that question, he can address it to that gentleman. The hon. Member knows that Broadcasting is one of my subjects, and if he wanted any information on this point he could have asked me for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the Hon. Minister might supply the House with the information.

Mr. S. Natesan (Kankasantural): I have something to say on that point.

I understand that certain Ceylonese gentlemen sent messages to be broadcast, to the All-India Radio Station at Delhi, because the Delhi station was broadcasting such messages, but those messages were intercepted by the Censor and returned to the people who had sent them.

[Mr. Natesan.]

That is the information I have. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister of Communications and Works is aware of it or not. I remember, during the Budget discussions you raised this question yourself, Sir, and the Hon. Minister gave an assurance that he would do what was possible to see that residents in Ceylon were able to avail themselves of the facilities given by the All-India Broadcasting Station. But that is not being done because messages are being intercepted by the Censor. I hope the Chief Secretary will offer some explanation.

The Hon. Colonel Kotalawala: As to the question of broadcasting from here, it is technically impossible to do so, because the apparatus we have has not the strength to broadcast to such distance. I am not sure that the Censor is preventing such messages being sent out. If the hon. Member will bring such instances to my notice, I may be able to look into the matter.

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** Will you permit me, Mr. Deputy Speaker—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: To ask a question?

***Mr. Ponnambalam:** Yes. We are not really asking a question with regard to the technicalities of broadcasting or the equipment in the country that it should be addressed to the Minister of Communications and Works. I addressed the Chief Secretary as the person in charge of Foreign Relations, because it was a question in regard to the policy of Government. It is hardly a matter for the Minister who might be in charge of Broadcasting. Is the Chief Secretary, on behalf of Government, prepared to afford such facilities? That is all. That is why I addressed the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Hon. the Chief Secretary in a position to reply?

The Hon. Mr. Drayton: No, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I had no prior intimation that such a question was to be raised on the motion for adjournment. I am not in a position to give any answer to that general question at the moment. I shall certainly make inquiries and inform the hon. Member before the Council meets on November 17.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at 5.50 P.M. until 2 P.M. on Tuesday, November 17, 1942.